



# The **COMMUNICATOR**

South England Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist  
2013 Departmental reports

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The 2013 issue of the Communicator has a special focus on Mission to the Cities: London. On the new website you will find weekly updates with news stories and photos. Visit the website regularly to stay up-to-date on events and stories from around the conference. The site is now accessible on your mobile and tablet devices as well as on your computer.

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Editor-in-Chief: Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist  
Editors: Katie Ramharacksingh, Megen Molé  
Design and Layout: Jordan Huie  
Photos of Mission to the Cities: Roland Dan

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# President's Report

## Mission to the Cities: London

This year we launched the Mission to the Cities project in London. We had Raafat Kamal, Ian Sweeney and Janos Kovacs-Biro come through, and it was a very good launch. Our members left very enthused about the Mission to the Cities programme.

London is a very cosmopolitan city. There is also a lot of diversity in London, with 14 million residents. It is very likely that the division chose London as a target city for this project because of the various people groups that live there. As part of this project, various churches have had evangelistic efforts within their people groups. As part of the Mission to the Cities initiative, these various people groups have also been energized and enthused to reach out to their communities.

We have the Potters Bar and Uxbridge church plants, which have also been energized through this project. A team from the field school of evangelism went through to assist them, and to observe the work they are doing. Pastor Barrett in Potters Bar has led his team in different initiatives to try and engage with the community where they are, and Uxbridge has been doing the same.

The knock-on effect of the Mission to the Cities initiative is that we've also seen the provincial areas responding. As always, within this conference the churches do have an evangelistic focus, so in the provincial areas we've seen pastors leading their churches in evangelism. There has been positive feedback about baptisms as a result of evangelistic initiatives in the provincial areas.

## Additional Evangelisation and Acknowledging Local Talent

Potters Bar and Uxbridge will continue in 2014, and will both need additional funding. We want those two projects to continue their work and mission.

We'd also like to encourage our Pastors. At our recent Pastors' Retreat we used our own pastors to do the preaching. This was intentional, and the reports from the ministers are that it was the best Workers' Meeting that many of them had been to in a long time. The reason for this was that they were being spoken to by their own colleagues. On the back of Mission to the Cities, I would like to encourage our ministers to spend a year being the preachers of their own evangelistic efforts, or even swapping pulpits with a fellow pastor for a campaign in their church. We don't listen to each other enough, and sadly we often tend to invite a foreign speaker because we believe that they will be able to generate more interest. I think that we need to affirm our own people, and use them to do evangelism.

I would also like to encourage our elders to lead in evangelistic efforts in 2014. We would like to see our elders baptising people, specifically those they themselves have worked with on the back of Mission to the Cities.

## Loss of John Loughborough School

It has been a difficult year where the John Loughborough School is concerned. The South England Conference has put a lot of resources into trying to keep the school open. Within the last eighteen months we had Mark Murrell, a super-head hired at £100,000 a year, snatched away by the Department of Education (DofE). We sought several academy sponsorship partners, none of whom were acceptable to the DofE, although the partners themselves told us that they were willing and they had capacity to do so. Eventually it was clear that the DofE were not going to work with us in seeking to save the John Loughborough School. After Mark Murrell left, we brought in the Schools' Company to work with us, again at a similar cost. Both Mark Murrell and the Schools' Company did good work in the school, but it was still not enough to save John Loughborough. We are saddened at the loss, and at the fact that even though so much money was spent it still failed to raise standards.

I want to commend Opal Johnson-Christie for all the hard work that she put into trying to save the John Loughborough School.

## Hyland House in New Location

Some people have shown concern that the Holcombe Road site will remain in the hands of the church. We are committed to that objective, and we certainly intend to keep the site. The government are looking for places to use as free schools, specifically for any empty buildings, and John Loughborough falls within that category. The fact that the government has put in 3.5 million into the fabric of the Holcombe Road site makes it of special interest to them. For that reason we must justify our use of the site for educational purposes, which is what the money was given for. We need to demonstrate that the money is being used for that purpose, and for that reason we have decided that we are going to relocate the Hyland House School to that site. For years Hyland House have been looking for premises and haven't been able to find a suitable site. It suits the purposes of Hyland House and also purposes in seeking to maintain the government's objective of using those funds for education.

The SEC decision has come as something of a surprise to the Hyland House school fraternity; we recognise that not all parents were happy initially, though about 80% of parents are now on board. We are committed to the long-term future of the Hyland House School, and believe that Seventh-day Adventist education is strong in the primary sector. Hyland House has demonstrated many years of excellent practice, and the team of staff is moving with the Headmistress to the new site. We are committed to renovating and upgrading the site to ensure that this is a good transition.

## Strengthening the Pastoral Family

We've done some further work this year to focus on our pastors. This included the Ministers' Marriage Retreat in the spring, which went very well. This is all part of the drive to build up the ministerial family. Our ministerial families are always under attack, and so we are seeking to strengthen the pastoral home and family. It's all about strengthening the husband-wife and familial relationships. To that extent we had the marriage retreat and the Minister's Day of Fellowship in August.

## New Church Buildings

In 2013 we've had a moratorium on the acquisition of church buildings, due to the fact that in 2012, we overreached ourselves in helping churches acquire buildings. Such was the demand that the budget was exhausted, so this year we have had to replenish which was spent. In 2014 we will be back on track.

We have been in the current South England Conference headquarters for over 50 years, and we have long since outgrown the space. We have expanded into 3 buildings, and yet that does not adequately satisfy the needs of the conference. We have identified a building that, after much prayer and deliberation, the South England Conference Executive Committee have given us the go-ahead to explore the possibilities of purchasing. If we are able to get it, this building will accommodate the needs of the conference for the next 50 years. It will be a place where we will be able to do training, expand our media and have a music production studio, as well as meeting for the office needs. We pray that by God's grace this purchase will become a reality. At the moment we are only at the negotiation stage, but we will keep the church informed.

Finally, because this comes out at the end of the year I just want to thank everybody for their service to the church in 2013. I want to thank our pastors for the work that they have done, and our directors, and to wish them a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.



*Sam Davis*

President SEC

# Executive Secretary

## Department

Executive Secretary Department

We can thank God for the continued growth of the South England Conference!

