



DEPRESSION

Why we can no longer ignore it in our congregations!

DO CHRISTIANS

need counselling for Depression?

DESMOND DOSS

The 'Hacksaw Ridge' Film

DEPARTMENTS

The President's Desk Reports

NEWS

New Faces at the SEC

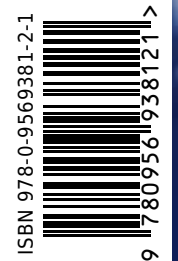
EVANGELISM EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

The OneLife London Outreach

The HealthFest

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A NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR DR CHIDI NGWABA



Editorial



A happy New Year to you as you take time to read through the first edition of our new look "SEC COMMUNICATOR". We have enlarged the content to cover not only Departmental reports, but also issues and comments relevant to our audience in the South England Conference.

In this edition, we are delighted to celebrate the recognition of our Health Ministries Director, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, at a national level, for his contribution to healthful living and the prevention of lifestyle diseases. The third-party endorsement of his work is a testament to his ministry that reaches out beyond the borders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the wider society. We want to congratulate Dr Chidi on the recognition of his ministry to all.

Critical in this issue are articles highlighting the significance of why we cannot ignore the issue of depression within our congregations in the South England Conference. The authors seek to inform so that readers have a greater understanding of depression. One may ask, could faith be a hindrance to our appreciation of the condition? How do we relate to people who are coping with depression? What about seeking help if one is battling with the condition? Has our Conference made provision for helping people cope better with the condition?

Perhaps a broader understanding of the effects of depression can help foster a more caring attitude towards those in our midst coping with the condition.

As we continue to embark on *Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere*, let us be reminded to intentionally seize every opportunity that gives us cause to share our faith. The Desmond Doss story in the film, "*Hacksaw Ridge*" produced by Mel Gibson which will be in cinemas across the UK from 27 January 2017, provides us with just such an opportunity to witness to those who may ask questions about who Seventh-day Adventists are and what they do. Guest writer, Victor Hulbert make suggestions on how best to use the film as an outreach opportunity in one of the articles in this issue.

The SEC and BUC Personal Ministries Departments will also be making available some resource materials for those who will be interested. Please make contact at your earliest convenience for your supplies and information.

Working In partnership with the TED/EUD Communication departments, the SEC Communication and Media Departments will be active as part of this year's "GAIN Europe" conference at Newbold College, 23-26 March. Please refer to advert on back page. We would like you to encourage your communication secretaries or a representation from your church to register for this all-important training conference. The theme is around the 500-year anniversary celebration of the Reformation. The SEC Communication department will contribute a small amount toward the cost of registration to churches who will be sponsoring their representatives to this conference if they register by 15 January 2017.

NEXT ISSUE: April 2017. Subscribe to receive your copy!

Contents

- 02 EDITORIAL**
- 03 THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**
- 04 COVER STORY**
A National Leadership Award for Dr. Chidi Ngwaba
- 06 FEATURES: DEPRESSION**
 - Why we can no longer ignore the issue of Depression in our congregations
 - Do Christians Need Counselling for Depression?
 - A Pastoral Response to Depression
 - Relating to Depression in our Congregations
 - How to Beat Depression
- 12 THE DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY**
- 14 DESMOND DOSS** in "Hacksaw Ridge" -The film
- 16 EVANGELISM EVERYONE EVERYWHERE**
 - The OneLife London Outreach – "What If"
 - The HealthFest
- 18 DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**
- 36 NEWS**
SEC News in Brief
New Faces at the SEC Offices
- 37 WHEN PRAISE DEMANDS A SACRIFICE**
- 38 ADVERTS**
GAIN 2017
Teens Prayer & Faith Conference
Ghana Mission
Youth
Cornerstone Counselling (page 11)

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The President's Desk...

The South England Conference was blessed to have partnered with 3ABN during the first two weeks of September. Evangelistic campaigns were conducted in nine different venues throughout London, which resulted in 87 baptisms.

As we look towards 2017, we do so with great optimism. We have learned from our September 2016 campaign that before we embark on a reaping programme, there must be intentional groundwork. We have decided to use 2017 for this purpose. Recognising that every member is a minister, we are encouraging all to participate in this work of seed sowing and nurture.

Our plan is simple: During the first quarter, we are encouraging each church to prayerfully consider two or three areas of ministry in which they wish to participate. We suggest going to the local council and finding out what are the needs in their respective communities. The local church can then concentrate on two or three of these needs and make them part of their ministry focus. It may be that there are other groups within that community that might be addressing those needs. We suggest the church collaborates with such groups where possible with the intention of addressing these needs.

During the second quarter, the church can begin praying and organizing themselves to engage in two or three of those ministries. The SEC will contribute finance or material resources to assist the local church in their ministry where possible.

In the third quarter, the church should be engaged in ministry and impacting the community. It is hoped that relationships would have been formed and trust developed between the community members and the local Church. Bible studies may have begun as the church becomes relevant and meets the felt-needs of the community.

Because friendships may have developed, by the fourth quarter, the local church can invite the community into the Church for special days, such as Visitors Day, Youth Day, fellowship lunch, etc. It is hoped that many in the community would have been impacted by our friendship and ministry and would want to join our ministry. They will work alongside us as we continue engaging and ministering to the needs of the community. It is vital to point out that our task is not complete when a person gets baptised. We are to make disciples. This means those who join us will be encouraged to work alongside us, and they, in turn, will make other disciples.

Some may believe that a whole year in preparation is too long. However, we have learned that evangelism is a cycle consisting of seed sowing, nurture and harvest. It is our intention to hold reaping campaigns or some kind of outreach programmes in the spring of 2018 throughout the South England Conference. Each local church can decide what form this will take. However, we would like the local pastors taking the lead in this rather than bringing an overseas preacher. Pastors can even exchange pulpits during this time. It is our hope that as we engage in evangelism, the Lord will bless our efforts.

Dr Emmanuel Osei, SEC Acting President



COVER STORY

A National Leadership Award for Dr Chidi Ngwaba

by Susanne Kirlew

Dr Chidi Ngwaba from the Croydon Church in South London and Health Ministries Director at the South England Conference was recently honoured with the National Leadership Award for his work in preventing and reversing lifestyle diseases throughout Europe and the U.K.

Other recipients included the MD of John Lewis, a senior Channel 4 Exec and the longest serving nurse in Britain.

Trained in surgery, general practice and lifestyle medicine, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, MD is one of Europe's premier lifestyle doctors. His advice and treatments can help reverse, improve or prevent all chronic illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, arthritis and diabetes. He is a founding board member of the European Society of Lifestyle Medicine, and a member of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. He has over 20 years of experience as a national and international health speaker, where he aims to motivate, educate, entertain and inspire people to health and wellness. (Check out his TED Talk on Reversing Disease.) He writes columns for two national magazines, and contributes regularly to ELLE magazine, Top Santé, The Daily Express, The Daily Mail, as well as TV and radio shows, such as ITV's 'Good Morning, Britain', Sky News' 'Sunrise' and BBC health shows, such as 'Food: Truth or Scare'. He is the director and founder of a lifestyle medicine clinic on Harley Street, and is author of the book 'Life Colours', a book on how to reverse, improve or prevent all chronic diseases (book and DVDs which were published earlier this year).

Commenting on his recent award, Dr Chidi Ngwaba said *"God has blessed us richly with life and health, and it's a privilege for me to be able to help people regain or maintain the wonderful gift of a healthy life. As a doctor, I'm constantly made aware of the challenges that we can all face in mind, body and spirit, and I remember how Jesus spent much of His ministry healing people physically as well as spiritually. It's my prayer to continue to provide real healing to those suffering with chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, depression, obesity and many more,*

and to point them to the Great GP (the Great Physician)."

Dr Chidi Ngwaba believes that our health is a wonderful gift, one that we can choose every day. Therefore, he is passionate about getting to the root causes of chronic diseases, by using the wealth of knowledge in lifestyle medicine to transform illness into wellness. His greatest joy is to help heal the bodies and minds of individuals, families, organisations and communities, and to see the physical, emotional, financial and spiritual freedom that results. He has had tremendous success in reversing type 2 diabetes and hypertension in a four-week programme.





DEPRESSION

Why we can **no longer ignore it**
in our congregations!

by Dr Torben Bergland and Dr Helgi Jónsson

Depression is one of the most widespread and debilitating disorders in our world today. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease.

Does being an Adventist affect the risk of having a depression? Some research indicates that some forms of religion may be protective, other research that religion increases the risk, and then some research finds that the prevalence of depression is about the same for religious and non-religious people. If religion has a protective effect, we still have little knowledge on why and how. Therefore, let us acknowledge the likely reality that depression may be as common in our church communities as in society at large.

We may experience depression when the discrepancy between what should be and what is becomes great, when what we were created for and truly need is not matched by what we have and get. When our souls and bodies are malnourished or injured physically, mentally, socially, or spiritually, painful feelings and the experience of emptiness may ensue.

Depression is a range of disorders characterized by a depressed mood and a lack of interest and energy. Different types of depression may have various causes and require different approaches to treatment. As many as one person in five will suffer clinical depression during their lifetime, and many more will experience symptoms of depression.

There are many things that make us prone to suffer depression. In our state of brokenness, sickness is to be expected as part of life. There are things we can do to optimize health, still many things are beyond our control. Just as we accept that physical infirmities afflict everyone and eventually kill us, so we ought to understand and accept that mental infirmities and sickness is part of being human in a broken world. Believing in God,

accepting the cross and being filled with the Spirit does not spare us from mental pain and suffering.

Breaking the vicious cycles of negative thinking and feeling in depression, and making appropriate and necessary lifestyle changes may be hard work, but it's worth it. It is always advisable to get help—external input - from someone who can interrupt and challenge the vicious cycles of feeling and thinking, be that friends, family, or a professional. Whenever depressive symptoms affect quality of life and functioning, professional help should be sought by having a thorough physical evaluation, as well as counselling or psychotherapy. In severe depressions, medication and other forms of treatment may be helpful in attempts to reboot thinking and feeling.

For some, the experience of depression may be a turning point. Examining our lives can motivate us to change for the better, helping us to learn from our mistakes, evaluate what we want and need, and determine what is really important in our lives. Dealing with depression may thus lead into a new, deeper, richer, and more meaningful experience of life.



Torben Bergland

Torben Bergland, M.D., a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, is Health Ministries director of the Trans-European Division.



Helgi Jónsson

Helgi Jónsson, M.D., a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, is an elder at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.



Do Christians need counselling for Depression?

by Mrs Marlène Levy

Counselling can be compared to a road map. Imagine you are in a specific location and desire to get to your destination. You know where you want to go, but you just don't know how to get there. Worse still, you are not sure you will ever get there, until you meet an experienced guide who gives you a road map and offers to accompany you throughout your entire journey, no matter how bumpy it may get. That's quite reassuring, isn't it?

When you are depressed, you know all too well your current location. It is called Depression Avenue. You live there. From time to time your mind wanders, and catches a glimpse of a better place where you see yourself enjoying life. You've heard that many people have managed to eventually leave Depression Avenue and embark on a journey that took them to Wellness Street. But you wonder if there is any chance of you getting there. Maybe, it is time for you to consider counselling.

Counselling offers a safe place where the counselee can offload his or her feelings and explore the issues that seem to plague his life. At its core, counselling is both confidential and non-judgmental and therefore gives the counselee permission to be open about his or her challenges without being riddled with feelings of guilt and shame, or the fear that their issues may be shared by individuals who are connected to them.

Through the entire process the counsellor and the counselee work as a team with the view of identifying areas in the counselee's worldview, his life or his environment, that may need to be addressed. In the case of depression, the counsellor will determine the causes

of the counselee's depression and treat each one systematically to find a long-term solution. The counselor also helps the counselee to identify his strengths, further build on these and use them as a catalyst for change.

Counselling is a unique experience. Treatment is tailored to the counselee's specific needs. Both the counsellor and the counselee can evaluate the progress made and set new goals that will enable them to achieve the common goal.

