

Messenger

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

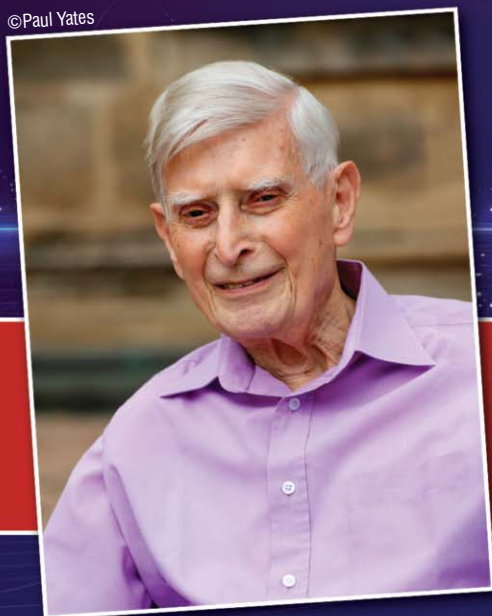
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Mission in motion



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**Herbert Blomstedt: renowned
Seventh-day Adventist orchestral
conductor**



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



Mission in motion: creating stewardship strategies for mission

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,
BUC Stewardship Director

For those who know me well, I'm not a runner. I'm not even very interested in sports. As a child I was able to leave the starting blocks quickly, and in theory I should have earned a medal each time I ran – but early on I discovered that my lower limbs and joints were not able to support the effort that my torso, upper limbs and brain demanded; so I would end up twisting an ankle or with severe hip pains and at very best straggle in last in the race.

I stopped participating in running.

It's similar with the mission of the church. For the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland to be a 'movement', it needs its lower limbs to be mobile, fit and agile. The innovative missional initiatives in our world church were created with the invitation of the Spirit of God, but they are sustained through consistent human and financial resources.

Money is a tool to be used for evangelism, community building and discipleship. Money is the lower limbs of mission as it races forwards for outreach in the UK, Ireland and beyond.

Ancient mission

In Exodus 25:2, 8, God says to Moses, 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering . . . and let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them' (NKJV). This sanctuary or tabernacle was to be a witness of the love and abundant mercy of God to the surrounding nations, as

well as a place of worship for the Israelites.

In chapters 26 and 27, God gives specific details for the sanctuary construction, the furnishings, and the utensils. In chapter 28 He even provides a blueprint for the 'holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty' (verse 2, NKJV).

For the wilderness mission to be active, vibrant and dynamic, it required lower limbs of gold, silver and other precious offerings, and the talents and skills of artisans to construct the building with the specialist wood, precious metals and exquisite fabrics that the people gave, to ensure

that the sanctuary would be not only an edifice to the glory of God, but a witness to His majesty and power.

'For the building of the sanctuary great and expensive preparations were necessary; a large amount of the most precious and costly material was required.'¹ And for this work the people gave so generously that 'Moses caused to be proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary."'²

The importance of money

Stewardship is not just about money. There are nine other pillars of stewardship that are just as important. But money plays a vital role in the life of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Congregations require church buildings. Those with buildings need to maintain them. Food banks, community projects and health expos need funding, as do internal projects such as Pathfinders and special days. Evangelism both in the UK and Ireland and overseas is mission that needs to be funded.

Godly leadership

But mission isn't just executed by fiscal means – it is also resourced by God-centred leaders with the relevant skills, and those who are willing to take responsibility for mission in their localities.

The BUC Stewardship Working Group has organised a special afternoon for pastors, elders, treasurers and stewardship leaders on 17 May on Zoom. Mission in Motion will feature stories from the field, as well as presentations from stewardship practitioners, theologians and financiers. The purpose of this event is to explore how we can responsibly use our resources to transform lives for mission.

For more information, and to register for the programme and access it, please see the poster below.

¹Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 343

²*Ibid.*, p. 344

British Union Conference
Stewardship Training
for Pastors, Elders, Stewardship Leaders
and Treasurers.

Mission in MOTION
Crafting Stewardship Strategies for Mission

Host: Cathy Boldeau
Speakers: Dr. Anjel Barbe, Heli Otamo-Cszmadia, Wadery Aguiar, Dr. Steve Currow, Alex Marenic, Dr. Ikechi Expendu, Dr. Davron Thomas

Zoom
Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://qrco.de/missioninmotion>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
Streaming on BUC TV **YouTube**

Calendar: MAY 17
Time: 4:00pm – 7:30pm

Editorial

by Dusanka Rancic,
Editor

EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

Do you remember a time when, for whatever reason, you just did not feel like you belonged anywhere? In one of his well-known songs Sting says, 'I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien. I'm an Englishman in New York.'

We can speak the same language, walk the same streets, shop at the same shops, wear similar clothes, and still be worlds apart from the people around us.

In my previous job all my colleagues knew that I was a Christian, and many of them would often come to me for advice or conversation. We spent hours talking about difficult and messy divorces, the loss of a loved one, and other heart-breaking stories of suffering. The issues that some of my younger colleagues were dealing with on a daily basis were overwhelming: a family member imprisoned for killing his peer; drug addiction-related issues; struggles with anxiety and low self-esteem; half-brothers and sisters offering each other more support and care for each other's basic needs than they received from their parents, etc. All these individuals needed help. They desperately needed Jesus.

Nonetheless, after finishing my shift, I would always go home to my perfect little family. And then on Sabbath evening I would sit on the church board meeting, witnessing how the church divides over the colour of the church building façade or some other trivial issue. And I started to wonder if the people around us see us as aliens.

More than ever, I understood that we often lose our focus and completely miss the major point of our mission. Cushioned in our beautiful Christian bubble, we sometimes look like people from another planet to those around us. We do not understand their struggles and often cannot relate to them. I don't want to undermine the struggles that we experience as Christians, because they are real too. However, to reach the people around us, we need to understand their needs first.

Sometimes we misinterpret the idea that we are not of this world. Being different from the rest of the world means that Jesus' character and love shine through our words and deeds. It is crucial to find this balance and not lose sight of our mission. Our mission is not to run and hide, but to be light and salt to the world; to bring hope and flavour; to proclaim the good news of redemption and love to the fallen world.

Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV) says,

'How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"'

The prophet emphasises in this chapter that the good news for the exiles is that 'your God reigns' (verse 7), God returns (verse 8), and God redeems (verses 9 and 10). In the New Testament we see Jesus as the reigning, returning and redeeming God. And for me that means that I live in this world with a strong faith and with my spiritual eyes wide open. It means that I have hope for the future and joy in anticipation of what God has prepared for me.

The people around us are in exile, as Israel was. Their lives are in ruins, as Jerusalem was. Our mission is to bring them the good news so that they can hang on with hope in their life struggles, as we do.

The quoted verse says that it is a beautiful sight to see the feet of one who brings good news. How can the feet of one running through the desert be beautiful? Only if they run to bring good news, proclaim peace and salvation, and announce that God reigns.

But what does that mean for my colleagues, neighbours and friends? Absolutely nothing, if I don't tell them; if I don't wear my running shoes of the Gospel and take it to them.

'Go, tell it on the mountain' that our God reigns, returns and redeems.



A contentment-centred life: a biblical perspective

by Pauline Oxley



‘And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” ’

(Luke 12:15, NKJV)

Contentment is often described as a state of happiness and satisfaction that significantly influences our perception of life. Whether we possess little or much, embracing contentment allows us to experience pleasure and gratification, leading to a peaceful sense of well-being. By acknowledging the blessings we have, rather than focusing on what we lack, we can gain perspective and live a contentment-centred life.

In the biblical account from the book of Matthew, a rich young ruler approached Jesus seeking guidance on gaining eternal life. He asked, ‘Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’ (Matthew 19:16, NKJV.)

Jesus responded by pointing out the importance of observing the Ten Commandments. The ruler said that he had been observing the Ten Commandments from his youth and asked, ‘What do I still lack?’ (Verse 20, NKJV.)

Jesus then invited him to complete his good works by selling his goods and following Him. The young ruler walked away disappointed because his attachment to material wealth was of greater importance to him. His sorrowful reaction indicated that, even though he recognised something was lacking in his life, he was not prepared to relinquish his riches in exchange for gaining eternal life.

This encounter highlights the tension between earthly wealth and spiritual blessings. Jesus concluded, ‘It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God’ (Matthew 19:24, NKJV).

Parable of a rich man

On another occasion, Jesus gave the illustration of a rich man who became wealthy through the successful yield of his crops. He decided to pull down his barns and begin a rebuilding programme to store his vast wealth. ‘But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God’ (Luke 12:20, 21, NKJV). According to research, he was more concerned with himself than with sharing his wealth with others – wealth that really belongs to God in the first place. The art of practising generosity was advocated by the Master when He said, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me’ (Matthew 19:21, NKJV).

The apostle Paul’s experience of contentment

Paul reflected on contentment as a fundamental aspect of his life. He believed that an abundance of possessions did not provide true security. Instead, he viewed having either little or much as irrelevant to his values and way of life.

Paul understood his circumstances within the context of God’s provision and plan. Therefore, he felt no need to be overly ambitious about material gain or to compare himself with others. He faced both abundance and need with confidence, trusting in his ability to remain unaffected by either. He expressed this sentiment by saying,

‘I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need’ (Philippians 4:12, NKJV).

