

BUC News #673 (26 February 2010) NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

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

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ACTS – A DAY OF RENEWAL [Taylor Bajic]

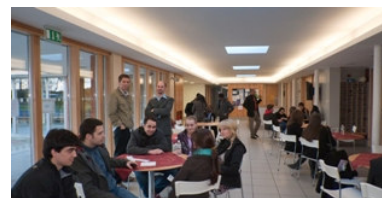


The long-anticipated Newbold Youth Day of Fellowship became an exciting reality last Sabbath, 20 February 2010. And what a day it was! Newbold College welcomed an outstanding group of 835 youth from throughout the United Kingdom for ACTS (Active Christians Together in the Spirit). This dynamic bunch came from all over – from right

here in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and even from Denmark – to fellowship and come together in Jesus Christ.

In the words of Newbold's Principal, Dr Jane Sabes, the day was "intended to bring youth together, to be able to warm one another's hearts and strengthen each other in the Lord, through preaching by youth and for youth, relevant workshops, music and simply through socializing." She added, "We want to remind youth that, though they might be from small churches, they are in fact part of a 17-million-strong movement."

The day began in a packed gymnasium with back-to-back preaching by seven compelling speakers. The theme was 'Renewal'. The assembly was worshipfully led in the Word, in song and in interactive activities alike, and was even treated with a special musical item by 4-year-old Vuyo Ransom from Swindon church and another by representatives from the Slough Youth Choir. The morning programme concluded with a call to be 'mighty men' for Christ, renewed daily in Him.



Zak Ambruš, head chef at Newbold, and his team provided everyone with a hot meal before the afternoon activities commenced. These included nineteen workshops on a range of diverse topics such as 'Using Art Therapy to Sort Out Emotional Baggage' or 'Does Ellen White Have Anything Worth Saying to Youth of Today?' Presenters included Newbold lecturers, students, youth pastors, psychologists, and several other professionals in their own vital fields. Jonas Raabjerg, a Newbold

MA student in Theology, presented a workshop on 'Bridging the Gap: Creating Authentic Community'. He said "I chose the topic because I am passionate about doing church in new ways and trying to reach people from the culture around us." Carole Williams, a Newbold Theology graduate and Christian politician, presented a workshop on 'Christians Running for Public Office? Get Real!' Her idea was "to get students, young people and workshop participants thinking more broadly about the various ways that God can use us all in our careers even when they are not immediately related to the work of the Church."

The Sabbath concluded with the baptism of Tatenda Mushunje from Coventry church. He was warmly welcomed into the 17-million-strong family of Seventh-day Adventists as his family and friends gathered closely around him. Sam Neves, pastor of the Wimbledon church, conducted the service.

The evening was full of festivities and treats, complete with a Stanborough Press book sale. There was an array of food booths, from Caribbean cuisine to popcorn, with each stall raising money for their own worthy causes. The evening concluded with a bang – a sacred concert, organized by Trevor Johnson, with the best sounds from around the UK. There was a large variety of talented musical groups, vocal solos and instrumental beauty. A group of young ladies that had attended and rehearsed in the afternoon musical workshop presented by Tihomir Lazić, a Doctoral student in Theology at Oxford University and Thomas Rasmussen, the Danish Union Youth director, also performed beautifully. "The concert was better than X-Factor and the group '4 Christ' could've beaten JLS hands down!" claimed one of the attendees.

"It was good to see the return of ACTS last Sabbath. It's an excellent way to put Newbold back on the map. I think that British young people and the church in general need to feel a sense of ownership to Newbold and build more of a connection to it rather than just seeing it as a place where their pastor studied," says Leah Blenman, a Newbold alumna from Birmingham. Kay Choudary, the coordinator of the day's events, said, "I was very happy to see ACTS revived after six years and to see everyone enjoying Newbold College's campus. It takes a lot of organisation, but just to see people smile and be happy is well worth the effort."

Plans are already underway for ACTS 2011: Newbold's Youth Day of Fellowship on 26 February, 2011. Definitely a date for the diary.

MINISTERIAL SPOUSES COLLABORATE ON CHARITY SINGLE [Cathy Boldeau]



Two Adventist ministers' wives have utilised musical and lyrical skills to write a 'song of Haiti'. Tina Brooks and Cathy Boldeau wrote and arranged "Voices of Hope", as part of the Voices of Hope initiative to raise funds for the victims of the Haiti earthquake disaster for ADRA-UK.

Tina said, "Voices of Hope" has a strong message that evokes the idea that despite the devastation in Haiti and in our world today, we can give hope in a tangible way by giving, praying and being "Voices of Hope". At the heart of the message is an important reference to the Biblical principle of helping our sisters and brothers and by so doing, we show our help and love towards Christ Himself. We hope that after we give our resources, ADRA will be the literal "hands of God's love".