- Total Membership, up to 30 June, stood at 22,872
- There were 164 recorded baptisms for the first two quarters of this year
- Two churches were organised recently: North London Lugandan (April 2013) and Heathrow International (September 2013)
- One Company has been formed: East London Romanian (January 2013)
- A new church plant, Oasis, was formed in January 2013. They now meet in Wanstead, East London
- Muswell Hill & Haringey churches became the 'Lighthouse' (January 2013)
- Churches: 141
- Companies: 16
- Plants & Groups: 49

### Pastors

Pastor Hamilton Williams left in July 2013. We thank God for his dedication to service in the time he has served here in the SEC, which was for over 30 years.

We have two new intern pastors: Max McKenzie-Cook, who started as an intern at Brixton in January 2013, and Sam Gungaloo, who began as an intern in the Watford area in March 2013. Pastor Clifford Herman has joined us from Scotland and has been working in Plymouth since August 2013. Another new face, Pastor James Shepley, joins us in the Cheltenham and Swindon churches from September 2013.



*Terry Messenger*  
Executive Secretary

# Church Growth, Life Development and Adventist Mission Department

During 2013, the second year of this new term of office, the Church Growth department continued to:

- project vision;
- recruit, train and support lay leaders to plant new, healthy churches;
- visit existing church plants and groups for training, support and guidance;
- facilitate the formation of new church plants and groups;
- encourage the revitalisation of existing churches;
- encourage the Life Development process and the formation of Life; Development groups;
- support the 'Simple Church' initiative;
- train and develop coaches for church planters and coaches for the Natural Church Development (NCD) programme;
- process applications for Adventist Mission funds.

The department continues to work closely with the South England Conference's (SEC) Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments, as well as with its Church Growth counterparts at the British Union Conference (BUC) and Trans-European Division (TED).

Some specific achievements of the department throughout the year include:

- supporting the 51 church plants and groups across the SEC;
- visiting and supporting, through teaching and consultation, 14 church plants;
- organising a 3-day training event, in March, on NCD for pastors;
- 8 more churches embarking on the beneficial NCD process;
- organising the highly successful 'Mission . . . Possible 3' training event, in May. A trip to Greece, for church planters, that followed in the footsteps of the apostle Paul which was led by Pastor Peter Roennfeldt;
- planning a 'Mission . . . Possible 3' reunion in November, where those attending will report on the steps they have taken since the training in Greece;
- visiting and supporting our four 'Simple Churches';
- organising a 'Simple Church' weekend retreat, in March, where several unchurched friends attended;
- the growth from one lay plant leader 4 years ago to 14 leaders at the end of 2013;
- arranging 4 days of training for pastor coaches of lay plant leaders;
- witnessing organic growth through the baptisms of 14 contacts from the communities of some of our church plants and groups;
- facilitating the formation of 6 new church plants and groups;
- running 2 workshops during the 'Evangelism Expo', in January ;
- supporting over 30 church planters at the BUC's 'Church Planter Exchange' programme;
- working closely with the SEC Youth and Teens departments to form and train a task force that will work to plant a church in Potters Bar;
- organising a 3-day training for NCD pastor coaches;
- supporting and participating in the BUC's 'Evangelism Training' for a week in July;
- assisting in the organisation of the SEC 'School of Evangelism' in cooperation with the Personal Ministries department, where 15 students graduated in courses run by our department;
- visiting, preaching and training over 30 churches, plants and groups.

## Mission to the Cities Involvement

The department followed up on the suggestion of the 'Mission to the Cities' (MTTC) committee to plant a church in Potters Bar. We took the first steps in that direction and, shortly after, the SEC appointed Pastor Jonathan Barrett to lead the project and form a core team for the purpose of planting a church.

Currently there are two volunteers on the project and the team meet several times a week to plan and pray. A health expo was organised in the house that has been acquired for the project, as were follow-up health seminars. We had a recent visit with two councillors who are glad for our eagerness to meet the needs of the community. For example, many in the retired community are not generally well off, so the council are keen for us to work with them.

One idea in the works is the creation of a 'centre of hope' in the community. We would provide such things as health checks, obesity programmes, healthy heart and cholesterol reduction programmes, help to quit smoking and help in coping with diabetes and dementia.

The challenges for this church plant are numerous and there is a real need to recruit the right individuals who will be committed to raising a healthy church in this community. Please join us in prayer as we continue to work in this new field.

## Plans for 2014

- To continue with the overall support of the existing plants and groups.
- To intentionally facilitate the formation of at least 8 new church plants and groups.
- Continue to encourage the revitalisation of existing churches through the NCD or any other process for healthier churches in the SEC.
- To hold 2 workshops during the Evangelism Expo in January.
- To encourage and support pastors to attend the coaching training event from 11-13 March.
- To hold a training day for the NCD process on 13 February.
- To cooperate with the Personal Ministries department for a training event on urban mission in May.
- To subsidise a limited number of church planters to attend 'Mission . . . Possible!'-related events, in May and June, for the training of church planters.
- To continue to support the 'MTTC' initiatives, in particular the planting of healthy churches in Potters Bar and Uxbridge.
- To continue to pray for the recruitment and training of lay leaders that are suitable to plant churches.
- To continue to pray regularly for every church plant, their coaches and supervisors across the SEC.

We don't need to remind readers that our broken world today needs the everlasting Gospel more than ever. God is pleading with every one of us to let Him use us and unite with Him and each other, so that His work can be accomplished. We solicit and deeply appreciate your prayers.

The department would especially like to thank the following people: Mavis Bramble, for her solid secretarial support; the department's trained team of pastors and lay members for their support; the management and Personal Ministries department of the SEC; our counterparts at the BUC and TED level, for their cooperation & support; my wife, Sophia, who has been a tower of strength despite her on-going illness.

Most of all, we thank God for His help and guidance. Without Him, nothing would have been accomplished.