Do Christians need counselling for depression?

Depression is a complex area. Many factors can interact in the lives of non-Christians and Christians to produce depression. Depression should always be treated. The treatment will depend on the causes or the risk factors.

Although the Bible does not use the term 'depression', it describes quite a number of biblical characters who became depressed or suffered from depression. It is not unusual for Christians suffering from depression to be riddled with guilt and shame. Though they believe that God is love they do not feel that God loves them and cares for them. Their Christian life may seem like a failure to them. God may choose to heal an individual suffering with depression without human intervention. He may choose to use the human avenue (counselling and medication, lifestyle changes) to bring about healing just as He does in the realm of physical health.

Pastoral or biblical counselling where the Pastor or a spiritual leader focuses on the love of God, biblical texts and prayer have its place. But approaches

such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) work at a different level. CBT is the best evidenced-based model for depression and the model that is the most compatible with the Bible. However, these approaches are not mutually exclusive. An increasing number of Christians are trained and qualified in CBT. Likewise, more secular counsellors or therapists are open to the idea of using the counselee's spiritual or religious beliefs in counselling and have successfully used prayer for instance as a therapeutic tool¹.

If you suffer from depression, see your GP or a qualified counsellor. Find out what model of therapy he uses, whether it is compatible with your Christian beliefs, and if it is evidence-based. Tell the counsellor from the onset that you are a Christian and you would like him to take this into account.

It is God's desire that His children 'may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.' John 10:10 (NKJV)

[1] Marlène Levy, *The Use and Effectiveness of Christian Prayer and related issues in Christian and Secular Counselling*, 2013, Sheffield University.



Marlène Levy MSc, PGDip
(Marlène is also a member of the Croydon Church)

A PASTORAL RESPONSE TO DEPRESSION

by Dr Augustus Lawrence

Depression is an illness that has globally impacted every society regardless of status. It knows no respecter of persons and has no boundaries. It is a present reality of our times and every pastor can testify of encountering it at some point in ministry. Like a pendulum, it swings and crosses from one end to the other causing mental anguish. Depression can affect a person's ability to perform routine tasks with perhaps calamitous consequences for relationships with families and friends.

While it is true that a person can be treated and recover, depression can metamorphosize into a protracted malady that may negatively impact a patient's mental health as well as the well-being of their families.

We live in a world littered with challenges and the Christian is not immune to depression. Faith in God is not a protective shield from the pains and ills of this life neither is it a placebo that can wish depression away. It touches the lives of all people including servants of God. The Bible is replete with examples of God's servants, many of whom experienced dark moments. Moses, Job, Elijah and Jeremiah as examples of godly men who at some point in their lives experienced depression. The poetry in the book of Psalms depicts the real experiences of people of faith

who had 'hit rock bottom' and experienced depression.

Listen as the Psalmist cries out from the pit of despair.

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? And why are you in turmoil within me?" Psalm 42:5

Then we have Jeremiah whom in Chapter 20 gave us a miserable description of the effects of his depression. Since space does not allow, we can attest to the enormous depth of Jeremiah's discouragement which is an encouragement to us of how God still used him.

But how should we respond to depression given that we have been called to minister to all peoples including those brothers and sisters who may be walking through the valley of depression?

First and foremost, we must understand that even though depressed people may feel guilty, worthless or valueless, at the top of our response should be a message of love and skilled pastoral care. A skilled pastoral care is one that is on the one hand able to identify symptoms of depression and on the other be able to provide an effective intervention to ascertain the severity of the illness.

Secondly, we should respond to depression by understanding that

even in our darkest moments God is working. It may appear that God is silent and has distanced Himself from us, but we can be assured that all along our darkest moments of being discouraged, defeated and depressed God has been and is still at work. It was the Psalmist who cried out to the Lord in Psalm 22:2 *"O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer"*. Silence met his cry. This God who is silent in our time of need assured us in Psalm 46:10 *"Be still, and know that I am God"*.

Finally, we can respond to depression by understanding that regardless of our experience in this life, we must never cease to consistently, persistently, continually, talk to, pray to, sing to, shout to, cry to, rejoice to, again and again, until He provides an answer. The bottom line of our response is to discover that there is but one to whom we can go and that is the God that says, look to Me and live.



Dr Augustus Lawrence is the new SEC Family Ministries Director

PARTNERS ARE BETTER THAN PILLS

by Pastor Bernie Holford

A Church Community Response to Depression

Even though we sing *'Always cheerful'*, the truth is that our moods fluctuate. When there is a persistent time of low emotional energy, the doctor may say that we are depressed. The symptoms vary widely, but will often include lethargy, hopelessness, chronic negativity and feeling of worthlessness and unremitting sadness.

Often, members will go to a doctor to get help with these debilitating symptoms. Usually, the doctor will prescribe some anti-depressant pills and hope the patient will get better.

Research indicates that people showing symptoms of depression improve at a faster rate when friends and family are able to support and partner with them on the journey to emotional balance and wellbeing. Taking prescribed pills can be a useful part of the recovery process and should not be stopped without consulting with the doctor. However, Christians need to recognise that there are different causes of depression and the way we help will vary as we try to help individuals recover.

Origins of depression and some Christian responses

Showing compassion and support are the foundations for helping a depressed person. *'Mourn with those who mourn.'* When listening to a sad account, learn how to say sincerely, *'I'm so sorry that you are feeling down.'*

Post-traumatic stress can be a source of depression expressed as extreme helplessness. One person I know became extremely depressed after being attacked. They felt so powerless to defend themselves and found it hard to make positive choices. The Bible teaches us that God's Word is both creative and re-creative. Speaking aloud Bible promises such as, *'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,'* helps the mind to overcome the powerlessness such trauma produces.

Situational burnout may result from severe losses (job, relationship, death) or burnout. Restoring balance to life is a practical solution. The Seventh-day Adventist health message teaches what current best medical practice advocates – healthy food, regular exercise and good sleep patterns. James White recovered from his depressive burnouts by taking a break from overwork and allowing his body to recover.

Attachment or abuse-induced depressions come from an inability to soothe oneself even when things go mildly wrong. When a child is consistently not comforted by a caregiver, or even worse, is abused, they tend to grow up feeling hopeless and shutting down emotionally. It does not take much for them to feel vulnerable.

Friends can build positive connections and help them develop an attitude of gratitude. Gratitude

can be expressed as prayers of appreciation and lead to greater sense of hopefulness.

Endogenous depression describes the experience of a person whose body chemistry seems to leave them without energy. A doctor can conduct tests to find out if there are hormonal factors involved. These people need to be encouraged to confront their negativity and for Christians, the hope that comes from an experience of the love of God can nudge them in the right direction. Researchers are finding that keeping a gratitude journal, looking for the positives and performing acts of kindness are really transformative for those with depression.

If you know someone whom you think may be depressed, ensure that they go to a doctor, go to a counsellor or call a helpline like the Samaritans or the SEC Cornerstone Counselling service for guidance on what else they should do.



Bernie Holford (MSc in Systemic Psychotherapy [family therapy]) is pastor of the Luton Central and Luton North churches

HOW TO BEAT DEPRESSION

by Dr Chidi Ngwaba
(MB, BS)

The 21st century is known for its rise in technology. We now have smartphones with apps that can track our eating habits, assist us to navigate to our destinations and there's even one that can teach you to draw on a tablet. We truly live in an age where knowledge has increased.

However, we also live in a society that appears to spawn depression. Given that so many people are now suffering from depression, with over a million of them worldwide seeking to commit suicide, it's important to investigate what can be done to prevent or even reverse these feelings.

Most scientists and psychiatrists can tell you that in a depressed person's brain, certain chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin (chemicals which help nerves communicate with each other, neurotransmitters) can be at lower levels than in the brains of non-depressed people. This is the rationale for many antidepressant drugs because they raise the neurotransmitter levels in the brain. This, however, does not tell us why the levels are low in the first place. There is now lots of evidence to show how the brain can reach such a state and how it can be reversed to free the person of depression.

Certain research states that foods rich in fat, sugar and salt increase the risk of depression, because they directly affect nerve cells. For example, sugar stimulates the same nerve pathways as the Class A drug, heroin. This means that after the initial stimulus has worn off, the nerves are left in a depleted state, which increases the risk of a low mood and possible depression.

Drugs such as heroin, alcohol and tobacco are well-known as substances that can cause depression. However, a common stimulus that has similar effects is caffeine which is present in tea, coffee, chocolate and many energy drinks.

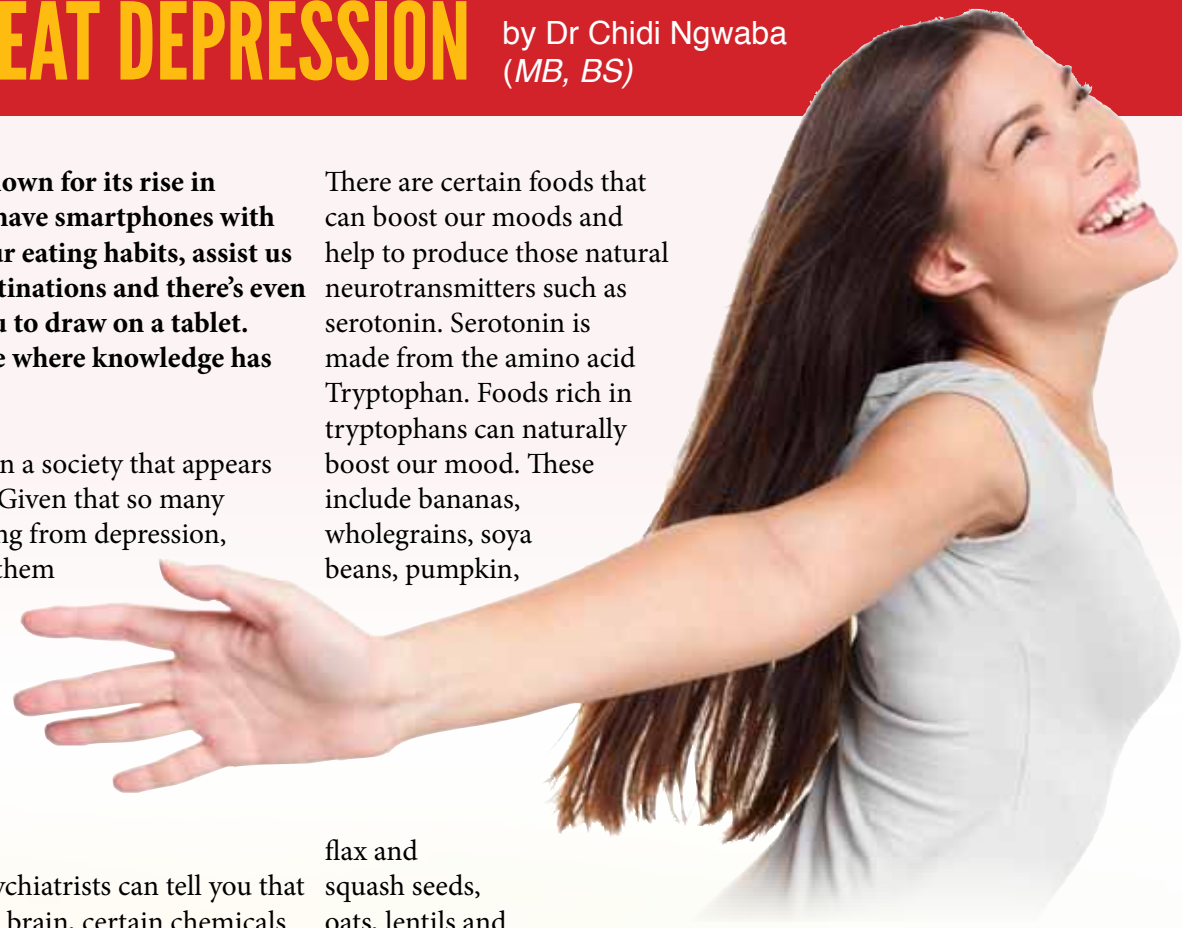
There are certain foods that can boost our moods and help to produce those natural neurotransmitters such as serotonin. Serotonin is made from the amino acid Tryptophan. Foods rich in tryptophans can naturally boost our mood. These include bananas, wholegrains, soya beans, pumpkin,

flax and squash seeds, oats, lentils and most other beans.