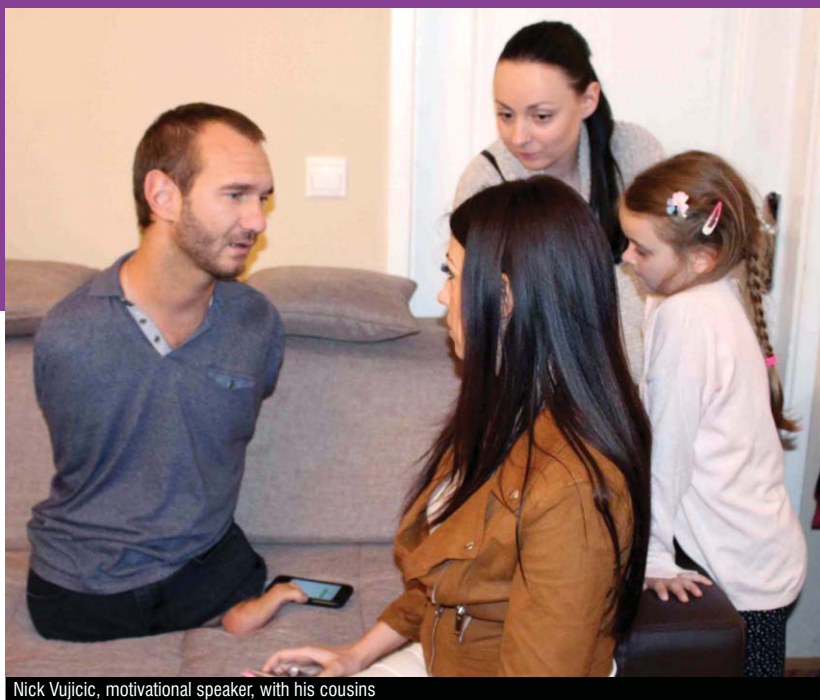
Paul’s positive mindset involved adopting an optimistic attitude, accepting blessings and gifts, and finding peace in God. While we may strive to change our external circumstances, true happiness, like Paul’s, aligns with our relationship to the Father.

Valuing life beyond material things

In today’s materialistic world, social comparison can lead to dissatisfaction, robbing us of peace and joy on our unique journey. A contentment-centred life offers overall well-being, boosts mental health, reduces stress, and promotes emotional resilience by providing a sense of purpose, whether in work life or family relationships. It is a matter of valuing life over socio-economic status, which can profoundly impact the meaning of life.

There are ways we can cultivate contentment as we strive to value life beyond material things. One way is to share with others what God has blessed us with, and create a healthy balance. As the saying goes, ‘As white is to black, so is contentment to complaints and anxiety’ (Macarthur, 2012). Simplifying our surroundings, embracing a clutter-free lifestyle, and setting realistic goals rather than chasing unattainable perfection are also important steps that can help to motivate us to achieve our goals.

It may be difficult to say ‘No’ to



Nick Vujicic, motivational speaker, with his cousins

the pressure of wanting more and more, but politely declining unnecessary financial commitments can help us prioritise the most important things. Recognise that life is not flawless; by striving for self-improvement and fostering meaningful relationships, we can find acceptance, forgiveness and contentment (Harris, 1995).

Contentment in the home

‘But whether the home be humble or elegant, its appointments costly or the reverse, there will be no happiness within its walls unless the spirit of its inmates is in harmony with the divine will’ (Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 154).

Embracing the desire for harmony within our homes and community fosters contentment and happiness in all other areas of our lives. Through life’s challenges, especially in our health, we gain insights that extend beyond material possessions, as the saying is true that our health is our wealth. In different seasons of my life, I grappled with the desire for material possessions to fill the void left by setbacks, separation and loss. I believed that those tangible things would somehow define my worth and purpose. Yet contentment eluded me, as if settling for less than my grand aspirations could lead to a more meaningful existence.

I have now learned to appreciate both scarcity and abundance,

treating them with equal gratitude. I have discovered that a contentment-centred life revolves around our loving relationships with others, especially those within our household and sphere of influence. It is important to value and appreciate each other, as discontent can strain relationships.

Happiness and contentment

Happiness is defined as a state of emotional well-being influenced by external factors such as receiving good news or experiencing excitement and pleasure (Britannica). This was evident during the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, which brought happiness and excitement to participants and supporters worldwide.

Contentment, on the other hand, redirects our focus from external factors to the intrinsic value of life itself. The English writer Samuel Johnson likened contentment to a fountain that springs up in our minds. He observed that seeking happiness in external circumstances results in fruitless efforts. A servant once lived happily with little, singing joyfully. His master, curious about his contentment, gave him 99 gold coins. The servant, now obsessed with obtaining a 100th coin, worked tirelessly and lost his joy and gratitude. The pursuit of the missing coin overshadowed the gift of 99 coins. Psalm 62:10b (NKJV)

advises, ‘If riches increase, do not set your heart on them,’ reminding us not to let our wealth consume us. Nick Vujicic, born without limbs due to tetra-amelia syndrome, overcame immense challenges through faith and acceptance. He became a motivational speaker, inspiring many with his message of hope and resilience. Nick believes that gratitude and contentment come from within, not external factors. His story highlights finding happiness in unexpected ways and achieving inner peace despite significant obstacles.

Trusting God for the future

‘But first be concerned about God’s kingdom and his righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you as well’ (Matthew 6:33, ISV).

During the global pandemic of 2020-2021 caused by COVID-19, contentment faced unprecedented challenges. It underscored the priority of needs above wants and emphasised the preservation of life as the essential requirement. As millions lost their lives, it became a time of soul-searching for life’s most critical priorities. The promise that God will ‘supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 4:19, NKJV) is a powerful answer. We can trust God for the future. Relying on Him for everything keeps us within the care of a loving Provider, always ready to help us experience His love and provision. The concept of gaining the ‘100th coin’, illustrated earlier, is not the answer to biblical contentment, as it cannot bring peace and fulfilment. God will guide our lives, faithfully directing those who trust His wisdom and provision for the future.

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UK Church holds its first safeguarding summit *(continued)*

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,
BUC Stewardship Director



Left to right: Pastors Kirk Thomas, SEC President; Steve Palmer, NEC President; Eglan Brooks, BUC President; Jimmy Botha, SM President; Graham Allcock, WM President; and Adam Keough, IM President

What follows is a continuation of the article published on pages 4 and 5 of the previous issue of *MESSENGER*, 4 April 2025, concerning the British Union Conference Safeguarding Summit held at Newbold College of Higher Education from 21 to 27 February.

Several of the activities on Sabbath afternoon provided much food for thought. A key element that was led by the most senior leaders in our church was the signing of the Safeguarding Charter by all six presidents in the British Union Conference (BUC). The seven commitments in the charter were:

- Dismantling enabling structures
- Creating safe spaces
- Leadership accountability
- Empowering survivors
- Education and training
- Policy implementation
- Transparent communication

'We are committed to positive change with regard to safeguarding in the BUC,' said Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC President, 'but we realise that some of these commitments will take time to embed within the culture of the organisation. This will involve change – not merely organic change, but intentional and deliberate change.'

Listening

It's hard to listen deeply in a world where there are so many voices crying out to be heard. But it's even harder

to listen to the historical stories of abuse – abuse that has shaped the lives and outcomes of its victims and survivors. But, during the session on 'Harm to Healing' delivered by Diana Downer, a senior social worker, manager and academic, we heard three of these stories of trauma.

The 'Listening Room' stories of sexual exploitation gave video insight into the stories of two women whose trauma has now catapulted them to be advocates for the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Panel discussions

Over the course of the Safeguarding Summit, two panel discussions were held with Joanna Daniel (a counsellor, social worker and educator) and Dr Les Ackie (Children, Families and Possibilities Director, BUC), who was also the National Safeguarding Lead for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Safeguarding – strategic direction

A key component of the Safeguarding Summit was its emphasis on strategic direction for trustees, field leaders and directors. Topics included 'Trustees, Crisis and Their Obligations' (DRD Partnership), 'What's Gender Got to Do with It? Intersectional Conversations' (Dr Val Bernard-Allen), 'Ethical Leadership' (David Anthony), 'Faith, Trust and Safety: Building a Culture of Protection in Adventist Ministries' (Brenda Brown), and 'Leadership and

Policy to Culture' (Ellie Haworth & Alison Ridley), among many others.

A 'real life' safeguarding activity was given to the field leaders and institutional heads for them to decipher a way forward under time pressure. This activity was curated by DRD Partnership, who specialise in value protection, risk mitigation, issues management, crisis management and litigation communication in more than 100 countries in the world. This activity challenged the participants to 'think on their feet' and to consider the strategic, legal and organisational ramifications in a safeguarding crisis.

What next?

The Safeguarding Summit provided a platform for strategic thought, organisational commitments, intentional conversations and radical candour. But what now?

The British Union Conference is committed to a new paradigm in the way that safeguarding issues, both non-recent and current issues, are handled; and, over the coming months, this will become more evident.

'We are committed to ensuring that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults,' said Brooks at the end of the summit. 'But we must remember that safeguarding isn't just a process that we roll out from the Union or local conferences and missions. It is my responsibility, your responsibility, our responsibility.'

See it. Hear it. Say it. Stop it.