One of the exciting outcomes of the writing of the song is the possibility to work with Adventist artistes from around the United Kingdom to produce a professional and unique track. Soloists, groups, backing singers and choirs, along with vocal and instrumental producers are being contacted to be part of this project. The anticipated date for release of the single is early April. The single will be available on iTunes with a limited number on CD. There will also be a professional DVD produced

which will include two additional bonus tracks to accompany the main song. An [mp3 sample file](#) is already available.

ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit says, "This is a wonderful initiative! I think that selling it through iTunes is a great idea and it can have a worldwide audience!"

As part of the Voices of Hope initiative, an evening of verse and praise is planned at the Stanborough Park Adventist church, Watford on 27 March at 7:00 pm. Artistes featuring in the concert are Tessera (BBC Songs of Praise), Croydon SDA Gospel Choir, led by Ken Burton, Stanborough Church Choir, led by Ji Eun Ahn, Tina Brooks, Patrick Bernard, Tamara Austin, Victoria Balan (violinist) and others. Entry to the concert is free but an offering will be taken for ADRA-UK. For further information about the Adventist charity single or evening of verse and praise, please contact Catherine Boldeau on 07534 942 452 or <catherine.visionsolutions@googlemail.com>.

"OUR CORE BUSINESS" [John Wilby]



More than forty lay church leaders from across Scotland who attended the Mission's Training Day in Crieff on Sunday 21 February were blessed with an informative and spiritually enriching day. Workshops were led by BUC directors, Eglan Brooks (Personal Ministries), Des Boldeau (Youth), Victor Hulbert (Communication) and by ADRA Annual Appeal Coordinator, Godwin Benjamin. They were supported by Pastors Bernie Holford, Bob Rodd, Jimmy Botha, Lorange Johnson and David Hatch.

Other workshops included Children's Ministries (Jeniffer Oroko), Women's Ministries (Judith Martin), Family Ministries (Karen Holford) and Child Safety (Carole Peacock).

In his keynote address, Pastor Boldeau referred to changes in the Church and, with it, changes in leadership style. He said there are good principles in the business world that can be adapted and adopted but that what was needed was spiritual leadership. He pointed to the life of Jehu in 2 Kings 8-10 who was an instrument to accomplish God's purpose but was not a servant of God – all the time continuing to worship Baal.



"What kind of leaders are we?" he asked. "Am I, at heart, listening to what God is saying? Am I studying His Word? Am I praying that some time in the day I can find a slot where I can spend time with God? Spiritual leaders must spend time with God because that's where we learn", he said. We also have to be united in a common goal, "That common goal is not to hasten Christ's return but to bring the Good News to people out there - to help them know God", he added.



In summing up the day's events, Mission President, Bernie Holford continued this theme, "We are not in the business of just doing 'good church'. We are not in the business of just trying to get converts. We are not in the business of just making sure our finances are in shape or our building looks nice. Our core business is knowing God, loving God and letting that love so fill us that it overflows to our love for one another – both within the community of fellowship and out in the community".

"If we are not being a loving example of who God is, then why on earth are we here?" he asked.

"As we leaders, today, recognise that core, we are one Church with one mission, one focus - and one purpose".

Judging by the comment from one departing participant, the day achieved its objective. He said he now felt better equipped to meet the personal, practical and spiritual challenges of church office.

A selection of photos from this event can be seen on the BUC website: www.adventist.org.uk.



PHASE III BUILD 'ONWARDS AND UPWARDS'



A giant crane arrived at the Stanborough Park Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist church on Wednesday, 24 February. With the foundations now laid, despite snow and weather delays, the crane is in place for the next three weeks to help erect the steel frame that will form the structure for the third and final phase of the rebuilding programme following the devastating fire in November 2008. While it seemed little was happening on the site during the laying of the foundations, the muddy, fenced off area is now a hive of activity as steel girders, all carefully numbered and mapped out, are swung into place and then securely bolted together like some giant Meccano set. An update on this phase of construction plus a picture gallery can be seen on the BUC build site, www.adventistinfo.org.uk/build.



While it is making for a somewhat noisy working environment for staff, they are, none-the-less, delighted to see what has just been plans on paper coming to life. Providing administrative office space, meeting rooms and an attractive reception area, it is anticipated that this section of the building should be completed by the autumn.

CALLED TO SERVE – IN ISRAEL [Peter Jeynes with Geoff Smith]



"When people see Adventist pastors they should immediately discern, 'there is hope'". So stated Julio Mendez in his Wednesday morning devotional for the North England Conference pastors currently meeting in Israel. Gathering under the theme "Called to Serve", you might wonder why a Conference would take its pastors away in the midst of a recession. The reason is not to escape the frozen wastes of the north for the warmth of the Middle East but to be challenged and revived for service.