Exercise is one of the quickest and most effective ways to combat depression. It immediately releases endorphins, which can make us feel better. The problems you face will not disappear after going for a run, but you'll find that you're better able to deal with them. A Harvard Medical study found that one hour of exercise per day was more effective in beating depression than any antidepressant and potential weight reduction, higher energy levels and greater motivation were additional benefits.

Common triggers for Depression are known as the 4 D's: Debt, Divorce, Disease and Death. Any significant negative experience can trigger depression. But, what holds us in the state of depression is the way that we view these challenges in our lives.

If we allow fear, guilt, anger, an unforgiving spirit and other negative emotions to take hold of our lives, then we are more likely to remain depressed. Depression also persists when we are constantly focusing on ourselves. Although it's tempting to continue to look inwards, the cure is actually found by looking outwards and upwards. Look outwards by considering someone else's need. Look upward by considering God's purpose for your trial. Like David, we may need to understand that the Goliath in our lives has not been sent to defeat us but to promote us. Note - Much of this advice requires a certain amount of motivation, which is difficult to have when you're depressed. It's very important that you talk to someone who can help motivate you such as your GP. If you are experiencing any of the 4 D's, get professional help quickly.



* A registered charity.

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The Discipleship Journey

by Pastor Simon Martin

In June 2016, I had the privilege of being in the very region of Israel where the Bible tells us that Jesus spoke the words of the 'Great Commission' to His disciples. "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 18:19-20). As I looked out over the landscape trying to imagine what impact those words had on the disciples, I couldn't help but reflect on my own discipleship journey and the priority given to my church to go and make disciples. Discipleship is the engine that should drive the church.

We hear a lot about discipleship, today, and there is certainly no shortage of books, articles and people doing seminars on the subject, myself included! It can be easy to lose your way in it all! However, what helps me navigate this important topic is to remember that when Jesus did eventually return to heaven, He did not leave His disciples wondering what they should do next. Almost immediately in the book of Acts we see Peter and John healing a lame man on the steps of the temple. Why did they do that? Simple, they had seen Jesus do it. Jesus had modelled for them what a disciple-making life looked like. In so many ways disciple-making is 'caught' not just taught! The methods of Jesus are always relational, intentional, simple and can be multiplied. The simpler the method, the more people can do it!

Jesus knew that to reach the world, He needed to invest His life in a few. Interestingly, twice in the New Testament Jesus declared that something was 'finished'. The most well-known are His words on the cross. As He breathed His last, Jesus said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). The message had been given and the mission of dying for the sins of the world, accomplished. The second



time is recorded in John 17:4. "I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do." What work was finished? This is prior to the cross. I would like to suggest that as Jesus transitions from praying for Himself to praying for His twelve disciples, He is giving them, and us, the one method that would prove to be the most efficient strategy for church growth and disciple-making throughout all generations. One disciple sharing the gospel with someone else. Disciples bearing the fruit of other disciples. "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be my disciples." John 15:8.

Jesus could have lived, died and be resurrected, but the significance of all this would have been quickly forgotten if He had not invested His life of ministry into preparing a small group of followers who would go on to share the gospel with 'the world'. No wonder Jesus concludes His prayer in John 17 by praying for the disciples of every generation, including us. He knew this method would work.

The church is not designed for a bunch of spectators to attend weekly lectures. It is to be an army of believers carrying a significant life-changing message that is modelled in their lives and shared in everyday situations. Just as an operating system on a computer enables the programmes and functions of a computer to work, so the operating system of the church is to be discipleship. People investing in other people.

This is why during the past year, the Church Growth Department has intentionally conducted numerous discipleship seminars and training events across the Conference. As a church, we often place most of our energies to helping people making decisions for Jesus in baptism. This is an important part of the process, but it is not the end of it! Sometimes our investment in a person lessens considerably after baptism which is why our retention rates can sometimes be very low. In the model of Jesus, our work with someone is not finished until that person has matured in their relationship with Jesus and has borne

the fruit of another disciple. We need to emphasise discipleship, not just decisions. We need a discipleship process in all our churches that involve connecting people with Jesus, connecting them to His church body, helping people learn how to serve through ministry and a process of developing new leaders.

To help churches with this process, the department has been working on a discipleship study guide based on the life of Jesus and His disciple-making methods. The material will be accompanied by media clips shot on location in Israel. It will be clear from the study that Jesus had an intentional plan for producing disciples. The guide will take us on that journey with Jesus, pointing out the different phases of His disciple-making process and help us to imitate those principles in our 21st-century churches. The resource will be available in the first quarter of 2017.

Another strategy the department has been promoting over the past year

within the churches in the SEC is B.E.L.L.S. Bells is an acronym that stands for Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn the Story of Jesus, learn to tell it and Send. The strategy is a way of getting people to recognise highly effective evangelistic habits that can take place in the normal daily routines of life. Discipling others happens best as 'we GO, therefore...'

Let me highlight two of those habits from the acronym. The first letter stands for bless. Members of the SEC have been encouraged to be disciples who are a blessing to at least three people every week, by showing acts of kindness, giving words of affirmation or giving a gift of literature or a card. One of the three people can be another church member, since we need to look out for fellowbelievers, but the other two must be individuals within their circle of connections (circles of concern) that have not come to faith yet. Unchurched friends. In the same way, we have encouraged members to be intentional about eating with people, especially unchurched people. What if we also invited three people to our home for a meal on a weekly basis? Our homes can be centres for evangelistic outreach! One of the important discipling methods of Jesus was to eat with people. He was intentional about this and knew remarkable things could happen to people over a simple meal. Just read the story of Zacchaeus! Something special happens when we invite people to our homes to eat.

The truth is most of us eat at least three meals a day, make one of those meals missional and invite some unchurched friends over to eat with you. In these simple ways we intentionally widen our world of connections and invest in a disciple making process. Part of the strategy also involves forming small accountability groups of two or three persons who meet on Sabbath and ask "Who did you bless this week?" "Who did you eat with this week?" This helps

us to be encouraged and to be held accountable. Accountability is an important aspect of the discipleship journey.

A few other highlights from the year

A wide range of Church growth modules have been taught at the SEC School of Evangelism through the year by various individuals within the SEC with expertise in church planting, community work, small groups and discipleship.

- The Department was invited to teach the basics of Church planting at the BUC Literature Evangelists Residential at Leicester University held in August 2016 and was also involved in training at the BUC Lay Bible Workers convention held in November.
- The training of pastors and leaders in Natural Church development.
- Supporting the major SEC/3ABN evangelistic meetings in September.
- Continuing to support and nurture the various church plants and groups within the SEC territory.

It has been a privilege serving in this Department during 2016 and to witness what God is doing in so many ways, through so many people.



Pastor Simon Martin
Global Mission & Church Growth Director

Desmond Doss in “Hacksaw Ridge” – The film

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere – Even in the Cinema!

by Pastor Victor Hulbert
TED Communication/Media Director
(and a Member of Newbold Church)

What did you give your neighbour this Christmas? We always give our neighbours Christmas cards. It helps build bridges within our friendly community. This year we gave them something more: A copy of FOCUS on peace, hope and pacifism.

Why? Because in a few weeks' time Mel Gibson's WWII epic will hit cinema screens across the UK. Telling the story of the Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objector, Desmond Doss, the movie industry is giving a window of opportunity to talk openly about our faith for a few weeks. My neighbours will be talking about it. I want to be able to talk with them intelligently! Let's be wise! We don't actually have to go and see the film.

It is 15 certificate and contains strong bloody violence and gory injury detail. Mel Gibson has a reputation for portraying violence in all its detail. But think of the story. Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist paramedic was in the midst of that gore and violence saving lives - even the lives of the enemy! This film is a Christian witness that will reach an audience who will actually pay money to hear an Adventist story.

It had a profound effect on lead actor, Andrew Garfield in what Time magazine called a, 'sensitive, humane performance'. This British actor now knows a lot about Seventh-day Adventists – and likes what he has discovered. He told Time, "It was vital to me that we communicated that Desmond's faith was deeper than any dogma, deeper than any set of man-made rules, but that he was in touch with a deep knowing in his bones."

That does not make the film evangelistic. However, it does make people think - and thinking audiences are open to change. With the late release of the movie in the UK (the main release was in November), British Adventists have the opportunity to learn from others: American Adventists stood outside movie theatres handing out copies of a specially prepared 'It is Written Magazine'. Polish Youth wore special 'Desmond Doss' T-shirts, handing out a magazine based very much on the British FOCUS magazine. Many of them also changed their FACEBOOK cover photo to 'I'm an Adventist like Desmond Doss' providing memes and links to material. Over 100 people are now having Bible studies with local pastors or have walked into churches as a result of their witness.

Poland, with just over 5,000 members, has printed and sold



more than 30,000 copies of their magazine. Their usual print run is 3,500 magazines. Other countries are the same. Portugal has just ordered a second print run for their 'Sinais dos Tempos', again based on the UK magazine. "We will print even more magazines in order to reach even more people. That's fantastic," magazine editor, Lara Figueiredo says. "I really liked the magazine and all the articles that were published. You did a really great job! You have my appreciation!"

Imagine – if 5,000 members in Poland can make that difference, what can 36,000 members in the British Isles do. More importantly, what can I do? Newbold students and church members will be at two local cinemas on opening night. I will be talking to my friends. Even for my Polish neighbours – I've given them a Polish version of FOCUS. That really is evangelism to everyone, everywhere.



[UK Cinemas 27 January]

A Reflection on the One Life Campaign 2016

On Sabbath 17th September, I had the privilege of interviewing the speakers from the OneLife Evangelistic Campaign along with Danny

Shelton, the founder of 3ABN, who were the main partners of the series along with the South England Conference.

The afternoon began with a slow but steady trickling in of the speakers, due to an ongoing battle with the Saturday shoppers and bumper to bumper traffic in London and the congregational attendance was low at the outset of the programme for the same reasons. But despite a relaxed start, the atmosphere became alive and dynamic with the stories of worship, witness and wonder.

Jon Lomacang, one of the preachers from the eleven OneLife Campaign sites, told the story of the lady who was deep into the occult and who was studying to become a high priestess. She had seen him preaching on a programme broadcast on 3ABN while she was living in South Africa, and had developed a hatred for him and his beliefs. However, one evening in September, she felt a strong urge to go to the Croydon SDA Church and unbeknown to her, Jon was the main speaker, his topic for the evening was the 'Power of Prayer'. She was able to bear witness to the power of God, who transcends miles and distance to save a lost soul.

This got me thinking, deeply, earnestly and seriously about the need for prayer as we plan our outreach programmes and also the need to 'be strong and courageous' when doing the work of evangelism. For too long, we as a church seem to be fearful of the witnessing and one of the excuses has been that the society we live in is extremely secular. While, I do agree that we need to be aware of demographics and sometimes, these are ignored entirely to our detriment, we need to exercise a greater degree of faith when planning every outreach programme.

If we believe that God can do 'far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20 – Berean Literal Translation) we should be people who will attempt great things for God. There were 87 people baptised from 11 different churches during the two-week campaign, but I truly believe that the numbers would have been significantly more, if we adopted the 'What if?' mentality of faith and obedience.

Too often, we allow our doubts and fears, the challenges of previous failures and our insecurities to hinder the way that we do outreach. We need to be open to the fact that the Father is all-mighty and all-powerful and has already defeated the Enemy. We can also have the reassurance that God is on our side and with the apostle Paul can say, 'And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.' (Romans 8:38 – New Living Translation).

Begin the New Year with a sense of 'What If? And allow God to use you to be a more effective witness in 2017.

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3ABN Sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church



Hundreds of people walked through Troxy Theatre on Sunday 28 August 2016, for HealthFest, the South England Conference's first free London-wide health expo.