*Pastor Aris Vontzalidis*  
Church Growth Director

# Communication

## Department

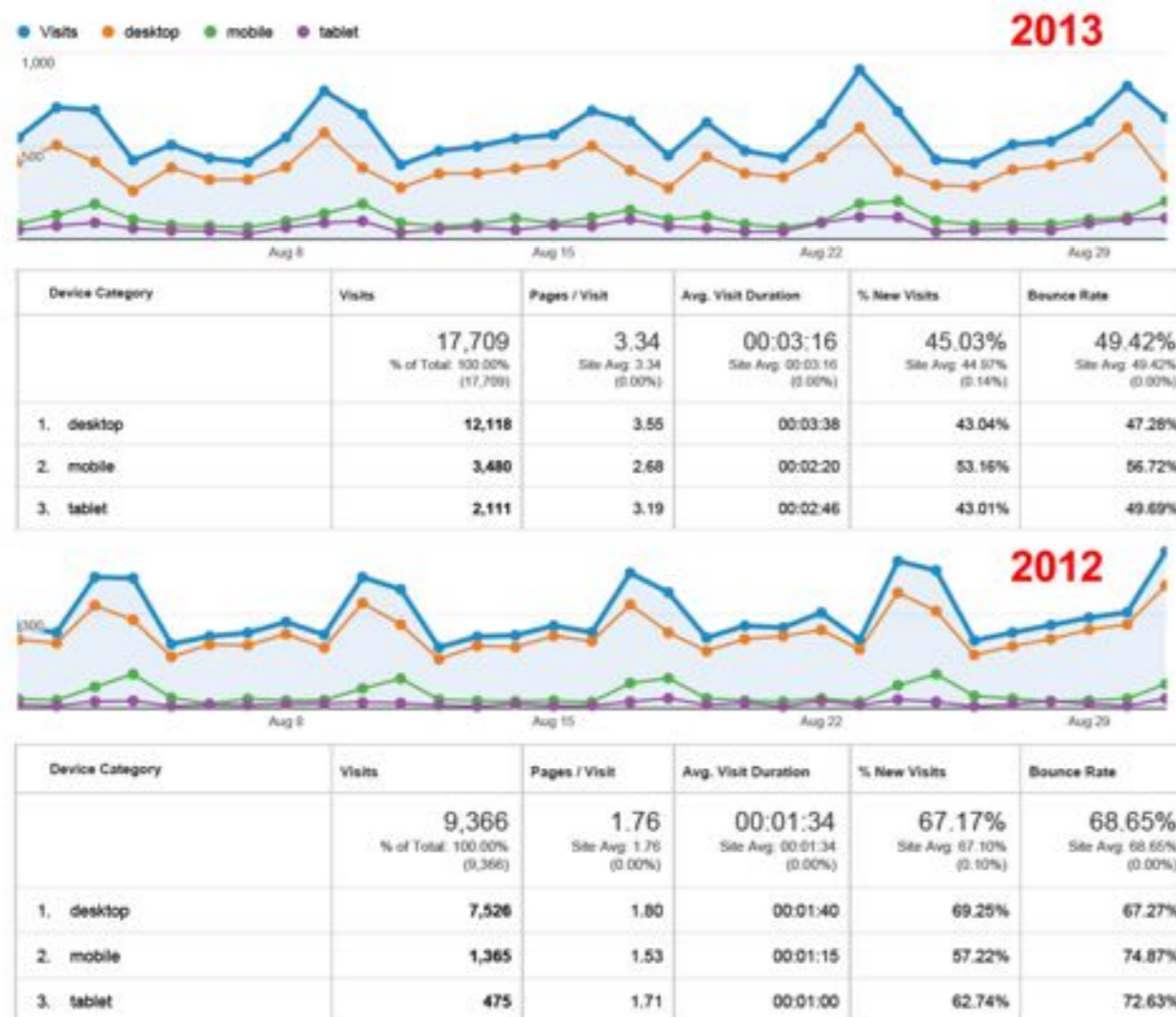
This year's large communications project has been the launch of the new, UK-wide Adventist website. Our department has worked on creating a lively, engaging and interactive South England section of the site.

In recognising the need for a new and professional website for the Conference, the department's director set out to work with the British Union Conference (BUC) on a web strategy for the Church in the UK.

2013 saw the launch of a large new web platform for the Adventist church in the UK, with areas for all the BUC's conferences and missions. The website has made our South England Conference (SEC) section more visible as part of the corporate identity of the Adventist Church in the UK.

The web strategy identified the following goals for a new website:

- Corporate identity
- Modern, 21st-century look
- Easy to find on search engines
- Responsive, adaptable to mobiles and tablets
- Easy to navigate and share
- Outward-looking, while still serving the membership



These goals were achieved with the new website, which has made the site more attractive and easier to navigate. Ensuring it was responsive means that it keeps current with the recent trends of climbing Internet usage, especially on mobile and tablet devices. The search engine Google shows that we are now at the top of the search results when people type the word 'Adventist', here in the UK.

Statistics from 2013 show that there are nearly double the number of visitors to the site as compared to 2011. We can also see that they stay longer, and visit more than one page. Regrettably, there are no statistics for the old SEC website from 2012, but those from 2011 show an average of almost 4000 visits per calendar month.

Websites today can gather figures and trends from those using the site. These figures suggest that three out of four new visitors to one of our Adventist churches will have visited the website first. Therefore, having a website is crucial for all churches, especially the churches that rent facilities.

Churches have been made aware of this through training, and more churches are setting up websites every year. The challenge lies in the continual updating of their site to ensure that current and relevant information is available. The SEC and BUC subsidise church websites through the 'NetAdventist' platform, and provide training in managing this system.

The news section continues to expand, and the department is constantly ensuring news coverage of various events throughout the Conference. As a result of training, both at the SECmedia Academy and through local church programmes by the director, there has been an increase in churches submitting news stories on their local events. During the 2013 Camp Meeting the website was updated daily, with news stories from each day.

There is also continual training of communications leaders to help them fulfil their role for their local church, and for churches to understand communication as an evangelistic tool. Ultimately, the better trained the communications leaders are, the better enhanced the local churches' communication and media will be.



*Pastor Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist*  
Communication & Media Director



# Community Ministries Department

The Community Ministries department of the South England Conference (SEC) has achieved many varied outcomes in 2013, largely through the example of the 'Jesus Approach'.

'Christ's method alone will give true success. The Saviour mingled with men 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.' (Ellen G. White, Ministry of Healing, p. 143.)

During the past year, the church members continued in their ministry, as directed by the Biblical text in Matthew 25:35-36. "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came unto Me."

Churches were focused on outreach in the community, specifically in reaching a 'stranger'. Teams were engaged in providing well-balanced meals at some churches, and even on the streets. In order to be consistent and effective, there is now a code of conduct for all volunteers involved. Members of the teams are required to attend the London Soup Run, which is affiliated with the Housing Justice.

The department has been able to network with the various voluntary organisations engaged in the Soup Run. All volunteers providing this service must be holders of the Food Hygiene Certificate, which lasts for 3 years.

#### Advent Shelter

The first Advent Shelter in the SEC was held at the Advent Centre, London, from 24-31 December, 2012. The shelter served 66 guests who were from diverse communities. This established relationships that continued for some of them at the regular Sunday lunch in Waterloo.