Ripples of change: investing in women, transforming generations

by Abigel Gordon, Communications Officer, ADRA-UK

ADRA



Each year we celebrate International Women's Day, honouring the women in our lives. It's an opportunity to recognise their contributions and their remarkable resilience.

As I reflected on the word 'resilience', I came across the Yarlung Tsangpo River, known as one of the most resilient rivers in the world. Despite extreme elevation changes, landslides and avalanches, the river continues to carve its way through the Himalayas. This reminded me of my mother, grandmother, and women at church whose care, encouragement, powerful testimonies and unwavering commitment have shaped my journey. Just like that river that finds a way no matter what trials lie ahead, these women choose to persevere, nurturing their families and communities. When you invest in the life of a woman, you invest in the future of an entire family.

It also brought to mind a story from one of our projects about Nahla, a single mother from Aleppo, who lost her home in the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquake. She had to find a way to hold onto hope for the sake of her children, having lost all sense of stability. Following the tragic events, she struggled to provide for her children; however, through ADRA's Cash for Work programme, she found renewed economic independence and stability to meet her family's needs. ADRA not only provided material aid, but also fostered hope, paving

the way to recovery for thousands. Nahla's story demonstrates a mother's incredible resilience and willpower to rebuild for the sake of her loved ones. It is so important that we support women like Nahla with resources to better their lives and those of their families.

We all need a helping hand at some point – and at other times we get to be that helping hand. That's the beauty of Christian living. As believers who have experienced the life-changing love of Jesus Christ, we know firsthand how much it means to feel seen and loved, and what a blessing it is to be able to share that with others.

Second Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) describes the transformative power of God's love: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.' God's love changes

everything, including how we see ourselves. We no longer live in the shadow of doubt, but in the light of His purpose; and in living out our faith we extend this to others in how we relate to them.

In the New Testament, unity among believers is a recurring theme, as is the mandate to help others, reflecting God's love. This can be demonstrated as we work together to change lives. Whether you're fundraising at your local church, or as an ADRA worker in the field, a resilient mother like Nahla, a young person running for a cause, or a donor giving from home – you are part of the change. You are the hand that reaches out, the smile that warms a heart, the ears that listen and acknowledge a painful story, and the feet that walk beside someone in need.

I invite you to reflect on the people who have invested into your life, given you guidance or shown you kindness. Be encouraged in turn to bless others with the blessings God has given us. It's a privilege to make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Let's consider how we can invest into the lives of those around us and in communities beyond our own.

'I miss Ingathering!'

Do you remember when we used to go door-to-door with collecting tins for ADRA as part of the ADRA Annual Appeal (also called Ingathering)? Brother Smiley does. Every year he visited a fish and chip shop and the owner would give him £40. One year he called in at the shop four times when the owner was out, and he was just leaving when Brother Smiley came the fifth time. When he heard how many times Brother Smiley had come to look for him, he donated £20 for each time he had come – £100 in total!

The days of Ingathering with the tins might be behind us, and Brother Smiley can barely walk now, but there are still ways for you to raise money to help the poor and needy throughout the year. Whether it's a sponsored walk or a sponsored fast, a bake sale or a concert, let's continue to raise funds for ADRA, remembering with gratitude the long and faithful service of those who have gone before us.

ANDREW PUCKERING AND BROTHER SMILEY

Nature's pharmacy, part 4 – assessing herbal interventions

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



Highlighting the scope of herbs used medicinally, an online article from Mount Sinai titled 'Herbal Medicine' made the following statement: 'Almost one fourth of pharmaceutical drugs are derived from botanicals. Recently, the World Health Organisation estimated that 80% of people worldwide rely on herbal medicines for some part of their primary healthcare.'¹

Popular herbal supplements and their safe use

In the same article a list was shared of the most commonly used herbal supplements in the United States, which were as follows:

- Echinacea (*Echinacea purpurea* and related species)
- St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Garlic (*Allium sativum*)
- Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)
- Ginseng (*Panax ginseng* or Asian ginseng) and American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*)
- Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*)
- Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)
- Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*)
- Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*)
- Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*)
- Evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*)

Advising further on the safe use of herbs, the article goes on to state: 'Healthcare providers must take many factors into account when recommending herbs, including the species and variety of the plant, the plant's habitat, how it was stored and processed, and whether or not there are contaminants (including heavy metals and pesticides).'

Giving advice on what to look for when buying herbal medicine, the NHS makes the following recommendations: 'If you want to try a herbal medicine, look out for a traditional herbal registration (THR) marking on the product packaging. This means the medicine complies with quality standards relating to safety and manufacturing, and it provides information about how and when to use it.'²

Regulation and quality control

An article published by ResearchGate in March 2024 carried the headline 'Exploring the Safety, Efficacy, and Bioactivity of Herbal Medicines: Bridging Traditional Wisdom and Modern Science in Healthcare'.³ It states: 'Organisations such as the World Health Organisation play a pivotal role in establishing guidelines and standards for the production of herbal medicine. For example, "Guidelines for Assessing Quality of Herbal Medicine with Reference to Contaminants and Residues" and "Guideline on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) for Medicinal Plants" offer essential insights into quality control and cultivation practices ensuring the global adherence to safety and efficacy standards.'

Herbs under the microscope

Research is ongoing on the impact of herbal interventions for medicinal use. Study data continue to be analysed to gain knowledge regarding the

levels of efficacy of specific herbs.

The National Centre for Complementary and Integrative Health has produced a factsheet detailing several herbs and their usage, titled: 'Herbs at a Glance'. This outlines current scientific studies detailing possible benefits, potential side effects and cautions. For more information, visit: www.nccih.nih.gov/health/herbsataglance.

Assessing herbal evidence and impact

The book *Phytopharmacy: an Evidence-Based Guide to Herbal Medicinal Products*, by Sarah Edwards et al., is a comprehensive guide to ascertaining evidence-based research, efficacy, safety, cautions and contraindications. It gives guidance as to what to look for when using a specific herb medicinally:

- Is the herbal medicinal product registered as a 'traditional herbal remedy' (THR)?
- Does it have a product licence (PL)?
- Is it widely available as a food supplement with some specific claims?
- Is it widely available as a 'herbal health product' via the internet or in specialised shops?
- In a few cases, is the product sold as a medical device?

The publication utilises a five-scale system regarding the evidence base for each herb. This indicates a range from a score of 5 being the most favourable and 1 being the least. A score of 5 indicates that the product is on the market, with full marketing authorisation, considerable evidence of its benefits, and reports on main usage, including systematic reviews/meta-analysis. A score of 1 indicates that herbal use is plausible, but not based on sound pharmacological or clinical evidence.

The next issue will examine other natural remedies for maintaining well-being.

Good health!

¹ www.mountsinai.org/health-library/treatment/herbal-medicine

² www.nhs.uk/conditions/herbal-medicines/

³ www.researchgate.net/publication/379836689_Exploring_the_Safety_Efficacy_and_Bioactivity_of_Herbal_Medicines_Bridging_Traditional_Wisdom_and_Modern_Science_in_Healthcare

Newbold Principal Stephen Currow announces return to Australia

by *tedNEWS* and Newbold College of Higher Education

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When Dr Stephen Currow was appointed Principal of Newbold College of Higher Education (NCHE), he emphasised the importance of preparing students for ministry: 'Developing people in ministry is a sacred responsibility . . . and we want to ensure that Newbold graduates are work-ready.' (See how the Pastoral Placement programme helped to facilitate this at <https://youtu.be/EX3aS0Aa7FI>.)

At the NCHE Board of Governors meeting on 26 March, Currow announced his return to Australia after a four-year secondment from Avondale University. Before his appointment as Principal in 2022, he served as Principal Lecturer in Pastoral Studies and previously held multiple academic and leadership roles at Newbold from 2002 to 2011.

Among the many tributes shared on social media following the announcement, a particularly heartfelt message comes from former student and Trans-European Division (TED) Youth Ministries Director, Dejan Stojković, who wrote, 'His dedication, vision, and hard work have helped restore and strengthen the institution, creating opportunities for so many of us to grow and succeed. We owe him so much for the way he believed in us, supported us, and guided us to the finish line. Thank you, Pastor Steve, for your incredible leadership and impact!'

Currow – counsellor and encourager

Currow's leadership at Newbold has left a profound impact on both the institution and those who worked alongside him. Vice Principal Dan Serb acknowledged Currow's vast knowledge of the higher education sector, which helped establish a strong foundation for the college's future.

Reflecting on his scholarly and administrative contributions, Rory Mendez, Director of the EGW Research Centre and Centre for Ministry and Mission, praised Currow's professionalism, insight, humour and positive spirit. Ivan Milanov, Postgraduate Programme Director and Senior Lecturer in Old Testament, expressed gratitude for the support, compassion and encouragement he received from Currow throughout his tenure. László Gallusz, Head of the Centre for Ministry and Mission (CMM) and Principal Lecturer in New Testament, recalled two decades of collaboration, beginning with their work on establishing the MA programme at Belgrade Theological Seminary. Lubica Mueller, Head of Marketing and Communications, described Currow as an extraordinary leader who had firmly positioned Newbold College at the heart of the church.

BUC President Eglan Brooks expressed deep appreciation for Currow's tireless efforts in advancing both the College and the Church in the UK and Ireland. He thanked Currow for his dedicated service and invaluable contributions to the BUC Executive Committee, highlighting his pivotal role in supporting the TED's efforts to reshape the College's direction and strengthen its mission.