It was the first time the SEC officially took the unique Seventh-day Adventist health message to the community, under the theme: *'The best you can be: Body, Mind, Spirit'*.

Between free health checks and several stations that were set up throughout the hall, offering advice and information ranging from food samples, to twenty minute health lectures, to Zumba dancing exercise classes, several professional guest speakers held talks on bettering the community's health from various aspects. Some of these workshops included *'Healthy Eating on a Budget'* with Angelette Muller, *'Move It or Lose It'* exercise class with Eugenie Burton, *'Very Easy Vegan'* with Kirly Sue, and

lifestyle lectures with Dr Chidi Ngwaba.

This was however not the first day of the HealthFest. After celebrating the life that God has given us and the spiritual side of health at the Ruach City Church on Saturday 27 August with over 1,000 attendees, the weekend concluded with a unique musical stage production, written by producer and director Mervyn Weir, titled *'Rhythm of Life'*. Between short dramatic presentations, and real-life stories presented by Dr Ngwaba, the audience were able to sing along with internationally acclaimed acapella vocal group - Black Voices.

The event organisers are enthusiastically exploring the possibility of HealthFest becoming an annual event as it appears to be a necessity, both for our Adventist community as well as our friends and the communities in which we live.

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Imagine you've been in a deep coma for the past six months and you've only just woken up. Not only would you have missed some of the biggest surprises of our young century (Brexit and the outcome of the US election), you would have also missed some amazing things happening closer to home in the SEC. 2016 was the year of Revival in Evangelism Everyone Everywhere strategy. There has been a lot of activity over the last six months. The Strategy team working in partnership with the other SEC Departments and external partners delivered a summer of evangelism that will not be quickly forgotten.

One life was the theme and under that banner came the groundbreaking Healthfest weekend and the One-Life Campaign. Health is an area of mass interest for secular people and church people alike. The SEC saw an opportunity to capitalise on this in spreading the gospel, bringing together in creative ways mind body and spirit.

On 26th Aug the Healthfest weekend began at the Ruach Gaumont State Theatre with just over 1000 people in attendance. The connection to Health and God's word was made powerfully with Mervyn Weir's back to Eden production and a great message from Les Pollard, President of Oakwood University. On Sunday, the spotlight fell on the Troxy centre where health checks, lectures and the wonderful Rhythm of life musical (another Mervyn Wier production) attracted approximately 1000 people with many coming from the local community. Healthfest weekend was a precursor to the Onelife campaign which was held in partnership with 3ABN. With nine simultaneous broadcasts from the participating churches made possible by the hard work of SEC Media team, this was a first for London. God has been so good and there is a general feeling that what we started in the summer of 2016 is a great platform to build future evangelistic work in the SEC

In addition to the work on the One-Life campaign the EEE strategy team has been responding to invitations across the SEC to deliver the EEE Roadshow.

Places and events visited so far include, Advent Centre, London Ghana Elephant and Castle, London Ghana South West, Holloway, Chelmsford, Swindon, Swindon Portuguese, Elders Retreat and Master Guides Retreat. The roadshow orientates the church members in EEE, encouraging them to interpret the SEC's four strategic themes (A more Nurturing, Relevant, Spiritually Hungry and Resourceful church) in ways that are meaningful to them.

We look forward to 2017 when the overarching theme is RESTORATION. Watch this space to find out how you can play your part. We anticipate God leading the SEC to even greater success as we partner with Him in spreading the Gospel message by Evangelising, Everyone, Everywhere.

SEC DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS



Antonio Belgrave
Strategic Planning Coordinator

WHAT WE DO AS A DEPARTMENT:

Is to build bridges of understanding with our Muslim neighbours, colleagues and friends. We are there to extend our hand of friendship and to share the love of Jesus. With this in mind, we can all begin a journey of Spiritual progression.

THEME FOR SEC: “Evangelism Everyone, Everywhere” With the theme chosen from South England Conference, Adventist Muslim Relations continues with the same; “Evangelism to Muslim Everyone Everywhere” with emphasis on Restoration.

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS and AMR DAYS:

For the last six months, AMR has done a series of trainings, workshops, and Seminars at the Advent Centre and in some Churches. Twenty Churches were visited within the Conference with nine embracing AMR for the first time with a core team of 10 to 15 individuals making the visits.

ANNUAL RETREAT (27-29 May):

This year’s Annual Retreat went very well. We had our sister Conference from the North England joining us at the Devere Hotel at Reading. To crown it all, we had our guest speakers from the General Conference to grace the occasion with their presence:

Pastor Petras Bahadur, Oscar Osindo, and Samuel Lumwe. This retreat was unique simply because we invited all Muslim Background Believers (MBB’s) to share their experiences with the Lord since conversion. This retreat was geared towards them.

AMR COMMUNITY WORK: It will interest you to know that AMR is moving a step forward in educating and training our members (Core Team) within the Churches to be well equipped in having a conversation with our Muslim neighbours. This is done during our training sessions, workshops, seminars and AMR days. We are blessed with dedicated and devoted Imam, Historian, Pastors, Leaders, within AMR who walk our members through effective role play of having a conversation with a Muslim on difficult questions to easy answers and solutions. History of Islam, our Identity as Adventists, Christ’s Methods of approach in Soul winning, and what have you. With this, some of the Churches have gone out to the community to distribute leaflets and dialogue with our Muslim neighbours. Some are having Bible studies with Muslims as well.

BAPTISM: By the grace of God two precious souls have been baptised to the Lord and about seven having Bible studies.

CHALLENGE: Our greatest challenge is to help our newly baptised and the MBB’S to be more grounded in the faith and to be welcomed and belong as some have been disowned, abandoned by their community and beaten. We are still working on having a safe haven for them.

The South England Conference Acting President, Dr Emmanuel Osei, encourages and supports us in considering reaching our Community. He again echoes what our President, Dr Richard De-Lisser, used to say that every church must elect an AMR Coordinator.

PRAYER REQUEST:

If there is anything that has kept AMR moving it is prayer! Our future aim is to envisage that more churches will recognise the need to continually plan ahead and train our members to embark on community projects. With this, I believe wholeheartedly that our members will have a better and more meaningful encounter with the Muslim community around them

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all the Churches that invited us and the members who are already engaged in AMR activities and reaching the communities.

We would like to say that with regards to Churches that have invited us next year, we will endeavor to honour their invitation and will be ready to take on new requests as they come.

Since the last report, the **Communication department has focused its resources in three key areas of responsibility.** The first area to highlight was the importance of Crisis Communication awareness and the department to conducted a Crisis Management training session for all its directors.

Pastor Victor Hulbert, the Trans-European Division Communication and Media Director was on hand to lead out. The training involved engaging the directors on the essentials of being prepared to manage a crisis and learning how to communicate effectively with the media in the event of any reputation-defining situation. The one-day training included a hands-on TV camera interview with the Conference leaders. The Media Department facilitated the training with its SEC Media staff and technical equipment.

The second area of responsibility that took a significant volume of time was in engaging with the Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere collaboration with 3ABN. The

Communication department worked with the Conference to facilitate the promotion and publicity of the 3ABN/SEC evangelism outreach programme in London. The success of the development was possible because of the involvement of skilled professionals from within our Conference who joined a communication taskforce to lead out in the publicity of the outreach programme. I would here like to acknowledge these individuals who gave valuable time and effort to the project: Mervin Weir, marketing and advertising; Susanne Kirlew, public relations; Carlos Thorpe, promotions; Cathy Boldeau, promotions and write-ups; Sacha Gillin, promotions and Natasha Mirilov, write-ups. The team effort helped to attract many non-Adventists to the Healthfest event at the Troxy in East London and to contribute to its success.

The third main area of endeavour for the department was in writing

profile articles of some of our ministers which were published in the local media of the district to which they were being deployed. Seven of our ministers who took up their posts in new districts at the latter part of this year had their new appointments published in their local press. This initiative is a form of public relations exercise to bring the name of the Seventh-day Adventist church into the public domain. Our aim is to continue doing this until we have covered every district where there is a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the South England Conference.

Besides the three key areas covered, the department commissioned the reporting of numerous news events to be included in the BUC News and the Messenger. The department has also published several resources including, the Communicator now known as the “SEC COMMUNICATOR,” a directory for workers, an ordination programme, and a desktop calendar of events. The department also oversees the updating of the SEC website.



Pr Fergus Owusu Boateng
AMR Director



Pr Sam Davies
Communication Director

Healthy minds! Healthy hearts! This is Cornerstone's reason for existence. To to keep church members in the SEC and their communities emotionally and spiritually healthy.

Since the last issue of the Communicator, the Cornerstone Counselling Service has tried to fulfil its mission in the SEC in different ways. Besides face to face, Skype and telephone counselling, our team of volunteer counsellors have visited several churches to make our members aware of the counselling service, how it works and what it can offer them. We have also presented 25 workshops in different churches on topics like depression, anxiety, addictions, forgiveness, parenting teens, self-esteem, self-harm and young people, family resilience strategies, grief and attachment issues, domestic violence and its impact on the family and the benefits of a laugh, among others.

In September, Cornerstone, together with the SEC School of Evangelism and Barnabas Counselling Training started the long waited Level 2 Counselling Skills training. We have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest in this course. We, however, could not take all the applicants in 2016 as we are limited in the number we can have per group. A group of twelve committed trainees are now halfway through the course. *"It's been*

an incredible journey of self-discovery," said one student. The group also has two pastors who both stated that, *"every pastor has to do this course"*. This is a nationally accredited course and next year these twelve plan to continue to Level 3 and finish with studying for a diploma (Level 4) in 2018. Although not all of the 11 SEC Areas are represented in this first group, this goes a long way to meet Cornerstone's target of having a counsellor in each Area. Cornerstone plans to run another level 2 counselling skills course next year. Applicants are invited to register their interest by emailing tmapingire@secadventist.org.uk or call **0207 723 8050**.

As an affiliate member of the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) UK, we get clients referred to us from other denominations. This has opened great opportunities for us to minister outside the SDA church. We had an amazing experience as we shared the power of forgiveness with the members of East Hill Baptist Church, London. In Reading, one of



Thembie Mapingire
Cornerstone Counselling

our counsellors has also been involved in a radio programme organised by a charity, to discuss depression and other mental health issues aimed at ethnic minority groups. A lively discussion ensued, with people calling in from as far as Ghana.

As we move on to our Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere theme for 2017, which is restoration, I believe that everyday events and our emotional welfare affect our spiritual life. Thus our restoration has a lot to do with emotional and mental well-being. Our emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual health are intertwined. To be whole, we need to be emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually restored.

It's been an enjoyable and productive eight months for us all at Cornerstone Counselling Service, and we look forward to increasing the number of counsellors specialised to work in schools, with children & young people as well as couples and families.

The SEC Disability Ministry Department continues to provide training and support to local churches and provide AREA wide regional training and celebration weekends. The weekends have helped to develop regional networks for peer support, sharing good practice and developing programmes to meet the needs and issues in the churches and local community.

Between April and December 2016, programmes took place across AREA 1, 2, 6A, 6C, 6D with over 18 churches represented. Disability Ministries champions and Disability Coordinators who attended the weekend training were provided with an opportunity to input into the SEC EEE Disability Ministry strategy, and they were provided with resources to develop peer support networks. Attendees commented on the benefit of the weekends finding them *'great help, giving good ideas, good spiritual emphasis and excellent resources provided.'*

During this period other events took place such as ASNA Respite and Training weekend, 8-10 April 2016. Over 100 attended this annual event organised by ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association). This event provides training for Disability Coordinators and support for families. This year, there was support from the SEC Pathfinders Department. Here families were able to give their views of how the Pathfinder Department could serve the diverse community of children they support. The key message from families was the need for compulsory disability awareness training for all leaders, tutors and church leaders involved in ministry. There was also a keen recommendation for disability awareness training for children within the church to better equip them for both inside and outside the community of the church.