Some of these guests attend Saturday services at a few of our churches and, with pride, inform us of their attendance. The Willesden and Wimbledon Adventist churches both held winter shelters. They provided a hot meal and social events before the guests retired for the night, in the accommodation provided.

These programmes help the homeless, preventing them sleeping on the streets in the cold weather. However, Ipswich church's team prepares Saturday meals for their guests, and they are specially invited when there is a health emphasis day.

The youth are encouraged to get involved, working in the teams. A type of integrated ministry can be observed, as the health team present health topics once a month and provide health screenings for their homeless guests. An annual review, held in October, permits the volunteers to make evaluations and suggestions to improve the service.

#### LINK and Food Bins

The population is now living longer. Therefore, the department is working with LINK to provide a sit-in service for the elderly. This allows the churches involved to partner with their local authority and other non-governmental agencies.

As well as assisting the older members of society, some churches have revived their 'Food Bins'. Due to the current economic situation, more people are demanding assistance to feed their families. The bins will allow members to donate food items weekly, which will then be distributed to those in need.

#### Training

Equipping the members for ministry is a major focus for the department. The leadership course is running again this year at the SEC School of Evangelism. The following training was provided:

- food hygiene
- first aid
- community service leadership course
- profiling the area
- smoking cessation
- mental health
- food bank
- plan zeroes

#### Mission Abroad

Integrated ministry was maximised as the department, in collaboration with other SEC departments, went to Jamaica to assist in the 'Open Arms Project'. This is a facility intended to prevent young men from sleeping on the streets.

The department continues to support Rodgers English School, in India, and also the Sierra Leone Project.

The Community Ministries team also continues to foster a strong public awareness of the Adventist Church as a caring, Christ-centred resource in the community by providing social care. The members are motivated to use their spiritual gifts in creative ministry and engage in sustainable projects, which will encourage lasting relations and an opportunity to practice the 'Jesus Approach'.



*Elsie Staple*

Community & Health Ministries Director





## Education Department

In spite of the diverse characteristics and lifestyles of the disciples, Jesus commissioned them to be the world's teachers, and prayed that they might become unified as one in spreading the message of salvation (John 17:20). Our theme for this year, 'Education for Life', is a call for our teachers and support staff to be unified as powerful witnesses of Christ, to build each other up and work together in humility to exalt the love of our Father in the lives of our students.

Determined efforts were made last year to forge stronger partnerships between schools in the conference and SDA schools abroad. We sought to develop the spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral and social dimensions of every student.

### Performing Arts in Ministry and Education

The Performing Arts in Ministry and Education project culminated in a musical drama production, 'Mission Possible'. This was staged at the Advent Centre, and was conducted and managed by Square1 and MOCA. The aims of this project were developed as a direct response to the goals of the South England Conference's Education Strategic Plan, and were as follows:

#### REACH ACROSS

- To bring school-aged students from a range of backgrounds together to be inspired to make a difference in their schools, churches and community using their talents.

#### REACH UP

- To nurture exploration and expression of faith through the performing arts from a biblical story and the concept of God as Creator.
- To instill spiritual values and relevant links to everyday life.

#### REACH IN

- To provide high-quality, inclusive performing arts opportunities for all participants, to deepen their interests and develop their gifts in singing, dance and movement to a reasonable level.
- To complement and consolidate the National Curriculum; covering some criteria from Music, Dance, Drama and Religious Education curriculum (e.g. working as an ensemble, improvisation, etc.).
- To enhance self-esteem using the performing and creative arts as a means to encourage participants to think positively about themselves, specifically through contributions they make to the project, their community and the wider world. As one student says in the feedback: "When you are confident you are more heard in the world and the community" (Rommell, Eden School).

#### REACH OUT

- To provide opportunities for signposting participants to a range of positive spiritual and creative activities open to them locally/regionally/nationally.
- To establish opportunities for evangelism to the families of the children and the communities who come to support them, as well as the general public who may enjoy attending performances: "The play script demonstrated, in a modern way, the Nativity Story with accuracy, themed music and news flashes, along with a subtle James Bond character running through the scenes - Angel Gabriel! The play depicted how God had a plan for our salvation and rescue way back when the world, our planet Earth, became contaminated by the S.I.N Epidemic" (Sharon Small, Deputy Head Teacher, Eden School).

Further information pertaining to the Performing Arts in Ministry and Education is available in *Managing Faith and Arts: "An exploration of the intersection between Seventh-day Adventism and the performing arts"* (2009) by Marsha Morrison (née Brooks)

As a response to the Mission to the Cities Evangelism Campaign, the Education Department has commissioned Carmel Greystone Ltd/Agape Theatre Company to produce a drama production, 'Why We Believe.' The purpose of this 2-hour presentation is to focus our minds on our core beliefs as members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and prepare us to educate others about Christ.

Students at Eden School have undertaken a survey to measure their neighbour's knowledge about the Seventh-day Adventist faith. They used their findings to plan and execute an evangelism programme that includes healthy eating and lifestyles.

### Community Cohesion

Our schools have consistently catered to the needs of others by fundraising for various local and national charities. One way they do this is by hosting community events and contributing to ADRA. Over 600 people attend Hyland House School's fête each year. This year students raised funds to contribute to the Mission to Mend project in Jamaica. "The purpose of this project is for our youth to experience missionary work abroad. Hyland House School organised a concert and students and staff went to Jamaica to evangelise and run Holiday Bible Schools at three churches on the Old Harbour region. It was an invaluable experience for our children and they testify that it has advanced their Christian journey" (Mrs Gina Abbequaye, Head Teacher).

Henry Hallam, who is four years old, lives in Plymouth. He has an aggressive childhood cancer called neuroblastoma. Students attending Fletewood School donated funds from their school fête to the Hugs for Henry campaign, which was established to pay for the treatment Henry needs in the USA. More information is available at the website: [www.hugsforhenry.co.uk/donate](http://www.hugsforhenry.co.uk/donate)

Acknowledgement and appreciation of students' progress and achievements in our primary schools has blossomed into reciprocal learning relationships with colleges and universities, which have sent student teachers to us so that they can gain teaching experience in our schools.

### Provisions for Students Attending Non-Adventist Schools

Churches are encouraged to develop supplementary schools on Sundays to support primary and secondary school students in their academic work. They are also encouraged to extend this facility to children in the local communities.