It takes a team!

Reflecting on NCHE's progress during its transition after the COVID-19 pandemic, Kayle de Waal, TED Education Director, notes the significant achievements during Currow's tenure. 'Through teamwork with his senior leadership

colleagues, Currow has played a pivotal role in increasing student enrolment, strengthening the Centre for Ministry and Mission, expanding academic offerings, and fostering

stronger partnerships with the TED unions and attached fields. The College now has new postgraduate, graduate diploma and clinical pastoral education certifications, new qualified and experienced staff have been added to the CMM, and there is ongoing collaboration with the fields. Newbold is on a very good footing for the future!'

A lasting impact

On behalf of the Newbold College Board of Governors, Daniel Duda, TED President, expressed deep gratitude for Stephen Currow's dedicated and sacrificial service. 'His leadership during Newbold's transition was invaluable. As a world-class scholar in pastoral studies, his expertise helped advance the Centre for Ministry and Mission, strengthen Newbold College, and support the wider mission of the Trans-European Division. For the past three years as Principal, his vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact – not only on the local campus, but across all TED communities. We wish him and Narisa God's blessings as they step into the next stage of their ministry.'

The impact of the Currows' ministry is deeply felt by those who worked alongside them. Kayle de Waal reflected, 'We will miss both Dr and Mrs Currow – with their godly leadership, pastoral hearts, and passion for Adventist education. Their quiet yet active support has nurtured students and their families as they prepare for a life of service.'

Search for a new principal

With Dr Currow set to return to Australia at the end of the summer, the NCHE Board of Governors has begun the search for his successor. The Board expects to recommend a new principal at its May meeting.

This article was first published in *tedNEWS*.

Secrets of the world's oldest active conductor

by Andrew Puckering

The renowned Seventh-day Adventist orchestral conductor Herbert Blomstedt, born in 1927, led the Philharmonia Orchestra in London in November last year, in what the *Guardian* called 'one of the finest performances of Mahler's epic Ninth Symphony one is likely to hear'. That's no easy feat for someone of such advanced age, the *Guardian* explains, as Mahler's Ninth 'can take 90 minutes to play' and 'reaches levels of intensity that seem on the edge of the bearable'.¹ But that's only a small part of this Adventist conductor's remarkable journey.

After his birth in America to Swedish parents – a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and a pianist – Blomstedt grew up in Finland and Sweden, and began leading orchestras in Scandinavia. He led the Staatskapelle Orchestra in Dresden from 1975 to 1985 and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra from 1985 to 1995, and held principal conductorships with the North

German Radio Symphony (1996 to 1998) and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra (1998 to 2005). He returned to the Staatskapelle to conduct the orchestra there on the occasion of his 90th birthday; conducted the Vienna Philharmonic at the age of 97; and in February this year he completed a series of concerts with the San Francisco Symphony. He is the world's oldest active conductor, and he has no plans to retire. Blomstedt explains, 'It's my mission in life to bring music to as many people as possible, because it has a great influence on people.'

Clearly, there's something special about him. So what's his secret? Conductor laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen was curious about this too, so he approached him in the cafeteria as he was having his usual lunch of a big cheese sandwich and a glass of milk. 'How come you're always so energetic?' he asked. 'How come you're always so happy? How come orchestras respond to you so well?'

Blomstedt replied, 'Oh, that's easy! I simply refuse to get stressed. I

only conduct music that I enjoy, and I only work with people I like.'

His faith in God, a big part of his life, enables him to have such peace. A devout Seventh-day Adventist, he refuses to hold rehearsals on the Sabbath, and he regards the classical concerts he leads to be an expression of his religious devotion. As part of his faith he lives a healthy lifestyle, too, refusing all meat, alcohol and coffee.

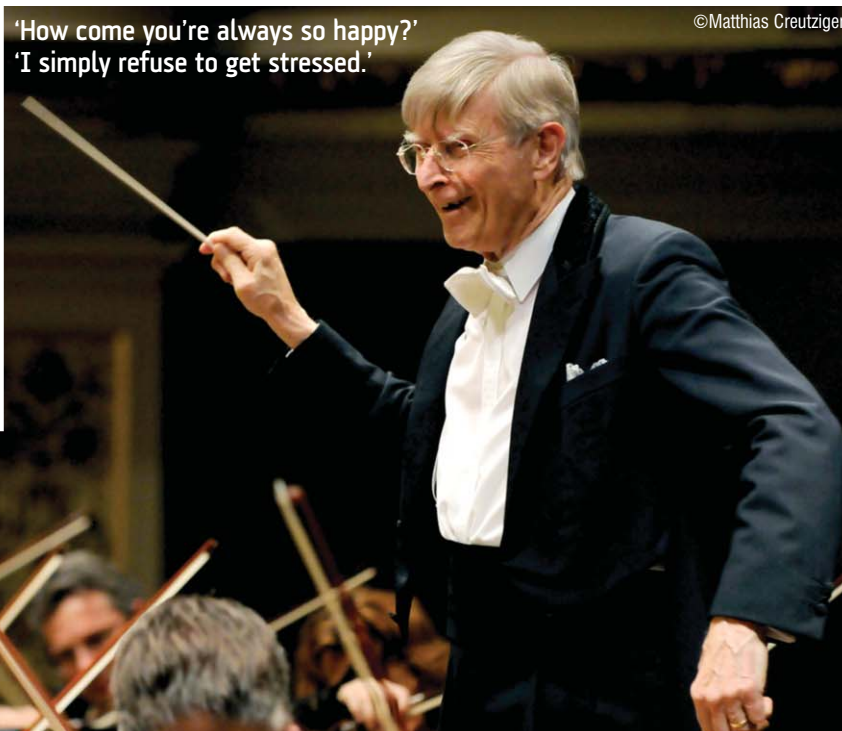
He also has a relentlessly optimistic attitude towards life, saying: 'I like challenges; easy things have no interest for me. I like difficult things! In that way I'm a hopeless youngster.'

The members of Blomstedt's orchestras highly value his knowledge, sincerity, honesty and humility. He is a master at not taking himself too seriously.

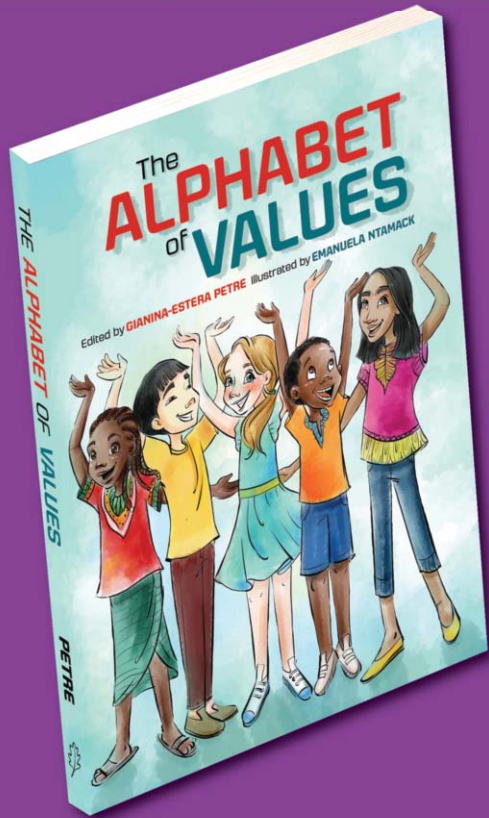
Maybe each of us can learn something from the faith, lifestyle and *joie de vivre* of Herbert Blomstedt – to have a clear sense of our purpose and mission in life; to embrace challenges; and to have a healthy appreciation of our own limitations and respect for what others can contribute.

May God bless Blomstedt's work and enable him to continue serving as a witness to Him.

¹Martin Kettle, 'Philharmonia/Blomstedt review – the collective performance of a lifetime', *The Guardian*, Friday 22 November 2024



The Book of the Month



The Alphabet of Values

Welcome to *The Alphabet of Values*, a unique collection of teaching strategies, diverse cultural narratives, and interdisciplinary activities to instil essential Christian values in young minds.

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Perception is not reality

by Adrian Samuel



If you've ever had the privilege of dragging your body through multiple all-nighters, you might begin to see things. No, your third eye hasn't opened the portal into the aether, and those probably aren't angels or demons. In reality, your brain is suffering under the weight of sleep debt and has endowed you with the gift of involuntary hallucination.

Philosophers like to fawn over the subject of 'reality'. For Christians, reality is understood as what is actually happening, as seen from God's perspective.

'Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD' (Jeremiah 23:24, ESV). Simply put, God knows all, and nothing can be hidden.

While we cannot hide from God, He can hide Himself from us. Isaiah 59:1, 2 tells us that knowingly sinning causes God to hide His face from us and become unresponsive. This tragic state of affairs is where King Saul found himself and his kingdom, under siege and without direction. In a time of national crisis and indecision, Saul sought an authority within easy reach. With the prophet Samuel buried, the voice of heaven was firmly closed, so Saul sought an alternative path to divine counsel: the witch of Endor.

Following instruction from the fallen king, the witch conjured spirits, describing their form as 'a spirit ascending out of the earth . . . an old man . . . covered with a mantle' (1 Samuel 28:13, 14, NKJV). This illustration sufficed to convince Saul that it was the late prophet.