The SEC Disability Ministry continues to support and commend local projects including Stoke Newington led by

Sanjo Jeffreys who held a wonderful day to celebrate the ministry for the deaf in December; Reading Central – a strong local Disability Ministry project led by June Thompson and the *"Hand in Hands"* team; Willesden - led by Marlene; Palmers Green SDA - led by Shanueil; High Wycombe – Carmen Dublin & team; Ilford SDA Church - led by Gardia; all ran or supported inspirational programmes during this period. All credit to their Disability Coordinators and to God for giving the courage and creativity to develop programmes that make the gospel accessible for all.

Other Departmental support partnerships: Women's Ministry Retreat in May, Camp Meeting in June Newbold Centre for Christian Learning (CCL) in May. Young Carers attended a residential ASNA respite weekend in August and took part in it. The Department also provided BSL support and disability training volunteers for SEC wide events such as the 3ABN project and SEC Days of fellowship.

What has been the impact of this Ministry?

- People with disabilities are leading ministry and mission.

Esmah Disability Ministry leader from the West Bletchley Community Church writes following the ministry of Lucy Smith at their Disability Ministry emphasis day,

On Sabbath, 15 October 2016 we had an exciting Special Needs Emphasis Day. The day was taken by Angela Victor and Lucy Smith accompanied by Shona. It was touching and at the same time amazing to see and listen to a testimony and sermon by Lucy who has Down's syndrome and learning disabilities. Her message taught us a big lesson not to underestimate anyone, disabled or not,

and that the cords that bind us together are stronger than any disability we may have.

Families are better supported by the wider membership
A parent in a local church says 'I feel my church supports my family and they understand our challenges.'

- Churches are being resourced, trained and empowered to minister in this area of ministry through the development of the Inclusive Disability and Inclusion AREA HUBS.

Thanks to Vivi Pamphile, Lorna Ayo Ola McKenzie, Wendy Mckenzie, Dee Johns and Michelle Gordon who have provided sterling BSL support for SEC programmes throughout the year. Thanks also to SEC Media, Communication Department, Family Life and Health Departments.

We praise God for leading through the year and look forward to His guidance in 2017



Sophia Nicholls
Disability Co-ordinator

As a new ministry in 2016, the Diversity Ministry department continues to seek to establish its purpose, mission and objectives within the SEC based on the role description and the needs assessment carried out in 2015. After research, recommendations and prayer the Diversity Advisory Committee have developed a strategy for the next four years which seeks to:

- Provide a safe place for open discussion
- Provide a better understanding of the purpose and benefits of a diverse membership towards an enriched and blessed experience
- Provide a place where all feel a sense of belonging
- Provide resources, training and support for members

The Diversity Ministry department ran two workshops at Camp Meeting in June, a seminar at the Women's Ministries retreat in May, presented a sermon at the Diversity Day in West Norbury Church and launched the strategy and projects over the weekend of 25-26 November 2016. The weekend provided an opportunity to take part in a diverse and creative worship service, seminars that

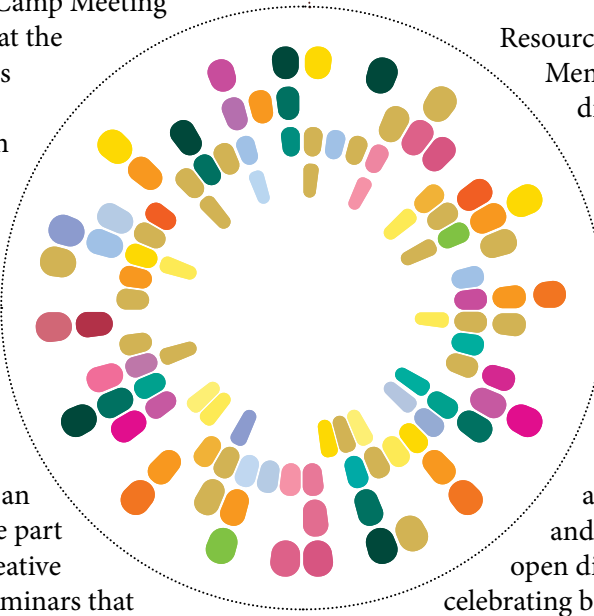


address the foundation of diversity and the church. This included seminars looking at the history of the Adventist Church through the theology of disability.

The group decided that it would address differing aspects of diversity throughout the next three years based on the needs assessment research and the areas of church community. Each workshop, seminar, presentation will begin with the theology of diversity as well as the diversity policy currently being developed by the advisory group followed by aspects of diversity identified as an area for discussion. The next conference will focus on Diversity, Culture, Diversity and the Church.

Resources shared at the conference were provided by the ABC. Members were encouraged to become more aware of the diverse nature of the church and community and to develop places where members can feel welcome and have a sense of belonging. The mini cultural health expo and Celebration Concert concluded a Spirit-filled day. Visitors who attended the conference left saying that they had been *'challenged, blessed, pleased to see the development of the new department'* and prayed for the mission in the church and community.

Programmes planned for the coming years include annual conferences, culture festivals, quarterly local and regional training days and forums to enable frank and open discussions about learning, understanding, accepting and celebrating being made in the image of God.



Sophia Nicholls
Diversity Director



Celebrating Our Educators!

- “Why did you go into teaching?”
- “Did you always want to be a teacher?”
- “What motivates you each morning as you enter your classroom?”
- “What do you enjoy about teaching?”

These are some of the questions that I asked some of our Adventist educators in the South England Conference, who have worked or are presently, working in England.

“Why teaching?”

- In this present climate of never ending OFSTED requirements - Why teaching?
- With the back-breaking, exhaustingly heavy workload that gives you a poor work-life balance – Why teaching?
- With the never ending, constant changes in the National Curriculum – Why teaching?
- With the ever increasing ‘paperwork load’ – Why teaching?
- With many changes in quick succession, to assessments, levels, testing, exams – why teaching?
- Having to be in ‘loco parentis’ – Why teaching?
- Performing ‘social worker’ duties – Why teaching?
- With a high percentage of thankless parents who regularly don’t value your input - Why teaching?

- Large class sizes - Why teaching?
- With challenging pupil behaviour – Why teaching?
- With the government introducing ever increasing ‘diverse school values’ that you may find questionable – Why teaching?

If this is the case, being an Adventist educator in England is a challenging one! Yet there are many of us who have done so, many of us who continue to do so and many who are preparing to take up the challenge of being an Adventist educator in England.

So, what is it that attracts us to a career path paved with difficulties? This is what you told me...

Many of you testified to finding a personal fulfilment in teaching. You teach a subject you are passionate about, you get to spend every day talking about something you love and, hopefully, passing that passion on to others.

As teachers, you get the opportunity to interact with multiple students on a daily basis. While some of these students may be the most frustrating part of the job, they may also be the most rewarding. Not only do you get the satisfaction of teaching children new skills, but you can improve their emotional well-being. You can raise a student’s confidence by helping them learn to read or solve a difficult math problem. You can let a student from a broken home know that someone cares just by giving them a smile in the mornings or a pat on the back for a job well done.

The act of teaching itself is a joy for many educators. Simply put, it is fun to talk about, demonstrate and start a discussion about something interesting. Teaching lets you ignite others with your passion for learning and show how others can become lifelong learners themselves.

Teaching provides a unique opportunity

in our culture to maintain a spirit of youthfulness. Working with children and teens keeps teachers in touch with their world, and thus, educators are unlikely to experience an “out of touch” feeling when dealing with younger generations. It is not only joyful to maintain a youthful, flexible attitude, but essential. As teachers we carry the responsibility of teaching young people to be successful in an ever-changing world.

As teachers, we can, and do, change lives. We can light candles in the darkest mind. We can shape beliefs and behaviours, setting an example to follow.

Teachers are our unsung heroes. Our Adventist vision is for every learner to excel in faith, learning, and service, blending biblical truth and academic achievement to honour God and bless others. This is our mission in whichever school we work in England. Like Jesus, our Master Teacher, our goal is for each student to experience Christ through our teaching.

So, to our teachers, lecturers, classroom assistants, nursery nurses, Sabbath School teachers – our Adventist Educators, we salute you and God bless you, the future of the present and next generation is in your hands!



Gina Abbequaye
Education Director

Family Ministries

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living!

Recognising the constant spiritual assault to which families in both the church and community are exposed, the Family Ministries department has sought to provide practical guidance to fend off such attacks. This has been partly addressed in the regular weekend ministries in our local churches, through sermons, seminars, and workshops.

Emphasis has been placed on the importance of family spirituality; the powerful influence of family of origin; how to overcome negative relational traits; and how to live out the Apostle Paul's determination, *"Eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted..."* (Philippians 1:20-21, NIV).

Training remained a high priority by continuing to support individuals and couples to be trained to deliver Family Life Education programming. Four one-day training events were held, providing attendees with the opportunity to complete the SEC Family Ministry Leadership Certificate.

Socialight Ministries hosted the annual Solofest day of fellowship for single adults, with Ray Patrick delivering an encouraging and challenging message to attendees. The afternoon programme saw participants take to the streets of South London in evangelistic outreach.



During the regular summer camp season in August, Lone Parent Camp and Family Camp in Chapel Porth once again provided an opportunity for families to experience a blend of fun, relaxation, and worship in the beautiful surroundings of the Cornwall countryside.

'SEC Family,' our monthly newsletter continued to increase in circulation, promoting events within the SEC and various family ministry resources. Editions addressed issues including intentional family spirituality, overcoming the fear that hinders healthy family relationships, marital conflict and forgiveness, among other topics.

The annual Family Togetherness week in September once again saw local churches emphasising the General Conference Family Ministries theme for 2016 - 'Healthy Families for Eternity.'

The SEC 'Blended Hearts' Marriage Retreat was held at Denham Grove in October 2016. Twenty-six couples spent quality time together, exploring the key influences on the way we connect; how to remain engaged in spite of conflict and disagreements; experiencing authenticity through courage and honesty; developing intimate trust through sensitive responsiveness and emotional availability; healing hurts; and appreciating the connection between an

intimate marriage and deep spirituality.

The call for me to serve as the Family and Children's Ministries Director in the British Union Conference has brought my time at the South England Conference to an end. It was a great privilege serving the SEC as Family Ministries Director for the past seven years. I am grateful to all my colleagues at the Conference and to the legion of local leaders and members in general who have supported me, and more importantly, the work of Family Ministries throughout my time in office.

I wish Dr Augustus Lawrence every success as he leads the work of Family Ministries in the SEC. I solicit your prayers for him and his family as they serve the Lord and the families of the Conference.

There are no adequate words I can say to express my gratitude to my wife Irma and my children, Maleah and Marlon, for the sacrifices they have made. I would also like to express heartfelt appreciation to Anna McLarty and Ligia Buzac for their excellent administrative support.

We give God thanks for the privilege of being co-workers with Him in the task of making Jesus the centre of our hearts, homes and communities.



Pr Leslie Ackie
Family Ministries Director

Health Ministries

Dear friends,

It has truly been a privilege to witness what God has done throughout the Conference over the last year. The Health Department has gladly contributed to our goal of Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere.