One of our successful supplementary schools is run by the Slough Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church. They have organised the Stepping Stone Tuition Classes, which provide students with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus and hone and refine their educational skills at the same time. "The project started with 10 children and 3 volunteer teachers. Currently, there are 55 regular attendees. More and more families are becoming aware of the program, and a bigger location has become necessary. Parents are willing to bring their children from Reading and Bracknell, but are facing transportation difficulties. We are praying for two mini-buses to help to solve this problem" (Daniel and Mabel Amakye). The supplementary school project is also supported by Youth, Children and Personal Ministries.

In addition, churches now benefit from the expertise of a careers specialist, who provides guidance in a workshop called 'God's Calling.' This presentation has heightened students' vocational interests as they prepare for their future life, in this world and the next. Further information is available from Doreen Edwards ([doreenioneedwards@gmail.com](mailto:doreenioneedwards@gmail.com)).

### Provisions for Changes in Education

Our primary schools have begun to adjust their curriculum in preparation for the New Primary Curriculum. This will be applicable from 2014.

Since more focus is placed on scientific enquiry, schools have extended their curriculum to include a science project. At Fletewood School, "the children have thoroughly enjoyed the project and are keeping mustard cress diaries to record their findings and results. Some of the groups have already found that their predictions were incorrect, and are looking forward to finding out what is going to happen to their seeds. We have talked about caring for each other and looking after the environment God has given us. The children have planted their own plant, and will take them home to care for. The children used the knowledge they had gained from the seed experiments to ensure that the floating and sinking experiment was completed fairly. They made sure they used the same timings, same resources, same passengers (wooden people) and the same amount of water for the rainstorms. It was lovely to see that the children had gained this scientific knowledge and were able to transfer this knowledge into other scenarios" (Verity Middleton, Deputy Head Teacher, Fletewood School).

Partnerships with schools in the North Eastern SDA Conference in New York have been developed to establish an international science community amongst SDA students in the UK and the USA. When this is fully established, links with other countries will be developed.

The President's Award for Service to students who demonstrates the ethos and motto of their school has been awarded to Shemaiah N'Guessan at Eden School, Emmy Wing at Fletewood School and Tamzin Iyayi at Hyland House School. A group of students at Newbold Primary School and the John Loughborough School also received the President's Award for outstanding achievement.



#### Training Opportunities

Teachers are encouraged to keep abreast of matters pertaining to their professional and spiritual development. A Certificate in Seventh-day Adventist Educational Practice for teachers in Adventist Schools is offered by Newbold College. See the following website for more information: <http://www.newbold.ac.uk/future-students/what-you-can-study/17-academics/174-certificate-seventh-day-adventist-educational-practice.html>. The British Union Conference also continues to provide training for teachers and governors to address pedagogical and leadership matters, including governance.

This Education report is only a glimpse at the tremendous work carried out by our dedicated teachers, who are whole-heartedly supported by parents and members of their local churches. Specific information about each school is available on the school's website, and directly from the schools. See the list below for contact information:

Evershed Sports Ground, Wyke Gardens, Hanwell W7 2BJ

Established in 1995 by a group of Adventist parents in West London who were seeking Adventist education for their children in the local community. Caters for Nursery to Sixth Form, and focuses on character development, spiritual nurturing, musical tuition and the development of the creative arts alongside academic education. "The school provides good quality education" (Ofsted Inspection, January 2012). Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Osei ([info@theedenschool.com](mailto:info@theedenschool.com)).

Fletewood School, 88 North Road East, North Hill, Plymouth PL4 6AN

Founded in 1919, moved to their current premises in 1927. Ofsted Inspection July 2012 stated that the school provides a high quality of education and care. Head Teacher: Mr John Martin ([headteacher@fletewoodschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@fletewoodschool.co.uk)).

Hyland House School, 896 Forest Road, Waltham Forest, E17 4AE

Founded in 1939. "Provides a high quality of education with spiritual, moral, social and cultural development judged as outstanding" (Ofsted Inspection, October 2011). Hyland House School also provides pre-service teacher training placement for students attending colleges and universities. Head Teacher: Mrs Gina Abbequaye ([hylandhouseschool@btconnect.com](mailto:hylandhouseschool@btconnect.com)).

Newbold School, Popeswood Road, Binfield, Berks, RG 42 4AH

Founded in 1941. The school's Ofsted Inspection in May 2013 stated that the overall effectiveness of the school indicates that improvement is needed. Head Teacher: Mrs Ruth Ohman ([headteacher@newboldschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@newboldschool.co.uk)).

John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, N17 9AD

Founded in 1980, JLS became a voluntary aided school in 1998. The school closed on 31 August 2013. For queries regarding former students, staff or matters of finance, kindly visit: [www.haringey.gov.uk/jls](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/jls). For student references click Admissions. For staff references click HR. For Information regarding JLS's 'Better Different: The Legacy Lives On' Alumni Celebration and Alumni Association please visit: [www.betterdifferent.co.uk](http://www.betterdifferent.co.uk). The July 2013 HMI Monitoring Visit report is available at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/filedownloading/?id=2262165&type=1&refer=0>.



*Opal Johnson-Christie*  
Director of Education



## Family Ministries Department

### Family as a Centre for Evangelism

At our annual South England Conference (SEC) Evangelism Expo in January, we once again promoted the family as a centre for evangelism. We explored concepts of family and mission that include evangelisation of family members within our homes, evangelisation by family members of others outside our homes and family life themes as a platform for outreach programmes.

In line with the General Conference's new Family Ministry initiative, 'Family to Family', we are preparing materials to assist Adventist families in reaching out to other families with little or no experience of Christianity.

In light of the fact that marriage remains under severe attack, we have continued to invest in the training and resourcing of ministers to provide effective pre-marital support for couples. Training has been provided for ministers in supporting couples in crisis. We have also supported marriages through our 'Strength to Love' Marriage Enrichment Retreat. Twenty-five couples attended this year as we focussed on addressing the inevitable challenges that threaten marital harmony. We also continued to support districts, local churches and fellowships in their marital enrichment programming.

### Singles Adults - Socialight Ministries

Programming for single adults continues to be provided by Socialight Ministries, spearheaded by Annell Smith. 'Solofest', a day of fellowship for single adults, took place in July, with Pastor Nerine Barrett delivering an encouraging and challenging message to attendees. Workshops in the afternoon addressed the topics, 'A Biblical Formula for Meeting Your Divine Soulmate', 'Love Languages for Unattached Christians', 'Embracing One's God-Given Personality & Temperament' and 'Praying for God's Guidance'. Unfortunately, due to low numbers for the planned weekend retreat it was postponed to a spot in September 2014.