From the looking glass of biblical history, it is easy to become horrified at the speed of Saul's descent onto enchanted ground – but what of us today? A cursory glance at current events reveals that we live in unprecedented times. How many of us, like Saul, find ourselves afraid, confused, and seeking answers?

What opinions and beliefs have we, the church, divined that we claim genuinely represent God's voice? In a world submerged in propaganda and misinformation, how can we be sure that what we read and see is true or accurate?





Quick and Easy Fruit Bread

Everyone likes homemade bread, but it can seem a really daunting task if you have to make it yourself – so here is a really quick and tasty bread that is super easy to make and doesn't need to be left to rise. You can make this with or without the fruit, whichever is your preference.

- 1 Mix together the **flour**, **salt**, **sugar**, **oil** and **mixed fruit**.
- 2 Make a well in the middle of the mixture and then pour in the **water**.
- 3 Stir.
- 4 Turn out onto a floured surface and lightly shape into a flat circle.
- 5 Make indentations using a wooden spoon so that it looks like a clock face.
- 6 Bake at 200°C (400°F; gas mark 6) for about 30 minutes.



Shopping list

Self-raising flour – 450g
Salt – ½ tsp
Extra virgin olive oil – 1 tbsp, light
Dried fruit – 200g, mixed
Sugar – 50g, brown
Warm water – 225ml



Quick, easy and delicious

Taken from *Cooking with Kids*, by Kirly-Sue. To purchase yours, follow this link:
<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/cooking-with-kids-paperback/>



Quotation by Confucius

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								

All answers in Genesis 49.

1. This tribe is a doe set free.
2. Firstborn of Jacob.
3. This tribe's swords are weapons of violence.
4. This tribe will be attacked by a band of raiders.
5. This tribe is a fruitful vine.
6. This tribe is a ravenous wolf.
7. This tribe is a rawboned donkey.
8. Judah will do this with his garments.

1D	2B	1B	3C	2E	1A		6F	2B	1B	1A	7C		1E	5B		2D	2E
1F	1E		5B	1A	2B		8A	3D	1E	8D		4A	5B	4C			

Taken from *Bible Brain Teasers*. To purchase yours, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/bible-brain-teasers/>



Dr Robert Smith Jr

The Preachers' Conference 2025

Pastors from across the United Kingdom assembled for the third Annual Preachers' Conference at Newbold College of Higher Education, 1 to 3 April 2025.

The conference, organised by the British Union Conference (BUC), North England Conference (NEC) and South England Conference (SEC) ministerial associations in collaboration with the Trans-European Division (TED), featured an international keynote speaker, the Baptist minister Robert Smith Jr. Dr Smith, the Distinguished Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, USA, presented a series of lectures and sermons designed to empower pastors with additional preaching skills to inspire congregations.

This year's event provided preaching workshops by Newbold's vice-principal, Dr Dan Serb, and a team of lecturers: Dr Eike Mueller, Dr Ivan Milanov and Dr Julian Thompson, with Karen Holford and Dr Patrick Johnson representing the Trans-European Division.

'There is a need for God's word. I am not talking about paying homage to God's word, but about going deeper into it,' said Dr Smith when asked about his approach to preaching. 'Preachers need something that strengthens their conviction and way of thinking,' he continued. 'Only then can we talk about method, form, and approach to preaching. I wanted to deal with the interior – the heart – first, then go on to the implications of what it means to preach.'

'I was invited to go beyond what you can find in a book so that the mind would be touched in such a way that it inspires you to think differently. I know the Lord has started a good work here; whatever He begins, He finishes. I pray that the pastors find joy in their authentic ministry so that they will stay focused on what God has called them to do.'

'Put simply, this event is about giving pastors time to look at what's possible when it comes to preaching,' explained the event's organiser, Pastor Jonathan Holder, adding, 'At times, ministry can seem like a treadmill. Our pastors get tired, and some question their ability to preach. However, as Dr Smith said in one of his



presentations, each pastor can speak with a passion that reflects their personality.'

The preachers' conference, established to promote continual learning among pastors serving within the BUC territory, struck a chord with the attendees. 'What I liked most about the conference was that it was Christ-centred,' said Pastor Andrew

Cudjoe of Croydon and Hope Community Church. 'Every part of Dr Smith's presentation pointed to Christ. He stressed that preaching isn't about methods: it's about living the message to deliver the message.'

Newbold theology student Kuda Gonese shared similar sentiments, stating that 'there was something for everyone – those studying for the ministry, people who are just starting in ministry, and those experienced in ministry.' Organiser Pastor Samuel Ouadjo, the BUC's Ministerial Director, explained he believed that a good pastor 'keeps learning'. He continued, 'With preaching being our bread and butter, we should give the best to the Lord and our congregations.'

The conference ended the same way it started – on a positive note – as Dr Smith preached his final sermon, 'Preaching Beyond the Minor Chord'. He pointed out that 'ministry is interwoven in the fabric of life,' like major and minor chords on a piano. Reinforcing his analogy, he quoted Romans 6:23, 'The wages of sin is death,' a melancholy minor chord, contrasted with 'but the gift of God is eternal life' (NKJV), to end on a 'victorious' major chord, inspiring hope.

Looking ahead to 2026, Pastor Jonathan Holder said that pastors can become better learners through preaching conferences. He also noted that while 'there were areas where we disagree theologically, there are things we can learn from others, too', sincerely thanking Dr Smith for accepting the invitation to speak at this year's conference.

CLIVE MALCOLM



Hyland House School celebrates Ofsted inspection result

Hyland House School, which is over 100 years old, is celebrating the blessings of the Lord after receiving an overall 'Good' grading in its latest Ofsted inspection. The Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) received an 'Outstanding' rating. The inspection, which evaluates schools on a variety of criteria including personal development, behaviour, leadership, and the overall well-being of students, has seen the school earn a rating of 'Good' for the quality of education and the high standards it maintains.

In the inspection report, Ofsted highlighted the school's commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where all students can thrive. The school staff were praised for their dedication and ability to adapt to the evolving needs of their students.

A strong track record of excellence

This achievement is a testament to the fact that God answers prayers and still works miracles. God has rewarded the hard work and passion of everyone at the school – from the staff to the students and parents. The school strives every day to provide an environment where pupils feel safe, supported, and challenged to reach their full potential. This result reflects Hyland House's commitment to excellence, and it's an incredible moment for our whole school community.

Ofsted noted that the school's academic standards remain high across a wide range of subjects, with a particular focus on Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS). The report commended the school for the outstanding work it does with early reading, which creates a platform for future success.



A community effort

The Ofsted result is not just a win for the school, but also for the church and the entire community. Parents, governors and local partners all played a significant role in supporting the school throughout the inspection process.

Looking ahead

The success is being celebrated as a step towards an even brighter future. The school leadership is committed to building on this success, continuing to deliver outstanding results for students, and fostering even stronger relationships with families and the wider community; and, most of all, to training up the children in the way they should go, so that when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). As the school looks forward to the future, the Ofsted result reminds us of what can be achieved when we trust in God, dedicate ourselves to Him, and foster a shared commitment to excellence in education.

ERROL GAYLE, HEADTEACHER

Beckton Maranatha feeds the homeless

On the evening of 20 February 2025, Beckton Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church, led by its Women's Ministries Department, organised a heartfelt initiative to serve the less privileged in the community. This was an initiative initiated by St Mark's Church of England. Fifteen homeless individuals were welcomed into the church premises, where they were treated to a warm and nutritious dinner.

The attendees expressed immense gratitude for the meal, describing it as 'delicious', and appreciated the opportunity to take away additional food for later. This act of kindness not only provided physical nourishment, but also offered a sense of community and care to those in need.

The event was graced by the presence of Sister Gina Boamah, the Area 6C Women's Ministries Coordinator, who collaborated with church leaders and volunteers throughout the evening. Her participation underscored the church's collective commitment to outreach and service within the community.

This initiative reflects the church's dedication to embodying Christ's love through actionable service, addressing immediate needs, and fostering a spirit of compassion and unity.

WINNIE MICHOMA, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER





Jacynth Ivey stands proudly with her MBE

Jacynth Ivey receives MBE award

In recognition of a distinguished career spanning over four decades, Jacynth Ivey (née Brown) was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) in His Majesty the King's 2025 New Year Honours List, acknowledging her contributions to resolving nursing and health inequalities.

Like her late sister Anne (Burton-on-Trent and Lewisham churches) and brother Jeffrey (Associate Ministerial Secretary, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists), Jacynth grew up attending both Kings Heath Baptist Church and Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church. A committed Christian, Jacynth found her calling in the fields of healthcare and social responsibility, serving as a consultant and non-executive director for the National Health Service, specialising in leadership and equality.

Embracing the principles of parents Dr Maurice Brown (church elder, Camp Hill, Edmonton and Mandeville) and Carmen Brown (social work lecturer and race relations officer), Jacynth became the first black executive director of nursing and clinical practice in the West Midlands, and only the second black council member in the history of the Royal College of Nursing.

Author of *It's Okay to Be Different: 7 Steps to Achieving Your Brilliance*, Jacynth serves as a mentor and workshop facilitator. While her work is to make the NHS more inclusive for staff and patients, her passion is to create environments for persons of all backgrounds to flourish according to their God-given gifts.