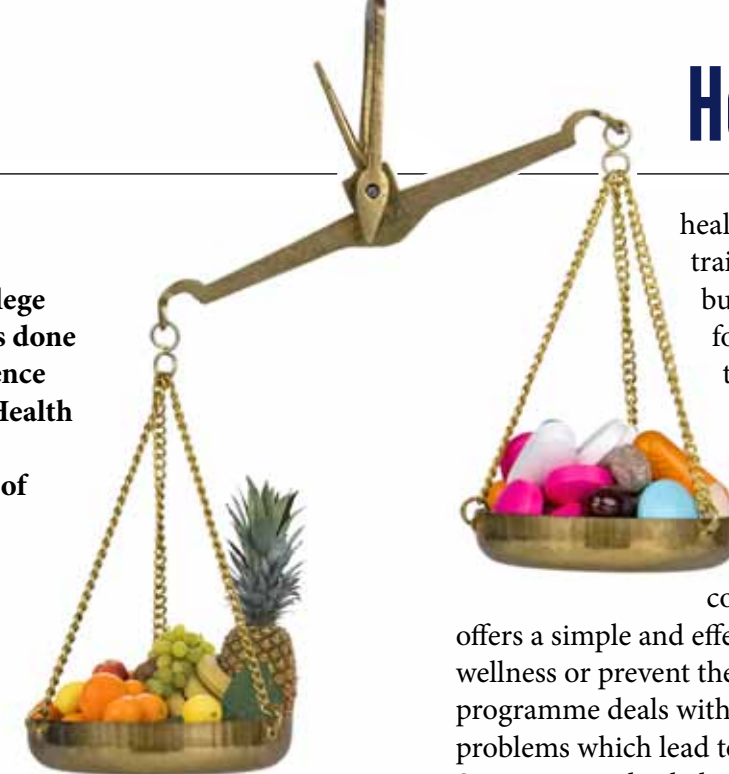
The purpose of our Health Ministry is to help our churches demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to all the people and communities of Southern England by showing how God is very interested in our Health, Healing & Hope. This is achieved by acting as a resource for information and counsel on Health and Temperance policies and programmes. We believe that one of the most effective ways to reach the people of Britain with the Gospel message, is to simply do what Jesus modelled for us when He walked among us:

"The Saviour mingled with man as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them. Ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."

So our duty must be:

- Have a love for people
- Socialize with them
- Show sympathy and compassion
- Actively care and help when needed
- Gain the people's trust
- Allow their hearts to open
- Introduce them to Jesus

Throughout the Conference, churches have taken up the challenge of ministering to the needs of their local communities by putting on Health Expos. These are proving to be powerful ways to sow seeds in the community. People are being helped, friendships are being made and trust is being cultivated. We are also blessed with a dedicated, compassionate, and Spirit-filled



health team that not only manage and train the Conference in Health Expos, but are also the excellent first-aiders for most of our large events. A big thank you to the entire team.

Another tool which is used is a programme called "Life Colours". This is a programme which identifies the nine most common Lifestyle Diseases and

offers a simple and effective way to help a person back to wellness or prevent the disease from striking at all. This programme deals with the Physical, Emotional & Social problems which lead to illness such as Diet, Exercise, Stress etc. It also helps the individual to think about the underlying causes of the bad habits that lead to an unhealthy lifestyle: Guilt, Anger, Bitterness, Shame and how Jesus provides the answers to the root of the problem.

Along with our Health Expos, Life Colours outreach events have been very successful throughout the Conference in Sidcup, Peckham, Great Yarmouth, Plymouth, Ilford, West Croydon, Brixton, Plaistow, Stevenage, Croydon, Cheltenham, Willesden, Aylesbury, Dunstable and Gatwick. In many of these places, we have been supported by the local council, the press, MPs & Health authorities who are recognising just how much of a benefit we are to the community.

The Health Ministry Department was central to the 2016 Evangelistic SEC/3ABN programme. The Health Expo in East London saw over 1,500 non-Adventist visitors attend the lectures, demonstrations, and theatre production.

We believe that God has even more for us to do in 2017, may He continue to bless us so that we may continue to bless our neighbours, friends, family, colleagues, and even those we do not yet know.



Dr Chidi Ngwaba
Health Ministries Director

2016 has been a very busy year for SECmedia.

Along with our annual events, such as Camp Meeting and Global Youth Day, we have been consistently reporting on departmental, as well as local church events and shared these reports on our various social media avenues. This is a new approach, in addition to our standard written articles and we have received excellent feedback from our members.

Our Facebook page has increased the engagement with its visitors and is becoming a primary platform for communication.

We want our church members to be informed of what is happening in the South England Conference, so we have started a weekly news update. In 60sec News we manage to share highlights of the previous week. Many churches have started to play the news report before their worship services and we receive numerous views and shares on Facebook.

A significant number of resources and time was dedicated to the preparation and execution of the HealthFest and the OneLife campaign. Two new websites have been created to engage with the public and new connections have been made through posts on social media daily, specifically designed for the HealthFest. We used one of the new websites, 1Life.org.uk, as a central hub for watching the multi-

church campaign, pulling 11 live streams from the churches involved onto the webpage. This generated more than 40,000 unique visitors to stream services online.

The data collected during the HealthFest and OneLife campaign suggests that online evangelism has a tremendous potential that we are yet to explore. It is indisputable that the online engagement during this campaign exceeded the physical attendance numbers. This shows us that lives can be reached through these forms of media.

With this, our dream in 2017 is for SEC Media to have a studio and a 24/7 online channel. We need your prayers and support.



Pr Vili Costescu
Media Director



Under the theme, Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere, the Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs continue to grow in number with more new clubs being established. The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) event has proven to be very popular with our Pathfinders; five qualifying teams made the trip to the USA competing in the NAD (North American Division) finals, and all five teams achieved a "first place" status, demonstrating their excellent Bible knowledge!

The year 2017 is going to prove an even greater challenge with more teams joining PBE. This summer was a busy time, as usual for our Pathfinders, with hundreds attending BUC Camporee and just over 100 joining the North England Conference for a unique camping experience in Jamaica.

In September, Bristol Pathfinders supported the local 'Breast Cancer Race for Life' event by handing out bottles of water and leaflets. They also performed a drumming session at the event, supported by Pathfinders from Area 3. Bristol North Pathfinders did a local litter pick-up event and Gloucester Pathfinders joined family camp at Aberdaron.

In Area 6a investitures took place in three clubs with one of our newest clubs undergoing their first assessment and investiture. Five clubs from Area 6a attended BUC Camporee. Holloway Pathfinders participated in the Remembrance Day parade. Tottenham Pathfinders participated in a "Fun and Fit Day" community event. Pathfinders from Area 6a also took part in the 3ABN campaign.

In Area 5 three new clubs are in the process of being formed namely, Reading Central, Frimley and Slough. There is a positive drive in the Area to reignite the Pathfinder and Adventurer work

The Pathfinder and Adventurer Rally Day took place in November at the Kingsway International Christian Centre in Chatham. Over 1200 Pathfinders and Adventurers were present. The occasion proved to be very special with five Master Guides receiving the Advanced Pathfinder Leader Award, eleven Master Guides receiving the Pathfinder Leader Award, twenty Pathfinders receiving the Master Guide award including Pastor Andrew Davis and Sis Margaret Johns, my lovely wife.

Sixteen Pathfinders received various level awards on the Teen Leadership training programme having completed the various stages of this four-year programme. The most significant highlight of the day was the baptism of three Pathfinders two of whom were twin sisters.

Portsmouth Club has been actively supporting their church with their health expo, face painting and fund raising events.

October half-term saw the return of our Drill and Drum Camp which for the first time was held in the same venue as the Prayer and Faith Conference. This meant that the Pathfinders were able to not only receive their training but also experience the spiritual empowerment of the Prayer and Faith Conference. Area 8 held their first rally which was combined with the Area annual sports day giving the Pathfinders the opportunity to showcase what they do and raise much needed funds for the department.



Pr Kevin Johns
Pathfinder Director



2016 was a challenging yet successful year for the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments. I can concur with the author of Lamentations when he exclaims in chapter 3:22-24, (KJV) *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore, will I hope in him.”*

During the past year, I visited thirty five churches and conducted both Sabbath School and Personal Ministries training programmes. In addition, I also conducted many Wednesday evening prayer services where the service was divided into two parts; one specifically dedicated to prayer and the other half Sabbath School Action Unit training.

One of the historic achievements of the Sabbath School department during the year was the production and printing of a book of stories of miracles experienced by members of our local congregations in the South England Conference. The series of books are entitled, *“Here and Now: Stories of Faith and Mission”*. The Department



Dr Kirk Thomas
PM & Sabbath School Director

is extremely proud of this feat since the stories can be used as local mission stories as well as being an outreach resource for family and friends.

The first two weeks in September (3-17) was significant time for evangelism within the SEC. During this period, a number of churches in London and one in Cambridge conducted evangelistic programme in collaboration with 3ABN. The unity demonstrated by the members of the churches, the enthusiasm of congregations and the artistic delivery of the preachers, together with the blessings of God, all combined to reap a harvest of 87 souls. In addition to this, more people are being baptised on a monthly basis because of the follow-up work done by the local churches following this initiative.

The School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership (SoEML) started the academic year on the 18th September 2016 at the Hyland House School, Advent Centre, and Balham sites. A webinar cohort in SDA music and worship also is up and running via webinar. To date we have a total enrolment of over a hundred and fifty students taking over twelve different cohorts. I would like to thank you for all your support to the work of the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments as we continue on this journey to Heaven.

GOOOOOO SEC, EVANGELISM, EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE!

It was a rainy Friday afternoon on 19 August 2016, when Prayer co-ordinators, team members and guests arrived at Sunningdale Park in Berkshire for their annual Prayer Conference, which resulted in an awesome and Spirit-filled experience, leading attendees to reaffirm their belief that *“God Still Speaks.”*

The *“early birds”* certainly caught the *“first worms”*, at the 6am sessions, inspirationally led by Pastor Nerine Barrett. As attendees prayed for themselves and others, for protection, healing, and a better understanding of what it means to pray they were challenged in a very compelling and *“no nonsense”* manner by Pastor Donnett Blake, from the USA, about their expectations for the weekend.

Expectations, she said, is a vital ingredient in prayer, because, God expects us to pray and to accept that He will answer in the way He knows best. *“What about your expectations?”* she asked. *“Are you disappointed when things do not work out according to your expectations?”* She further stated that the reason why prayer lives are unsatisfactory is because of our expectations; we don’t believe that God can take care of our situation. In her second presentation, Pastor Blake challenged each attendee’s concept of prayer and worship, stating that a casual attitude will not do, for God is Holy. We do not worship based on feelings but for who God is. Worship begins in the heart, and it is an experience with God, she reiterated. Contrasting worship and liturgy she challenged listeners to explore whether their worship is a list of liturgies that makes them feel good,

or in contrast, worship begins in the heart, an internal expression and an experience with God. Worship is prayer and prayer is a lifestyle, she concluded. Listeners accepted that prayer must be a part of their daily lives.

On Sunday morning, interaction and participation were integrated into the session with each delegate having to complete a personality profile. This session involved much humour and merriment. However, the message was clear and forthright as before, our personalities, Pastor Blake pointed out, affect our prayer lives, our spirituality and how we lead and interact with others. The final charge from Pastor Blake was to, *“Go back to your churches with the determination to pray for souls who are dying in their sins. Let the retreat bring about changes”*.