### Kids in Discipleship & Sexual Education

We also promoted Kids in Discipleship (KID). KID is a ministry designed for families that focuses on children. The goal of KID is to affirm and strengthen families as the primary discipleship unit for our children. At our annual KID training in conjunction with the British Union Conference (BUC) in May, four teams were trained.

In the area of sexual education, the SEC Family and Children's Ministry departments have worked with Heather Haworth at the BUC to produce a sexuality toolbox that is now available for local churches. We also continue to support the excellent work being conducted by Khaya Chiweshe and Isha Prince through the 'Sex and the Sanctuary' Youth & Teens retreats. The Family Ministries department has also conducted several sexual purity and relationship seminars for youth groups.

### Chapel Porth Camps & Training

Lone Parent and Family Camps in Chapel Porth once again provided an opportunity for families to experience a blend of fun, relaxation and intergenerational worship in the beautiful surroundings of the Cornwall countryside. It continues to be a source of frustration that limited space on the site prevents more families from experiencing the camp life.

We are continuing to sponsor individuals and couples to be trained to deliver family life education. Training for local leaders and pastors is being provided at SEC, BUC and Trans-European Division levels. This year, in addition to current participants we are sponsoring two new couples, one ministerial and one lay, to join the Certified Family Life Educators programme. Our long-term aim is to have specialists available who can provide assistance in family ministry in each district.

### SEC Family Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter 'SEC Family' has proved to be a popular resource, and after a break over the summer months it is now back in publication. Originally designed for our family life leaders, it now aims for a much wider circulation to church leaders in general, and is available on the SEC website. 'SEC Family' seeks to address topical issues, as well as promoting SEC events, local church events and various resources.

It has been a real joy and a privilege to travel around the SEC promoting the importance of the values that enhance healthy family relationships. Our annual Christian Home and Family Week, along with the Family Togetherness Week, has provided an opportunity for us to spend an extended period of time working with local churches. These series of meetings have been designed to be accessible both to Christians and those with no faith experience, providing an 'entering wedge' for the gospel to the latter.

As always, special thanks go to my wife Irma for her invaluable support in the presentation of our marriage retreats and in general for the many sacrifices she has made in support of the ministry. I also express heartfelt appreciation to my secretary, Anna McLarty, for her hard work, committed dedication and professional competence. I also give special mention to Heather Haworth at the BUC for all the help she has provided to enhance our ministry at SEC.

We pray that God will continue to give us the wisdom, strength, courage and power to build up the families in our churches and in our communities for the kingdom.



*Pastor Leslie Ackie*  
Family Ministries Director



# Health Ministries

## Department

'Health 4 the Whole Person' is the theme for the Health Ministries department in this quadrennium. Its objectives are to provide culturally diverse, community-oriented programmes that are people-centred. It seeks to improve and promote health and wellness across the generations in the churches and community. The outcome enables each person to be aware of their health status, empower people to be responsible for their life, achieve optimal health through preventative measures and experience positive health and wellbeing.

### Reach Up

Using health reform as a catalyst, the aim is to encourage members to form greater, more meaningful relationships with God. On health emphasis days the members are reminded that their body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and that we should be stewards of that which was given to us. It is by the promptings of the Holy Spirit that we can be empowered to glorify God in whatever we do. Another important topic is the theme of fasting and health benefits. The members are informed of the health and spiritual benefits of fasting, and the relationship of fasting to their spiritual wellbeing. With the emphasis on integrated ministry members are encouraged to experience this for themselves by attending prayer and fasting sessions organised by prayer ministry teams.

### Reach In

For the Gospel commission to be realised (specifically through the Health department) it is imperative that the members be trained. Members are given the tools to form authentic relationships with their communities. Training is an integral part of the department's vision. Much can be achieved through an empowered laity.

Empowerment involves knowledge, skills and the right attitude, all of which can be applied in practice at outreach events. It is said that there is nothing like experience. Therefore, the volunteers can speak with authority as they are empowered to take control over their lives, sharing their experiences and encouraging others. Some training has been done at the SEC School of Evangelism, where the members are given tools to help them form authentic relationships with their communities.

The following are some examples of the types of training carried out over the past year:

- Health expos & health screenings
- 'Forgive to LIVE'
- Health profiling
- Healthy eating & cookery classes
- Fitness events
- Children's expos
- CREATION health
- Spiritual gifts inventory
- Mental health first aid

The attendees' evaluation of the training was positive. Many suggestions were made, and one person even suggested that all trainees should meet again to review the impact of the training on their performance and effectiveness.

### Reach Out

This objective is realised throughout all the areas of the SEC. Health can be the right arm of the Adventist Message, the 'entering wedge'. This is demonstrated by the many health expos and health screenings organised by our churches. This enables the members to apply the 'Jesus Approach'. Jesus mingled. He showed concern. He had compassion. He was committed. He won their confidence and was always interested in their conversion.

The 'entering wedge' provides an opportunity for the Adventist Church to be viewed by others as a friendly church, one that puts Christ's mission first. The health events cater to everyone and invite all people to fellowship, making a daily difference in the community.

Health events encourage friendship evangelism, especially when there is a follow-up programme afterwards. Some comments from the participants were very encouraging: 'this is an excellent programme', 'when will you be coming again?', 'thanks for the awareness' and 'your group is very friendly and knowledgeable'.

### Reach Across

There are barriers that threaten to divide the Church family despite its endeavours to disciple and nurture. As a result, the department is encouraging everyone to do a spiritual gift inventory.

Getting all members engaged in the ministry for which they are gifted will be a great motivator and encouragement. Dionne Weekes and Marcia Mendoza are two members from the Dagenham Adventist church who are engaging the youth in health ministry. The young people who facilitate the Children's Expo are highly commended by the local government leaders, in Dagenham.

The health department is building bridges in many areas, especially in partnership with other statutory and non-governmental agencies. As the 'Mission to the Cities' initiative is in progress, many in our communities will learn about the love of Christ through the health message, and many seeds will be sown.

We hope that the work of the department will continue to expand, not only in our communities but also for the members.



*Elsie Staple*

Community & Health Ministries Director

# Mission to the Cities London 2013 Snapshots



# Media Department

This year has been another productive one for the media department. Below you will find a couple of highlights.

## Faithtalks

With productions for Revelation TV and Hope TV UK continuing, we produced and aired two 13-episode series of Faithtalks. Faithtalks is a studio program that discusses issues of faith, God and life today with an informal approach. It boasts a diversity of topics, such as faith through art, faith and single life, men and health, churches 'without walls', dealing with faith and depression, community through choir, women and faith, children's faith development, as well as the upcoming advent season with the London Adventist Choral. If you missed an episode you can find it on [secmedia.org](http://secmedia.org).