The long flight, for some a very long journey, gave way to an opening devotional by Pastor Richard Elofer, the President of the Israel Field. Pastor Elofer, a French-speaking, Jewish Christian, came as an agent provocateur telling stories of the early days of Adventists in Israel. He told us of Clarinda S Minor, from Philadelphia who felt called to be a missionary in this beautiful land. She found poverty among the small Jewish population. Her solution was to travel back to America and seek the funding for an agricultural development programme. It has been recognised that her contribution to Israel laid part of the foundation for Israel's current agricultural wealth and state of the art farming methods.



Pastor Richard Elofer (right) shares with Craig Baxter.

Then moving on Pastor Richard called the pastors to be a blessing to the people of Israel. "In clear and open language we have a very special mission...to prepare people for the Second Coming of the Lord." Continuing the thought NEC President Pastor Ian Sweeney set the direction for the week's series. Under the heading, 'getting the setting right' the pastors were encouraged to take this week away in Israel as an opportunity for spiritual revival. Just as Moses found himself at Sinai, with his shoes off, so were we to soak up the atmosphere and the setting for revival.

Thus the pastors soaked up the scene. They learned that today Abraham is pronounced Avraham and Jacob would be pronounced Yacov. Our ministers learned the differences between the current 'tribes' of Jewish people – the Ultra orthodox wearing black large brimmed hats, producing large families back at home, and the men studying for up to 18 hours a day. From coach drivers pastors learned of 'Orthodox lite' – small hats and smaller families while in the Kibbutz hotel they learned of the integration of Arabs into current Israeli society.

Archaeological notes, a historical setting and social commentary were provided by excellent tour guides. Bena Mantel on the one coach affirmed the relevance, accuracy and authenticity of the Biblical record. A visit to an ancient 'church' on the shores of Galilee described as 'Peter's house' gave a picture taking us back to the times of the Apostles and help set the scene of what life might have been like in the time of Jesus and His disciples. Set next to a synagogue we could picture the people of Jesus worshipping, working and walking side by side.

One specialist, the very interesting Shahr Shilo described the archaeological findings in the Old City of Jerusalem which affirm names, locations and dates of the Word of God.

There were the departmental programmes of course – news of the Pan-European Advanced Centre of Evangelism and details of strategic evangelistic efforts in the North of England revealed that the frozen north may well be described as 'the chosen north'.

The event wasn't all study and the seeking after wonders. Food at the Kibbutz hotel showed that the Conference Health and Temperance leader, Grace Walsh, could resist the temptation of wonderful foods in abundance and still eat healthfully. Rumours passed around of recently retired, but still active, Pastor Masih praying at the Wailing Wall – and then perhaps looking for a studio to record a television programme. Tales of pastors' wives haggling for pottery with stories of Pastor Sidney Almeida's search for a portable communion set enlivened the Monday.



NEC workers in Capernaum

The pastors' wives were not neglected. As their husbands took note of challenging lectures aimed at deepening pastor/congregational vision and practice delivered by Pastor Steve Currow, the spouses had a tour and treat of their own. Not just a chance to shop but also a chance to meet Israeli women and become a little familiar with current social activities.

One colleague commented on the experience, "this Israeli study trip has significantly deepened my understanding of the world of the Bible and given a deeper well of experience that will enrich not just my preaching but my own spiritual journey."

The journey continues with visits to the Dead Sea, special worship and lectures. A fuller report will appear next week.

FAMILY EMPHASIS DAY IN NORTH WALES



On a bright, sunny but bitterly cold morning, Family and Children's Ministries sponsors, Clyde and Anette Moore conducted a Family Emphasis Day in the North Wales district on Sabbath, 20 January. They were accompanied by their grandsons, Jakeda and Jahfari. After a lively Sabbath discussion led by elder Malcolm Turner on faithfulness, Pastor Moore led out in the Family worship service. Anette gave a spirited children's story about communities working together as a unit to rescue sailors stranded off the coast of Whitby in 1881. Pastor Moore delivered his sermon, "Families in Crisis," against the background of the story of Job. "The family unit is under attack from the law-makers, from society and from trends in society," he said. Pastor Moore encouraged each "family member" to remain true to their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ despite whatever life throws at them to jolt them out of their rhythm. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 KJV).

After a wonderful fellowship lunch the Moores led out in a seminar on Keeping the Church Family Safe. Firstly Pastor Moore encouraged those who may be praying for errant sons and daughters from the faith, to keep praying for them. They then looked at the role and responsibilities of the Child Safety representative that each congregation in the Welsh Mission is being encouraged to appoint. They spoke about the whole issue surrounding Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks of any church officer that works with children, youth and vulnerable persons. Pastor Moore pointed out why it was important that each congregation create an environment of safety. That is where the Child Safety representative comes in together with the support of the pastor and the pastoral team.