Jacynth is married to Kenneth Ivey. Together they organised the first fully funded gala for Caribbean seniors from the *Windrush* era, a ten-year annual event halted only by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eric Brown and Michael Brown (Birmingham) joined the chorus of congratulations for their youngest sister. The three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-13 conclude, '... and their works follow them' (NKJV). It is good to be awarded by the King of England, but it will be really good to be rewarded by the King of kings.

To hear from His lips, 'Well done,' is the ultimate tribute. In the words of hymnwriter Charles Gabriel, 'O that will be glory for me.'

JEFFREY O. BROWN, PHD

ASSOCIATE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY, GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Gloucester Church's 65th anniversary

A significant milestone was reached for Gloucester Seventh-day Adventist Church on 29 March 2025 as its members marked sixty-five years since the church first opened its doors on Cromwell Street. Sixty-five years later, the doors were still wide open, welcoming members and visitors to celebrate Church History Day.

The packed church saw attendees discuss the weekly lesson in Sabbath School, and they also shared stories and honoured the memory of those who had been part of the church community and are now resting in Jesus until His soon return. Long-standing members were recognised with a certificate and a special pin. Additionally, families of the founding members, Molly Catchpole and Gwen Brinson, received special plaques in recognition of their service and tenacity in securing a building in the centre of the city. Justine Harvey, who is almost 100 years old, received hers in person. It was a blessing to have her and her family with us.

Pastor Wayne Smikle (Gloucester's 44th and current senior pastor) welcomed members, visitors and dignitaries on the sunny Sabbath. Greetings were also sent from the British Union Conference and South England Conference presidents, and a word of encouragement was given by Pastor Ilie Tarlev (Gloucester's 39th minister). The congregation sang in praise and worship on this high day.

The sermon from Pastor Namushi Namuchana (Gloucester's 40th pastor), 'Hope Beyond the Storm', reminded us that storms do not define us, but how we respond to them does. Though the storm may be fierce – our anchor holds! We can take great comfort that God is not a distant or passive observer: He is right here, always with us!

After a fellowship lunch, a look at pictures over the years and a trip down memory lane during AYS, Gloucester could reflect and acknowledge: 'We have come this far by faith.' Pastor Spase Gilgorov (current associate pastor) closed the Sabbath, thanking God for how far He has brought us, and asking Him to continue to guide us as we minister in our local community, drawing people closer to Him.

JAVINIA HARRIS



Justine Harvey with her family, holding her plaque in recognition of her service

‘A Community Transformed’: East London Youth Week of Prayer

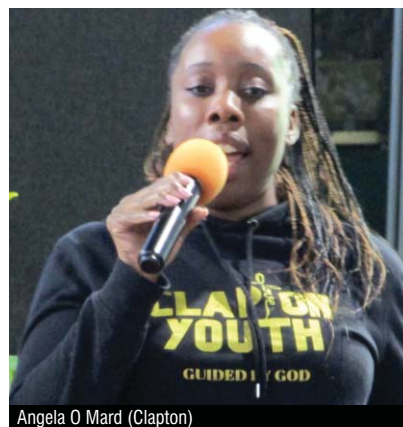
When churches come together in unity, they can be a force for good in the community and society at large. This proved to be the case as three churches within London Area 6C (Clapton, Hackney and Stoke Newington) came together and worked collaboratively during the Global Youth Week of Prayer (22-29 March 2025). Each of the churches began the first Sabbath with Global Youth Day before coming together during the week on Zoom and the final Sabbath in person in the presentation of the Youth Week of Prayer readings, which focused on reaching people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures.

The speakers on the Global Youth Day Sabbath service were Darryll and Nicole Mathieu-Marius (Hackney), Elder Lemar Smith (Stoke Newington) and Pastor Warren Gillin, the South England Conference Youth Director (Clapton). The speakers during the collaborative East London Youth Week of Prayer were Elder Darell Philip and Darryll Mathieu-Marius (Hackney), Elder Lemar Smith and Aaron Fenton-Hewitt (Stoke Newington) and Charrell Phillip (Clapton). The interactive Zoom sessions, which included discussions, video clips, and, most importantly, prayer, brought a closeness among the youth within the three churches – something that was recognised and commented on by Stoke Newington’s pastor, Aundries Malcolm.

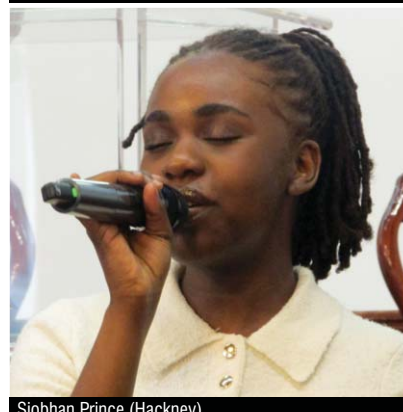
For the finale, the three churches came together at the Stoke Newington church with a special guest attendance from our very own British Union Conference president, Pastor Eglan Brooks. The message was delivered by Stoke Newington’s first elder, Asher McKenzie, himself a youth, before the day came to an end with the ‘Battle of the East’ Bible quiz contested among the youth of the three churches, followed by a social. Among those visiting the service were youth members of the Spanish and Portuguese SDA communities and of other churches, including Walthamstow SDA Church (also from East London Area 6C).

Pastor Aundries Malcolm commended the youth leaders (Dayne Mathieu – Clapton; Rebecca Marshall – Hackney; and Elder Lemar Smith – Stoke Newington) for all the planning and preparation behind the scenes, which led to a successful collaborative effort among the youth of the three East London churches. This has set a good standard within the area, which hopefully will inspire the remaining London areas to do the same as we work together with the Holy Spirit in reaching diverse communities for the building of the kingdom of God.

DARELL J. PHILIP, LONDON AREA 6C COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Angela O Mard (Clapton)



Siobhan Prince (Hackney)



SEC Youth Director, Pastor Warren Gillin



Pastor Mario Phillip’s passion for nurturing Holloway’s young people

At Holloway Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Mario Phillip has a heartfelt mission: to see the church’s young people flourish. Recognising that meaningful relationships and intentional discipleship are key to their spiritual and personal growth, he has made it a priority to truly connect with them.

One of the ways Pastor Phillip achieves this is by dedicating time to engage with young people in a relaxed and informal

setting. These gatherings provide a space where they can openly share their views, express their interests, and seek guidance in their decision-making. His approach is rooted in genuine care and a desire to understand their unique journeys, ensuring that they feel valued and supported within the church community.

By fostering these connections, Pastor Phillip and the Holloway pastoral team are actively investing in the next generation of disciples. Their commitment goes beyond just offering advice – they walk alongside them, empowering them to develop a strong, personal faith. Through mentorship, encouragement and active listening, Pastor Phillip and the pastoral team are shaping a culture where young people not only grow spiritually, but also develop confidence in their roles within the church and beyond.

As they continue this mission, their dedication serves as an inspiration, reinforcing the importance of relationship-building in discipleship. Holloway’s young people are not just the future of the church – they are its present; and, with strong, caring leadership, they are being equipped to thrive.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS



Faith flourishes at London Ghana as six embrace baptism

Spiritual joy swept through London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church in East London on 22 March 2025 as six individuals publicly declared their commitment to Christ through baptism following the impactful 'Safe' seminars held during the church's Youth Week of Prayer (these seminars, organised by the Youth Department, had been held between 17 and 22 March). The baptismal ceremony was reverently led by the head pastor of London Ghana, Pastor Boakye Asiamah, alongside his associate, Bright Agyeman Baah. The dedicated pastoral team, in collaboration with Personal Ministries, Youth Ministries and the diaconate, worked tirelessly to bless all who attended.

Pastor Asiamah expressed his profound delight at witnessing this outpouring of faith, particularly following his return from missionary outreach in Ghana as part of the West African Division's Impact 2025 project. 'Having recently baptised ten people in a stream at the end of an open-air campaign in conjunction with the Mount Pisgah SDA Church in Ntonso of the Ashanti

Region in Ghana, it was amazing to witness yet another baptism in a whole different setting over here in England, back-to-back within the same month.' He underscored the fundamental calling of every minister to share the Good News and emphasised the valuable role the 'Safe' seminars had played in fostering spiritual growth and leading individuals to baptism.

One of the newly baptised members, Miss Hema Dixon Owusu Agyei, shared her heartfelt relief and joy at taking this significant step of faith. Hema, who works in the dynamic world of fashion media,

acknowledged the potential challenges of aligning her profession with her newfound religious convictions. However, she expressed a resolute determination to live a life that authentically reflects her faith, stating, 'I know that this journey is not going to be perfect or easy, but I will do everything I can to show that I am truly a child of God. I know that I am only human, but I want to do my best.'

Miss Ruby Dankwah, the lead clerk of the London Ghana Secretariat, noted that the current membership of the church stands just shy of the 900 mark. She and her team are diligently committed to ensuring that each member is supported and nurtured in their spiritual development. Pastor Asiamah highlighted the church's proactive approach to fostering a supportive mentorship environment, where established members actively guide and encourage new converts. This initiative aims to ensure that new members are embraced as integral parts of the church family, allowing their faith to deepen and their unique spiritual gifts to be cultivated for God's glory. This recent baptism serves as a vibrant testament to the thriving and expanding faith community at London Ghana SDA Church.