## Streaming Camp Meeting

The SEC camp meeting has become a large media production, and it grows every year to meet an ever-changing media demand. This year the department was streaming services and programs from the adult and youth programs, and continued to bless people who couldn't be on-location. More than 800 people logged into the website to watch the programs live. The department also managed the audio-visuals as well as the production of DVDs for sale after the camp meeting. The sermons are available free of charge in two formats:

1. To watch the sermons in HD, go to [secmedia.org](http://secmedia.org) under the section Camp Meeting 2013.
2. To listen to the sermon audio or download the audio files you can either use iTunes

(<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/sec-camp-meeting-2013/id725458267>) or go directly to the file at [secmedia.org](http://www.secmedia.org)

([http://www.secmedia.org/files/camp2013audio/SEC\\_Camp\\_Meeting\\_2013.xml](http://www.secmedia.org/files/camp2013audio/SEC_Camp_Meeting_2013.xml))

Light FM provides music and interviews during camp meetings, both online and streamed into the chalets. Mike Johnson runs the station with the help of volunteers. During the year Light FM continues to broadcast online every Friday night on [www.lightfm.net](http://www.lightfm.net).

This year the secmedia volunteer team lent their support to the north England conference camp meeting which was possible as it was the week prior to our own camp meeting and in the same location. It served as a nice warm up for the SEC camp meeting that followed straight after.

## SECmedia Academy

The SECmedia academy continued its training of volunteers and church members to develop their skillset in communication and media. As a direct result of this training we have experienced an increase in the news stories submitted by local church members over the past two years.

The SECmedia academy model has also been an inspiration to other conferences. Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist presented on the SECmedia academy concept and its implementation to a global audience of communicators and IT people at the GC's Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) convention in Dubai. The SECmedia academy concept was well received, and is currently being adapted to fit other conferences, including Nigeria, Australia and Norway.

## Streaming Partnership

This year it has been a privilege to once again partner with the Teens department's Prayer and Bible conferences, where the SECmedia team has been streaming the evening services. The service was a blessing to many, with an average of 60-70 people logging in to watch every night. This ministry led one teen in Reading to decide to be baptised after watching the services online. We are grateful when we can be part of people's spiritual journey.

## Other Important Updates

- More video news reports are being undertaken, to the delight of our Adventist News Network and BUCnews.
- We assisted the Trans-European Division with media support for the Mission to the Cities London 2013 project.
- We support the continual integration of social media in our news reporting and sharing of information.
- New filming of short devotionals has started, and has been uploaded to the new website under the Worship section.
- We provided technical support for the men's ministry day of fellowship.
- We are proud to support area 5's digital church plant project in Newbury.



*Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist*  
Communication & Media Director

# Ministerial & Prayer Ministries

## Department

2013 began with the Prayer Ministries department encouraging all churches to participate in the '10 Days of Prayer'. The department is convinced that prayer is the key to the success of the plans and activities of all the churches. It was refreshing to see a number of churches taking up this initiative and conducting prayer meetings throughout those ten days.

This year also saw the commencement of the 'Mission to the Cities' (MTC) initiative in London, initiated by the General Conference. The Prayer Ministries department organised a London Day of Prayer and Fasting at the Advent Centre on 24 February, which was well supported.

The Ministerial Coordinators in London came together and shared the evangelistic strategies they had in place. We spent time praying for the church plant project in Uxbridge that Area 6D were working on. Area 6B was preparing for a major evangelistic effort in October, and their plans and preparatory work were also presented before the Lord. Pastor Jonathan Barrett shared a vision of establishing an Adventist presence in Potters Bar with the congregation. A special task force was set up for this purpose, and intercession was offered on their behalf.

In July, the department organised another London Day of Prayer and Fasting, as a number of the projects were now well underway. Once again, this event was very well supported, and we rejoiced at the progress that had been made on the various MTC projects.

Prayer Ministries held their annual retreat at the Denham Grove Hotel. The weekend was full of wonderful experiences of prayer and testimonies. Dr Mike Hamilton from the TED led out, and the 'End Time Rain' website, which has subsequently been launched, was introduced. This is an initiative spearheaded by two Prayer Ministry coordinators, Karen Plumb and Jean Bohi. This dynamic website seeks not only to build on the strong leadership of Prayer and Intercession, but also to form a central point of coordination. Specific issues will be highlighted and will become the focus of prayer. Please feel free to visit at: [www.endtimerain.org](http://www.endtimerain.org).

The Ministerial department began the year by introducing church elders to the concept of the 'Mission to the Cities'. This retreat proved to be fruitful, as the elders broke into various groups to talk about evangelism. Different forms of evangelism were explored with the view of implementing these during the course of the year.

The department then held a Ministerial Couples Retreat, with a view to strengthening pastoral marriages. This was well received, and speakers Pastor and Dr Trotman shared valuable gems to help the pastors and their spouses.

Ministry can be very challenging for the children of pastors, as very often the pastor in the pulpit is a very different person to the pastor in the home. The department held another retreat where the pastors were encouraged to remove their masks and deal with the real issues that confront ministers. This was the very first Ministerial Family Weekend of Fellowship. Once again the event was successful in that ministers were challenged to be true to themselves and their families. The children of pastors expressed the need to support one another as they are often placed on a pedestal, and some become resentful of the church because of the pressure they find themselves under.

There was a frank and healthy discussion that took place among the ministerial families as Dr Alanzo Smith challenged and reminded us that the family is our first flock, which God has given us to take care of. From this weekend the children of the ministers have decided to set up a PKs (Pastors' Kids) Association.

Towards the end of 2013, the Ministerial department is preparing to take 10 pastors to the Florida Hospital, where they will be trained in Chaplaincy Ministry.



*Pastor Emmanuel Osei*

Ministerial Association Director



# Mission to the Cities

## Project

London was the direct focus for the 2013 Mission to the Cities initiative of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. After months of preparation, outreach programmes ran in Brixton church, as well as Youth Missions in several venues across London.

### A Renewed Focus On Mission to the Cities

Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference, was delighted that the focus of this outreach programme was London: "Being the largest city in our division territory, I believe the division chose London for its diverse groups of people, and we are pleased that we can give attention to the diversity of evangelistic efforts that are happening here."