Pastor Moore closed the seminar with a brief look at the issues surrounding the various forms of abuse, giving anecdotal cases emphasising the fact that there are persons in each congregation that may have personal experiences or know of a family member or friend who has been affected. A special prayer was then offered for anyone who may have been affected by the topic and content of the seminar. Sister Moore presented a copy of James Dobson's book, *Solid Answers*, to the church and in turn she was given a bunch of roses. Pastor Moore promised to return to Rhyl in the summertime so that a walk on the beach can be undertaken.

The Welsh Mission has been divided up into four areas North Wales, Mid-Wales including Shropshire and Herefordshire, South-East Wales and South-West Wales. Each area this year will have a Family Emphasis Day. The next one will take place in the Shropshire and Herefordshire district.

PEACE: THE BIG IDEA [Peter Jeynes]



Picture this. The big idea – you have to sell it. In the past you set up a poster and gave out handbills. These days you make a video.

The big idea was to sell the PEACE evangelistic training course, a North England Conference initiative to church members around the world. The South England Conference Media department came on the scene to make a video trailer to promote the concept.

So it was that a small team headed down the M1 to Watford. PEACE, the Pan-European Advanced Centre of Evangelism, due to commence its work this year, is to be headed by Adam Ramdin. With

help from ASI and Amazing Facts the course, run by the North England Conference, sets out to equip people for excellent service for God and to potentially help transition people into possible full-time ministry for God.

The video, produced by Sam Neves and filmed by Villi Costescu, attracted the comment, "I like the energy, I like the different dynamics." With Ian Philpott, currently working as a mission pioneer in Carlisle, Leah Sweeney, a 'Youth for Jesus' worker in Yardley and Lemuel Morgan from Handsworth taking different roles, the aim was to show that ordinary people can benefit from the new course. An edge to the video was provided by the acting skills of Jader, Nicole and Dorling who showed that there would be people wanting this type of opportunity to fulfil God's call in their lives.



"That's a wrap" was called late on Wednesday night, 17 February. The end product will be coming to a DVD, a website, Facebook – or whatever media can be managed - to enthral you in the near future. In fact, check it out now at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PxaSxD88U4>.

The aim? For you to consider choosing to enrol on a course that could change your life.

LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE



The 5 March edition of the Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, can now be found online at www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger. Headlined, 'Vigorous Discussion at Elders' retreat', this edition also focuses on cults and labels in David Marshall's editorial, 'Beware Neverend Boom!' As we head towards this year's Annual ADRA Appeal, Bert Smit reminds us that "Every week 175,000 children will die – not because of any single disaster, but because they are simply too poor to live." A distressing fact that gives us pause for thought, and hopefully action. On a practical note, Angelette Muller looks at the value of wholegrain foods, while Pastor Patrick Boyle asks pertinent questions concerning the Pope's visit to Britain this autumn.



PILMOOR PONDERES PERCEPTION

Each month BUC Treasurer, Victor Pilmoor sends a thought-provoking and occasionally humorous message to each employee on the BUC payroll. While intentionally written as encouragement for those on the "BUC team" the messages have been an encouragement further afield and over recent months have been posted on the BUC website. For his March message, click on the Perceptive Grace link in the What's New! section of www.adventist.org.uk.

UK ADVENTIST CHURCH LOCATION UPDATES

With a number of churches moving location and new church groups added, the BUC website updates the database to ensure you can find the way to the church of your choice each week – or direct friends that may be seeking for a church home. The Sat Nav page has also been updated to help you plan your journey to Adventist churches across the UK and Ireland. Please check www.adventistchurches.org.uk for the latest details.

EXTRA COPIES OF YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER READINGS

All Youth leaders will have been sent their allocation of Week of Prayer readings earlier this month via the PM Secretaries, but a small number of additional readings are available upon request from the BUC office. First come first served. Email requests to: <bucyouth@adventist.org.uk> with name, postal address, church and number required (max 10 for postal purposes, otherwise by collection only). Electronic copies are available at <www.adventistyouth.org.uk>. The Youth Week of Prayer is 20 – 27 March.

THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL



Robert Hines specialises in working with Teens. What are the special skills needed? And what in his background has prepared him for this challenging role? Robert is this week's guest on "In Conversation" on the Hope Channel at the times listed below and on demand at <www.hopetv.org.uk>.

Friday 26 February: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: [Aris Vontzalidis](#)
 Sabbath 27 February: 12:30 am and 3:00 pm: Aris Vontzalidis

Monday 1 March: 3:00 am and 9:00 pm: [Robert Hines](#)
 Wednesday 3 March: 8:00 am: Robert Hines
 Friday 5 March: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Robert Hines
 Sabbath 6 March: 12:30 am and 3:00 pm: Robert Hines

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