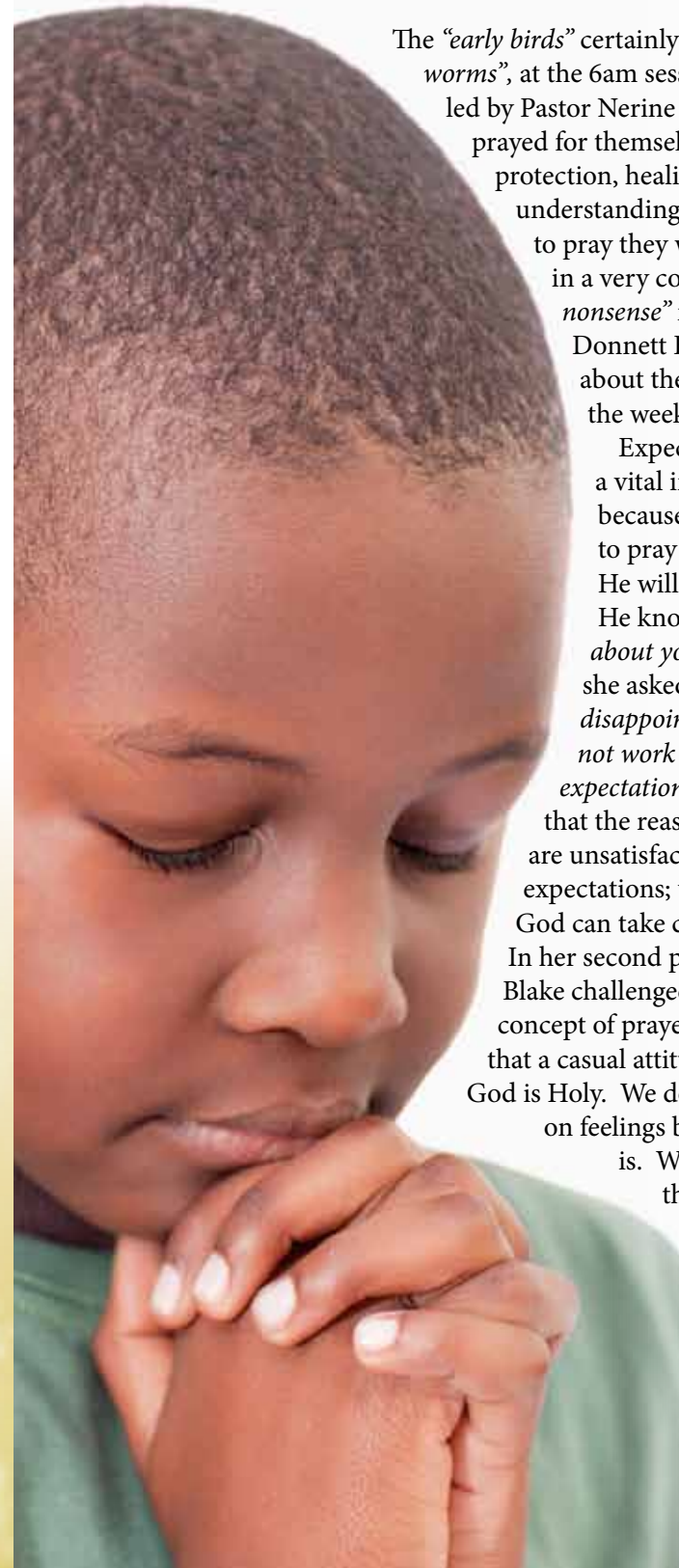
Below are some comments from attendees: *“A spirit filled weekend. I feel revived and renewed.”* *“Encouraging, inspiring, uplifting”*. *“The Holy Spirit indeed spoke to both speakers.”* *“The weekend has been a blessing, and my prayer life will change.”* *“The retreat has been a learning experience for me.”*

The 2016 Prayer Conference simply put, was unpredictable and truly God spoke in clear and unmistakable forms through every presentation and presenter. Above all things thanks to God for His presence and leading. *“God still speaks.”*

I would like to thank Leslene Peat-Brown for capturing the essence of the Prayer Conference. Let me take this opportunity to say special thanks to Pastors Donnett Blake and Nerine Barrett for their inspiration and spirituality. Also, appreciation to Florence Allen, Cheryl Daly, Florence George, Linda Mukwada, and Ivy Williams who played a vital part throughout the event.



Veronica Williams
Prayer Co-ordinator



Stewardship & Trust Services Department

It has been a wonderful experience to bring encouragement and to promote the Stewardship values to eleven churches around the Conference in the past eight months.

Spending a Sabbath morning and delivering a message on what it means to be God's Steward and what affects each person to live a faithful life of a steward proves to be a key mover in encouraging our members to live an honest and submissive life to Jesus.

An afternoon workshop/seminar in most churches that I have visited paved the way for more practical approaches in raising the issues about member's engagement to the church life and missions, the benefit of Gift Aid to each churches projects and plans, and issues on members returning their tithes and giving of offerings. It is with great joy that I was able to visit the churches of London Ghana, Watford Town, the London Russian Speaking Church, Wood Green, Polegate, Plymouth, Wimbledon, Clapton, Bedford Central, Reading West and Stevenage.

Reading West and Stevenage.

Meeting and spending time with Stewardship leaders, local church treasurers, and elders have proved to be a valued moment in sharing the vision of the Stewardship



Pr Todd Frias
Stewardship Director

Department and the SEC as a whole. And leaving a Stewardship Pack, full of reading materials is also welcomed by each recipient. These resources are valuable in helping a relentless promotion of the Stewardship principles and how to apply it in practical life. I pray that those materials are now being used to encourage more people and members in the South England Conference to live a faithful life to Jesus as a disciple.

We are hoping to put up more e-materials on the website, which can be easily accessed by every member and church leader, to be used in their local church setting. We will also put video clips of testimonies on God's faithfulness to His people and can be accessed and shown even during the Sabbath worship time. And I would like to encourage that if anyone has a testimony to share that they make contact with our Department. Thank you for supporting the Conference through your generosity.



Teens Ministries

This year the SEC Teens Department started off with the April Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC). We had almost 300 teens attend for the weekend which was filled with the spirit of prayer and praise. The weekend resulted in over 30 young people making a request for baptism and over 40 requests for Bible studies. Once again we have been blessed and God has shown us that PFC is a life changing experience for our teens and staff members.

This year was the first official all England Student Camp, with students joining us from the NEC and some travelling all the way from Scotland. Combined, we had a group of over 100 people. The vision for this camp is for the Students to have a comfortable space to encourage each other through their university years. A mix of spiritual and social brought many good results and we are hoping to continue like this into the future.

Camp Meeting was a splendid time for the teens. We had an intimate space which enabled us to socialise more and get to know the teens well. The services were interactive and engaging. Our speakers were Sam Gungaloo and Asher McKenzie.

The 2016 Extreme Teens Camp this year was a fun and full week with many activities and daily worship. The Teens enjoyed the socials, but it would not be camp without bonfire night when teens share their testimonies. In the midst of all the fun seven young people

decided to give their lives to God and be baptised. It is beautiful to see that this camp which has been running for so long is still effective in helping our young people make their decisions for Christ.

This year's Summer Teens Concert took place at Newbold College Church; we had lots of performers who shared their various talents. We want to encourage our teens to be creative and use their talents for Gods work that is why we had many original pieces. All were enjoyed by the 400 plus people who attended. This concert also gave us the first ever viral video on our Facebook page, Danielle Bernard's original piece was viewed over 30,000 times.

Over 200 people attended the Prayer and Faith Conference in October. This PFC was a safe and Spirit filled place where teens felt free to open up and talk about their struggles. Pastor Patrick led them in prayer groups and encouraged them to pray for and lift each other up. There were also workshops dedicated to teaching the teens about how to deal with other religions, such as Islam; how to resolve conflict in constructive ways and how to be successful.

Over the weekend we had 34 baptism requests and over 50 requests for Bible study.

We had our first SEC Teens Football Tournament in October this year. It was organised by the teens, supported by the Newbold Youth Team and hosted

by Newbold College. We had five teams competing against each other and we hope to grow and continue this event over the coming years.

The Teens Department is continuing to have a strong social media presence; we now have 3,000 people supporting our Facebook page. This is where you can always find information about our upcoming events, fresh news and devotions. Our record reach this year was over 25,000 in the week after the Summer Teens Concert.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us this year, this work is not about us, but about each individual who has dedicated their time and effort to this amazing and important ministry. A special thank you goes to Nana Bonnie who leads out in our Prayer and Faith Conferences, as well as George Osei - Bonsu who was our Extreme Teens Camp Master along with Keeley Davis. Another thank you goes to Lydia Hamblin who has supported the Teen's Department through all our events. We solicit your prayers and help for the future years as we continue to provide these live changing opportunities for our young people.

Please join us for our 2017 events, which you sign up for on our website: <http://www.secteens.org>. Find information about these on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SEC-Teens-Ministries-193665147368737/>



Pr Dejan Stojkovic
Teens Director

Women's Ministries Department

This year the Department has focused its attention in Areas 6 and 7 providing four specific training sessions for Women's Ministry Leaders during January - July 2016.

The attendance was good and the input given by the women has been incorporated into the Department's overall strategy.

In May 2016 we launched our first Women's Retreat at the Selsdon Park Hotel, Croydon entitled "Women Inspiring Women." One hundred and eighty women were in attendance. At the retreat, we introduced the Woman of Virtue Programme. A detailed presentation was made by Sharon Platt-McDonald, Founder of the programme & BUC Women's Ministries, Health & Disabilities Director. As a result twenty-five women expressed their interest to learn more about the programme. We were also blessed and challenged by guest speaker Dr Olive Hemmings, from Washington Adventist University and Sophia Nicholls SEC Disability Ministries & Diversity Director.

The month of June (6-12) ushered in the celebration of ten women who graduated from the School of Evangelism 'Woman to Woman' cohort at Camp Meeting.

During August 2016 we ran a Fun Club for 6-13 year-olds at the Hyland House School, Tottenham (8-19 August). We had twenty-two children from the local church & community. Our intention was to give some support to parents during the summer holidays



when the help and support is at its greatest need. We hope to run the Fun Club during the half term break 13-17 February 2017. We would also like to duplicate the programme in other Areas around the SEC. If any church is interested, we would be happy to hear from you.

October 2016 proved a very busy time with three major events. The first was our Leadership Conference (9th October) "For Such a Time As This: A Call To Action For Women" with guest speaker Jackie Lynton, NEC Community Ministries, Health & Disability Director. Fifty women attended the Conference at the Advent Centre where they gained skills, tips, shared insights and were challenged on their thinking regarding ministry. On 23rd October 2016 the NEC & SEC joined forces at the Milton Keynes Church with approximately fifty volunteers in attendance for the Woman of Virtue event. Those who attended gained a deeper understanding of the programme (thirteen segments on different aspects of a woman's life) and were enthusiastic about taking the plan back to their churches. Training in this

area is ongoing.

On 24 October 2016 we ran an Effective Communication Skills course. This is a pilot course focusing on three areas;

- (a) to build confidence in communication
- (b) goal setting, identifying values & spiritual gifts and
- (c) a sociological perspective on women, faith & culture.

We had fourteen attendees. Part two of this course will take place on 15 January 2017, venue to be confirmed.

The Department continues to work with the Cornerstone Counselling Service to identify professional women in the counselling field within our churches who would like to work in partnership with the service on a voluntary basis. Please get in touch if you are interested.

I would like to thank my Secretary Ligia Buzac and the SEC Women's Ministries Advisory TUF Team Volunteers for their time, support, commitment and effort.

May God help us all to be true to our calling, united to God, and faithful in service until He comes.

EVENT	DATE	INFO	VENUE
Evangelism Expo	8 Jan 2017	-	Newbold College
Kids Holiday Fun Club 'Mums Time Out'	13-17 Feb 2017	-	Hyland House Sch
Domestic Violence Training	21 Feb 2017, 10-5pm	SEC & Womens Aid	BUC, Watford
Womens Day of Prayer	4 March 2017	-	All Churches



Pr Maslin Holness
Women's Ministries Director

Youth Ministries



The SEC Youth Ministries have had an increasing concern about the crisis on our streets and society within our territory here within the South of England.

We are being very deliberate in understanding the culture of the streets and the challenges presented within society, taking stock of where, on many levels, our government is failing, but more importantly coming to terms with the real needs of our youth, their environment and the challenges they face.

I am pleased to share that we are working alongside two major community organisations in the fight against crime and youth growth. Both organisations work directly in our communities, prisons and detention centres alongside the local councils and the police as they endeavour to continue to win the trust of our youth from the realities of negative choices.

We here at the SEC Youth Ministries for 2017 aim to create alternative options for our youth, where we can train, mentor and offer a safe place for growth.

We have trained youth workers across the South of England who will be putting on sporting and social events where young people can be free to grow and network within a safe environment. Voluntary Service trips abroad to countries such as Nepal, Thailand and Israel and services here in the UK to help youth broaden their horizon and helping to assist in their overall development.

We also aim to offer professional and expert training on entrepreneurship, finances, relationships, personal development, holistic health, careers and sexuality. I am excited about the youth work that is about to commence. We believe that despite the negative news and trends in relation to our youth we serve a God who is still able and more than capable of turning this around for His glory.



Pr Anthony Fuller
Youth Director

Personnel Changes

With time comes change, and so a lot of changes have been made in the South England Conference (SEC) since our last Communicator came out, especially with those joining our Directorial staff.