RUBINA FOSUA ARTHUR

Baptism at Kingstanding

On 29 March 2025 three precious souls in the Kingstanding church community publicly affirmed their commitment to God through baptism. They were immersed by our new minister, Pastor Michael Baker. During the service each candidate shared a snapshot of their journey.

Omar Brade has been actively involved in church life from a young age. He demonstrates unwavering commitment and a serious approach to Christianity. His public declaration was influenced largely by the faithfulness of Yvonne Ricketts-Brade, his mother, a faithful and active church member.

Latisha Harris, the second candidate, has also been a regular attendee at Kingstanding for some years. There was a hiatus in her Christian journey when the pandemic happened, but she has never stopped attending, and her two young children – Kevin (10) and La'Shanti (4) – are regular and treasured Sabbath School members.

Melvina Cotton, from Anguilla, has been visiting Kingstanding for some time. She comes from a background in Adventism, but many challenges had impacted her as a Christian. She spoke of God's faithfulness and her commitment to surrendering to His leading in her life.

This baptism was the congregation's first since the purchase and formal opening of their current building on 8 December 2024. The building was packed to capacity with visiting members and friends who came to encourage the candidates. Evangelism is high on the church's agenda, and we look forward to many souls being born to God's kingdom.

AUDREY BROOKS, CHURCH CLERK



Left to right: Pastor Michael Baker, Omar Brade, Latisha Harris, Melvina Cotton and Pastor Richard Brooks



Barnet Church's Youth Week of Prayer 2025

In celebration of Global Youth Day, which marks the beginning of the Youth Week of Prayer, Barnet Seventh-day Adventist Church once again demonstrated its commitment to service by partnering with Unitas Youth Zone in North London. For the third consecutive year, Barnet supplied hygiene packs for young people, supporting a community initiative aimed at providing practical care and encouragement to local youth. By God's grace, we were able to increase the quantity from 40 to 80 packs this year through the combined resources of the

Youth and Community Services departments.

This project reflects a broader mission that began in early 2022 following the COVID-19 lockdown, when Lorraine Imbrah joined Barnet Church as Children and Youth Ministries leader. First, she encouraged the church to pray for the children and youth. Miraculously, within a few months, the numbers quadrupled.

Secondly, she gave the task of finding organisations whom we could support in the community to the youth and the Community Services Department, led by Joan Mabb. As a result, a couple of organisations were contacted and we were able to open communications with them. One of the organisations was a youth group found by one of our youth, Tyrese Stewart-Allison. This organisation was created to provide young people in North London with somewhere to go, something to do, and someone to talk to – particularly after school.

In 2023, we were able to secure funding from the Trans-European Division, enabling us to undertake this initiative annually. Each hygiene pack contains practical items a young person may need – shower gel, lip balm, socks, a water bottle, a flannel, and a keep-safe bag – alongside Christian literature. The packs have been well received, and, through God's grace, we have been invited each year to continue supporting Unitas Youth Zone, even participating in other events they run.

The relationship with Unitas Youth Zone has grown over time, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve consistently for the past three years.

In 2024, Barnet Church also celebrated the baptism of eight candidates, six of whom are now part of the continually growing youth department. We thank God for His continued grace, power and love.

JOAN MABB, COMMUNITY SERVICES LEADER

A joyous new chapter

As Pastor Goodluck Ajuzie embarks on the exciting journey of pastoring the St Austell, Bodmin and Redruth churches, he feels profound gratitude and joy. This new chapter for him and his family, which took effect on 1 August 2024, provides them with an opportunity to serve the Lord more and grow alongside these vibrant communities of faith, rooted in Christ.

Pastor Ajuzie was introduced to his new congregations by Pastor Nathan Stickland, whose warm and encouraging words made the transition smoother. His support has been instrumental, and the spirit of fellowship and grace has been palpable among the members of the churches. The welcome Pastor Ajuzie received from the congregations was overwhelming. The members expressed their eagerness to work together in ministry, and the pastor could sense his members' commitment to spreading Christ's love. When he visited Bodmin Church, he was touched by the vibrant community spirit. The members organised a special Sabbath lunch in his honour, which provided an opportunity for fellowship and connection. He particularly appreciates the tireless efforts of the Bodmin youth who are actively engaged in literature evangelism with a passion for sharing the message of hope and redemption.

Pastor Ajuzie is also grateful to the SEC President, Dr Kirk Thomas; the Executive Secretary, Pastor

Nathan Stickland; and Pastor Kwesi Moore, the Ministerial Director. During the handover, Pastor Caleb Akinola's humility and simplicity built Pastor Ajuzie's confidence and showed true generosity to his family. The Area 1 coordinator, Pastor Florin Orasanu, also offered greatly empowering support. As Pastor Ajuzie embarks on this ministry, he and his family are committed to working diligently for the mission of Christ and contributing to the growth of His kingdom as they prepare for the soon coming of Jesus.

PASTOR GOODLUCK AJUZIE





Weston-super-Mare Church hosts World Day of Prayer

On 7 March 2025 the Weston-super-Mare Seventh-day Adventist church hosted the World Day of Prayer. Members of local Baptist, Methodist and Church of England congregations joined us for an hour-long programme which this year was prepared by ladies from the Cook Islands situated in the Pacific Ocean. A Seventh-day Adventist was one of the authors.

The World Day of Prayer is a Christian movement that seeks to bring 'prayer power' to many countries of the world. Each year one country is invited to write a programme highlighting that country's prayer needs. The

theme for this year was based on Psalm 139 and entitled 'I Made You Wonderful'. The prayer chain of services begins in Samoa and circumnavigates the world in 24 hours. It is a great opportunity to engage with other Christian churches. Two ladies from the Weston-super-Mare Seventh-day Adventist church are members of the south-west planning committee.

For further information on the history of the World Day of Prayer, check out the World Day of Prayer website: <https://worlddayofprayer.net>.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE CHURCH COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



The praise team

Women's International Day of Prayer at Camp Hill

Camp Hill Church celebrated Women's International Day of Prayer on 1 March 2025, with the theme of 'Reaching Out'. The predominantly female-led prayer, worship and Bible study began in Sabbath School with a focus on prayer.

The Divine Service included a lively praise team – a thirty-strong women's choir singing 'Reach Out to Jesus – He's Reaching Out to You' – before the baby dedication of Malik and Morgan Mitchell, which drew visitors from both the north and the south of England to fill the sanctuary. The senior pastor, Pastor Bruce, officiated this joy-filled part of the service and invited the tens of visitors to the front of the church, where they filled the space in support of the young family. Sister Kerry-Ann Mitchell, the mother of the two children, sang a harmonious song with her close friends before she and her husband Ashley affirmed their promise to raise the children in a Christian home.

Pastor Winsome Baadjies, the intern minister for the church, brought to life the story of the woman with the issue of blood. She encouraged all of the attentive listeners to reach out to Jesus, and reminded them that He is the heavenly Saviour who can heal all from any condition. Her sermon brought joyous loud 'amens' and a ripple of applause as she concluded her message from God. The visitors were surely touched by the message – many accepted the altar call, and the prayer is that this day will have been a turning point in many lives towards the outreaching arms of Jesus.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Elder Kevin to the left and Elder Shannon Collins in the middle

'A Very Present Help' – Hackney SDA Church Women's Day

The final Sabbath (29 March) of International Women's Month came to a fitting end with the celebration of women and mothers the day before Mother's Day. Children from the Junior Sabbath School presented colourful roses to the mothers of the church, while the adult Sabbath School superintendents, Beverley Daley, Yvette Smith and Veronica Joseph, affirmed the important role mothers play in the home, church and community.

Elder Kevin (New Life SDA Church) summarised the adult lesson study, which for the past quarter has considered God's love and His justice. Elder Darell Philip shared two poems – one for the youth as their youth week of prayer came to an end, and the other for mothers and women in general.

The invited guest speaker was Elder Shannon Collins from Chiswick SDA Church. Her message, 'The Ezer – Like Father, Like Daughter (A Very Present Help)', showed how women could be more than just a help meet, but could also be seen as rescuers, saviours and sources of strength in the home, church and community. Collins' effervescent personality and positive energy in the delivery of her message resonated well with the entire congregation, including her husband and her mother.

DARELL J. PHILIP, PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

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**2025 Welsh Mission
Session Notification**

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will take place at the:

Holiday Inn, The Coldra, Newport, NP18 2YG
on Sunday 28 September 2025.

Delegates will receive documentation in advance of the session.

**PASTOR MAX MCENZIE-COOK (EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY, WELSH MISSION)**

North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

REDISCOVERING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM

CAMP MEETING 2025

Pr Stephen Bohr
Adult Bible Study Speaker

Pr Sikhumbuzo Dube
Adult Mid-Morning Speaker

Pr Steven Conway
Adult Commitment Speaker

Jacqueline & Winston Brown
Health Speakers

Lo-Ammi Richardson
Youth Speaker

Jemaule Gardner
Teen's Speaker

Bekezela BK Peters
Children's Speaker

28TH MAY - 1ST JUNE 2025

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• Adult	£140 per person
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• Infant (0-3)	Free
• Family (2 adults, 2 children)	£540

SCAN ME

This year's Camp Meeting will take place at **Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre**, located in Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NL. Day delegates are welcome from Thursday to Sabbath. For more information about attending as a day delegate, making other enquiries or booking your place, visit nec.adventist.uk/camp-meeting or scan the QR code.

DATE	VENUE	TIME
May 28-1 June	NEC Camp Meeting, Yarnfield Conference Centre	
June 8	Huddersfield	10am-2pm
29	Newbold College graduation	10am-2pm

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

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Investiture service celebrates Adventurers and Pathfinders

On 8 March 2025, uniforms, sashes, drums, flags and marching were part of the Camp Hill Church investiture service for fifteen Adventurers and twenty Pathfinders, who collectively received hundreds of honours. They accepted their certificates excitedly, highlighting their enjoyment of learning about God's gifts to mankind. The honours included such topics as Bible knowledge, hygiene, steps to Jesus, fitness, and first aid, recognising the amazing progress all of the Pathfinders and Adventurers have made.

The unit leaders shared their experiences of working with the young people, highlighting the joy and fulfilment of guiding them in their learning and spiritual development. A Pathfinder memory gem was quoted, reminding everyone of the spiritual foundation of their achievements. A particularly special moment was the presentation of three baptism pins to Brothers Daniel Brooks, Louis Ouko and Ruel Worrell, who had recently joined the church family. The completed unit badges were then pinned to the sashes and shirts of the Pathfinders, symbolising the completion of the curriculum through hard work and dedication, before the Pathfinders' choir rendered a beautiful song of praise.

Department Head Sharon Pryce commended the five other Pathfinder counsellors at Camp Hill, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to the young people's spiritual and personal growth in the face of challenges. Counsellor Joel Pryce thanked the Department Head and emphasised the ongoing need for volunteers; Area Coordinator Gloria Bishop reinforced the importance of parental support; and gratitude was expressed to the area coordinators for their presence. Area Trainer John Bishop delivered an inspiring message, urging the young people to know the Bible and to stand firm in their faith.

The service was a celebration of dedication, faith and growth, highlighting the collective effort of leaders, parents and the church community in nurturing the next generation of Christ-centred young people. It was also a witness to the warmly welcomed non-Adventist attendees who attended in support. To God be the glory!

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Left to right: Pastor Lorraine Johnson, Dr Orlando Thomas, and Ruth Constance Perry, local Health Ministries director

Transforming health: the 'Health Now' seminar at Watford Town

From 1 to 15 March 2025, Watford Town Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the 'Health Now' seminar, led by Dr Orlando Thomas from Jamaica. Over two weeks, this seminar became a beacon of health transformation, inspiring participants to learn how to enhance their well-being through practical, holistic strategies.

Dr Thomas, known for his engaging and humorous presentation style, started the seminar by asking: 'Why Do We Get Sick?' The first week set the stage by tackling key health issues like trauma, poor diet, toxins, genetics, and vitamin deficiencies. Participants learned how their daily choices impact long-term health, with a focus on disease prevention. The second week dove deeper into the importance of lifestyle choices, focusing on sleep, exercise and nutrition. Dr Thomas emphasised the role of relaxation and the Sabbath in maintaining health. Evening sessions on stress management and relationship dynamics highlighted the importance of emotional and familial well-being.

The seminar included hands-on activities like the Watford Atria Shopping Centre health expo, where attendees received free health checks. The seminar's practical approach extended to cooking demonstrations where participants sampled healthy cheesecake and ice cream recipes, making complex health topics accessible and engaging. Throughout the two weeks, Dr Thomas addressed crucial health topics including immune system function, brain health, detoxing the body, and managing stress, providing holistic strategies for tackling everything from chronic illness to mental well-being.

The seminar culminated in a powerful session on creating a personal health plan, helping attendees map their journey towards sustainable well-being. With practical advice on weight loss and goal setting, Dr Thomas left participants equipped with the tools they needed to make lasting changes to their lifestyle.

Moving forwards, the Health Ministries team plans to conduct a health expo at the church, offer online vegan cooking classes, establish a health book club, and provide many more initiatives.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Mercy Hwarari (1979-2025) d. 6 January.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mercy Hwarari. Born in Masvingo, Zimbabwe on 8 April 1979 to farming parents, Mercy came to Britain twenty years ago. She settled in Bournemouth, worked as a care worker and attended Bournemouth Church. Mercy was baptised by Pastor Daniel Thompson on 29 September 2012.



Tragically, after a serious illness, Mercy died on 6 January 2025 at her home in Charminster, Bournemouth. Her remains were flown to Zimbabwe for her burial. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held in the new Bournemouth church on Cardigan Road on Sunday 9 March 2025, led by her brother, Frank (Tari) Chiramba. The hymns included 'Oh let me walk with Thee, my God' and 'Shall we gather at the river?' Friends and family members paid tribute to Mercy's unfailing zest for life, love for other people, and faith and courage during her last illness. Songs were sung by her daughter Pandora and friends. Later, Pandora recited a poem: 'To my loving mum'. Our new pastor, Steven Hulbert, brought a message of comfort from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Refreshments were served in the church hall.

To each member of Mercy's family we offer our condolences. She now sleeps, awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus and the resurrection, when we shall all meet again, never more to part.

RICHARD L. VINE

Marica Mirilov (1966-2024) d. 17 July.

Born in 1966 in Slavonija, Croatia, Marica's life was shaped by love and service. She had a gift for connecting with people and inspiring many, both in her church and in the wider community. In her roles as Family Ministries and Pathfinder Director for the Cyprus region, as well as a Bible worker, everything Marica did was guided by her inherent compassion for others. Wherever she went, she brought warmth, care and a quiet reassurance.



Marica was the wife of Pastor Branislav Mirilov and the mother of Miriam, Natasha and Emmanuel. As a Bible worker and pastor for the Cyprus region, Marica confidently shared her joy in knowing Christ with others. It was an intrinsic part of her character to demonstrate loving care and concern for all, with a wish that they would discover the joy she had in Christ.

At Newbold, and among countless pastoral families, Marica was beloved for the zest of life and happiness that she shared so effortlessly. During her time assisting the English Language Department, her enthusiasm and energy left a lasting impression on her colleagues and students. In her final months, she poured herself into completing her MA

dissertation, and was in the process of submitting it just before she fell asleep from stroke complications – a testament to her determination and passion for knowledge. She made a tremendous impact as a mentor in the One Year in Mission and Service programme, as in so many other fields, and will be missed by all who felt her support first-hand, until the Saviour she loved and served so faithfully calls her to life at the resurrection.

THE NEWBOLDIAN

Peter John Archer (1940-2024) d. 7 December.

Less than a year after the start of World War 2, Peter Archer was born on 28 May 1940 in Spring Gardens, adjacent to Stanborough Park, Watford. Eighty-four years later, Peter passed peacefully to his rest just a few miles away in Watford General Hospital.



Raised as an Adventist, Peter attended Stanborough Junior and Senior Schools and took the branch line from Park Street to worship at Watford Town Church – a journey he loved to share.

His first job was in a nursery greenhouse, cultivating plants, followed by a role with a wholesale greengrocer. In 1959, at the age of 19, he joined Granose Health Foods, beginning what would become 40 years of denominational service. Eight years later, in 1967, he married the love of his life, Rosemary, with Sarah born in 1970 and David in 1973.

His diligence at Granose was recognised. By 1976, the British Union Conference Executive Committee invited him to serve as Managing Director. The key to Peter's success, noted Pastor Adrian Peck in his eulogy, was 'his passion for Granose . . . a company he knew from back to front and side to side, every rivet in every machine, every recipe, every process'. Under Peter's leadership, in 1993 Granose reported the highest ever sales in the company's history.

After a brief stint as a gardener, Peter was invited in 1996 to return to denominational service as the grounds and maintenance manager of the Stanborough Park Estate. The contrast between the two roles could not have been more striking – from the boardroom to the estate – yet he gave his all in making each of them flourish. Which did he enjoy more? Everyone who knew Peter understood that he preferred working behind the scenes – yet those who saw him at work on the estate also witnessed his dedication, pride, and genuine love.

His faith was the driving force behind his service, notably as the St Albans head deacon. Alongside Rosemary, he was always the first to arrive, ensuring the care and well-being of fellow members. Peter believed the Lord's house should be treated with care, respect and reverence – but it was young and old worshipping

together that gave Peter such joy.

Peter's funeral on 8 January was deeply enriched by the presence of his loving family, friends, church members and colleagues. Tributes included heartfelt music – led by Peter's niece Claire, along with her daughters – poetry, and moving eulogies. The service was conducted by long-time family friend Pastor Adrian Peck, assisted by Pastor Wayne Erasmus, at the St Albans church.

Peter was the quintessential Englishman, with a calm, gentle and composed personality. His faith in Christ was expressed in service. He loved his family, gardening, tea and trains.

To Rosemary, Sarah, David, his wife Andrea, and grandchildren Megan and Matthew, we wait expectantly with you, full of hope to greet Peter soon on the Day of Resurrection.

DAVID NEAL

Messenger

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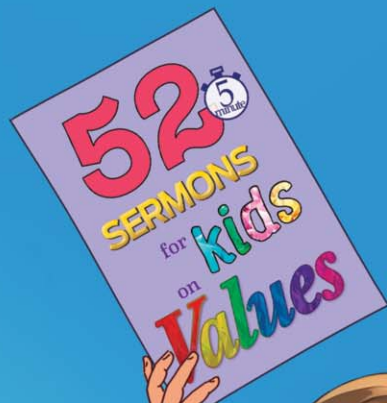
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