After much thought, the SEC is very happy to introduce the new Treasurer, **Fred Shone**, who has previously worked in the profession and industry as an accountant. He is stepping in for Earl Ramharacksingh who is currently working in the British Union Conference (BUC) as Treasurer. Shone said that it is not his “*job to stop them (workers, ministers and directors) spending, just to help them spend wisely.*”

The following paragraphs refer to SEC Pastors who have taken on new responsibilities:

Augustus Lawrence, replacing Leslie Ackie who accepted the role as BUC Family Ministries Director, has taken the position as Family Ministries Director. He says that he would like to help people reconnect with themselves and their families, ultimately relinking with God. Lawrence joined us in October 2016 and specializes in the field of Marriage and Family.

Ebenezer Jones-Lartey is joining us from Brixton Church as Ministerial Director. He sees his role to fundamentally support pastors in terms of training and would like to become a liaison between pastors and their members. Jones-Lartey also joined us in October 2016.

We are sad to see Teens Director **Dejan Stojkovic** leave the SEC, as he has accepted the position of BUC Youth Director. He has served the SEC faithfully for the past 5 years and assumed his new position in January 2017.

Reading Central church pastor, **Maureen Rock** is joining the Adventist Discovery Centre as principal. She says the Department will continue in their methods of direct contact with the community by way of exhibitions, online courses, post and in addition, social media. It is her desire “*that church leaders and members across the BUC would continue to partner with the ADC in their promotion of Bible Studies and Health Management courses for evangelistic purposes.*”

We wish them all God's blessings in their new positions!



Fred Shone
Treasurer



Augustus Lawrence
Family Ministries



Ebenezer Jones-Lartey
Ministerial Director

A DEVOTIONAL - When Praise Demands A Sacrifice

by Dr. Kirk Thomas

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. Genesis 22:14 (KJV)

It was dark. The stars peeped through the midnight sky and they played hide-and-seek in the cool summer evening breeze.

He stirred, opened his eyes, just for a moment, and then fell asleep again. But a few minutes later, he was awake. Wide awake. Just like he'd been a few nights previously.

That fateful night, when his world changed, his faith increased and his ability to praise soared, like a mounted eagle. That was the night that God asked the unthinkable of him. The night when he doubted and trusted with each breath and screamed inside with each step.

His God, Yahweh had asked him to sacrifice, the son that he had cried and prayed for all those years. His desire for a child had resulted in an illicit affair and a son that was not the rightful heir and who he had been forced to send away. The love of his life has become jealous and bitter and he felt the strain of blended family relations.

And just as life was returning to normality, this happens. His God, the God that future generations would connect with him, the God that he had served instead of the gods of his ancestors demanded a sacrifice. Not any sacrifice, but the offering of his one and only son.

Abraham obeyed. He followed the dictates of a God that he trusted. A God who had seen him through some challenging times. A God, who had called him to follow him in a strange land.

His obedience was rewarded. God intervened. An offering, a ram in the thicket, was the substitute for His son, Isaac.

And after such deliverance, Abraham holds a praise party. His party is so intense that there's even a permanent reminder on Mount Moriah. Abraham calls the place Jehovah-Jireh, in this mountain, the Lord provides.

Each superior act of praise that tells the world about the goodness of God, is produced through extraordinary sacrifice. That job that you lost unexpectedly resulted in a calmer and functional lifestyle for which you must give praise. The relationship that ended at the altar before you said *'I do'* may have caused temporary humiliation, but saved you from years of domestic violence for which you must give praise. That holdup on the motorway that scuppered your chances of pitching your business idea to a potential sponsor, prevented you being caught up in a fraudulent scam and possible prison time, for which you must give praise.

Praise, deep, heartfelt, intense praise, that makes your feet dance, your hands clap, and your tongue sing, comes out of a sense of gratitude to God for the challenging and painful times and the sacrifices we must experience as we trust our lives to our Heavenly Father.



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8 Youth Federations.
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SEC YOUTH MINISTRIES



POWER OF PRAYER

AREA 1

Venue: St Austell SDA Church
Time: 1430 - 1600

AREA 2

Venue: Swindon SDA Church
Time: 1900-2300

AREA 3 & 4

Venue: TBC
Time: 1800 - 2200

AREA 5 (TVYF)

Venue: Reading Central SDA Church
Time: 1830 - 1030

AREA 6 (LYF)

Venue: Advent Centre
Time: 1830 - 1030

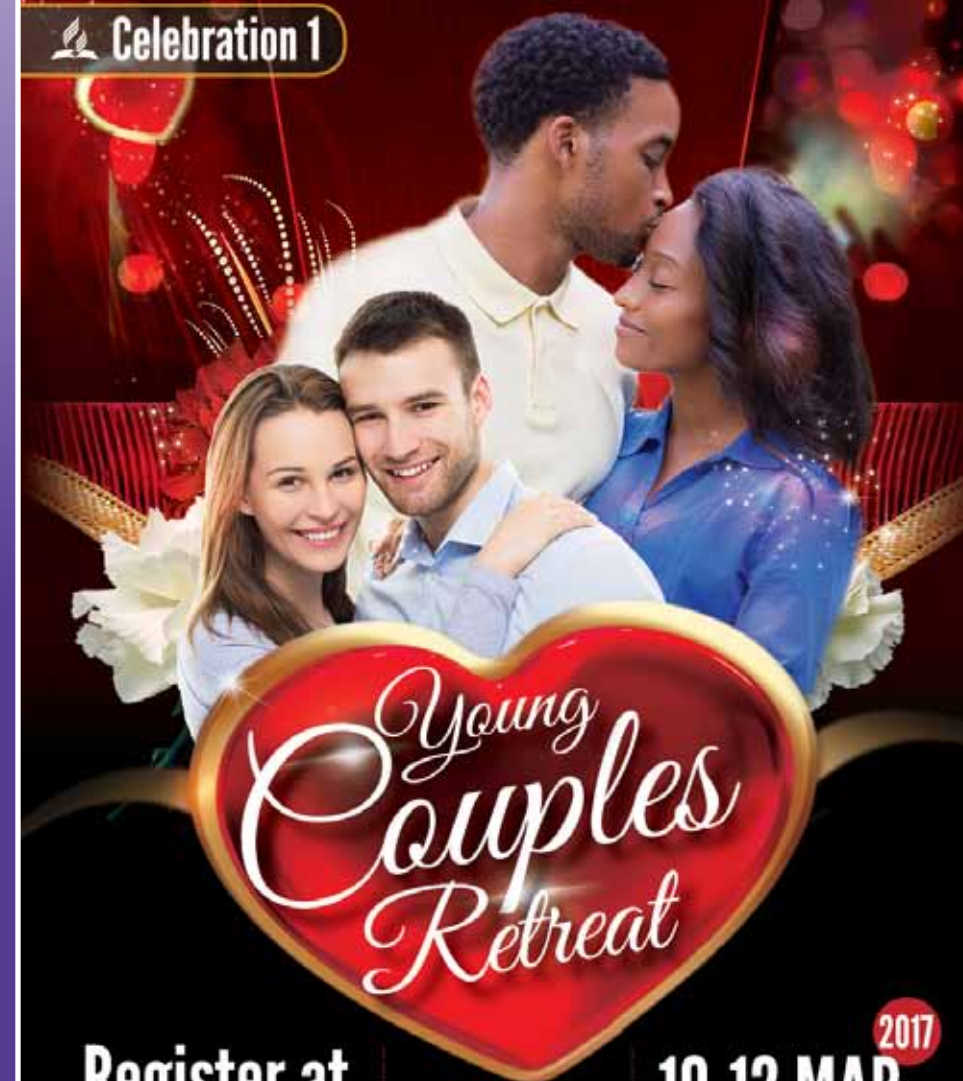
AREA 7

Venue: Luton Central SDA Church
Time: 1800 - 2200

AREA 8

Venue: Cambridge SDA Church
Time: 2200 - 0500
(BREAKFAST PROVIDED)

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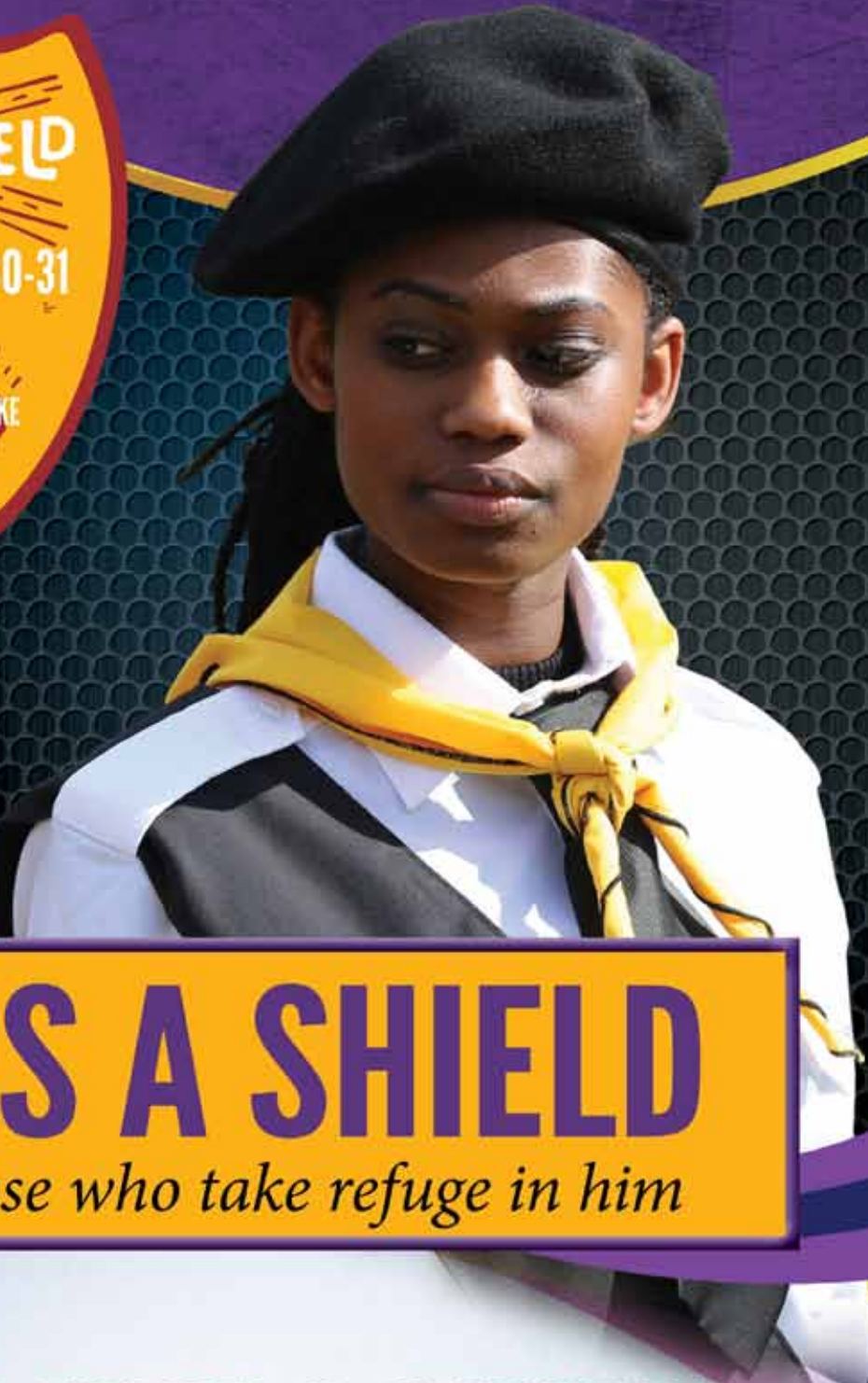
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Presenters: AUGUSTUS & BARBARA LAWRENCE and JONATHAN & JODI BURNETT

ORGANISED BY THE FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



HE IS A SHIELD
To all those who take refuge in him

ADVENTURER CAMPOREE: 11 - 14 AUGUST 2017

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE: 15 - 20 AUGUST 2017

GUEST SPEAKER: PASTOR E NATUFE (CANADA)
LOCATION: BROADSTONE WARREN SCOUT CAMPSITE

More information coming soon!

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