The Brixton programme started with a full house on Sabbath, 5 October. The speaker, Pastor Kelby McCottry from the USA, focused his sermons on Hope. The Church put on health fairs, health expos and other ways of interacting with their immediate community. The outreach culminated in a celebration, at which five people were baptised. Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference President was delighted to take part in the baptism celebration.

Leading up to the evangelistic series, short videos and social media initiatives were set up to support the various outreach programs. Pastor Vili Costescu was tasked by the Division to ensure media coverage. During the Mission to the Cities outreach, the media team supported the events with streaming services, online support and photography, working alongside the Conference Communication and Media department to publish reports.

The youth department organised a month of programs across churches in London, with a variety of speakers from the USA. Pastor Steve Thomas, SEC Youth Ministries director, explained how the aim was to provide a place where young people are comfortable to ask those tough questions—a place where people understand what they are going through. To the delight of many youth, the Saturday evening meetings took the form of a sit-down dinner, where the attendees were served a three-course meal.

Mission to the Cities: London, is more than a month of meetings. Two long-term church plant projects in Uxbridge and Potters Bar are building up work in their communities. At the moment they are conducting research and meeting the community to discover how best to make a difference in people's lives. Volunteers have been recruited to help with the project.

### Sabbath Sofa

With so much activity some may feel in the need of rest. Providing that rest became another initiative, in addition the planned projects, taking the organisers by surprise. This is the 'Sabbath Sofa' initiative. Led by Pastor Costescu, a sofa is placed in a busy shopping area, and people are invited to take a seat and engage in a conversation about rest. This leads to an introduction to the Sabbath principle of a 24-hour rest period. With a strong social media and web presence this project is now taking off, to the delight of the leaders.

### Plans for the Future

Mission to the Cities 2013 focused on London, and the plan is to continue in 2014 by focussing on other cities in the conference. Pastor Sam Davis has encouraged the directors of the conference to run various evangelistic outreach programmes so the Mission to the Cities can reach beyond London 2013.



# Pathfinder Department

The Pathfinder Department is a unique ministry, established to equip our young people with essential life skills by providing a "church-centred, spiritual-recreational-activity programme designed for young people 10 to 15 years of age." (Pathfinder Administrative Manual)

The objectives of Pathfinders are to:

- Help the young people understand that God and His church love them, care for them, and appreciate them;
- Encourage Pathfinders to discover their own God-given potential;
- Inspire young people to give personal expression of their love for God;
- Make the number one priority of your club programme the personal salvation of every Pathfinder;
- Build into a Pathfinder's life a healthy appreciation and love for God's creation by enjoying outdoor activity;
- Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their lives more meaningful;
- Encourage the Pathfinder to keep physically fit;
- Give opportunity for the development of leadership;
- Seek to foster the harmonious development of physical, social, intellectual and spiritual life.

The first quarter of 2013 began with a Pathfinder Leadership Conference in January, a joint event with Youth Leaders from around the South England Conference (SEC). It was an opportunity for club leaders to come and share their experience, make new friends, renew old acquaintances, update their knowledge and refresh their administration skills.

## Training Events

Over sixty people attended the orientation day for the 2013 Master Guide Training programme. This event was followed by our annual Basic Staff Training (BST) programme, which included, for the first time, a residential training weekend to accommodate those who could not make the Sunday dates. This was well received, and we plan to run another residential weekend in 2014. The Children's Ministries department assisted in training by running the 'Keeping the Church Family Safe' (KCFS) programme. Every adult and young person aged 16 and above and involved in Pathfinders leadership must complete the KCFS training and have CRB clearance.

## Reptiles at Adventurer Camporee

Stanborough Park was a hive of activity for the first-ever Adventurer Camporee over the weekend of 24-27 May. The weekend began with a continuous downpour of rain, but the Adventurers and their Club Leaders continued regardless of the weather.

The theme for this year's Camporee was 'Moses: I've Got God On My Side', with guest speaker Elder Clive Palmer from the Manchester Central Adventist church. He kept the children focused with barrels of laughter, at the same time driving home the message that, no matter what the situation, we always have God by our side. Two very special visitors saw many adults keeping their distance, while the Adventurers were excited and eager to get a view of a live snake.

To the delight of the Adventurers, Sunday saw the introduction of inflatable activities, which challenged the Adventurers to use the skills in hand/eye coordination and physical strength to reach the goal. Four Honours were taught over the weekend in line with the themes: Fire Safety Fun, Reptile Fun, Honey and Geology. Comments from parents and club leaders alike were that despite the cold showers in the gym it was an excellent Adventurer Camporee, and we should have Adventurer Camporee at Stanborough Park every year.

## Pathfinder Camporee - 114 Decisions for Baptism

The air was filled with excitement and laughter as almost 600 Pathfinders, Club Leaders and other support staff descended on Beaudesert Park in Staffordshire for their long awaited camporee from 11-18 August.

Local dignitaries, including a representative from the Mayor's office, a director from Beaudesert Park and the Area Coordinator for Girl Guides, attended our opening ceremony. The theme of the week was, 'Pathfinders Today, Leaders Tomorrow', with guest speaker Pastor Abraham Henry.

The focus of this camp was to engage the children in earning Pathfinders Honours. We wanted the children to leave camp with a sense of achievement, having completed a number of Honours and learning new skills. Throughout the week, 11 Honours were taught with the help of Master Guides-in-Training, Area Coordinators and some Club Leaders.

At the conclusion of the week, 114 Pathfinders had made a decision to be baptised. Some baptisms have already taken place in local churches, and others will be baptised throughout the rest of the year and in 2014.

When we go camping we endeavour to leave something positive behind as a gift to the site. At Beaudesert Park we were given the opportunity to renovate the Garden Chapel, which had become overgrown with weeds and was not usable. Pathfinders volunteered their free time to this renovation project. Armed only with protective gloves, shovels and a few other basic tools, they cleared the Garden Chapel of all weeds and overgrown bushes and refurbished the seating areas, restoring the area.

## Pathfinder Rally & Fair

Over 900 people filled the marquee on Stanborough Park for our annual Pathfinder Rally. Space that would normally be reserved for a screen and projector had to give way to the need for seating space! Our guest speaker for the day was Pastor Abraham Henry, who was also our speaker for Camporee. Having been influential in leading our Pathfinders to make decisions to be baptised, it felt appropriate that he be present for this special event.

The afternoon programme saw the first ever baptism of Pathfinders at a Pathfinder Rally at Stanborough Park. Emmanuella Agor from Plumstead church and Andree Butts from Croydon church were among the 114 Pathfinders who had decided, at Camporee, that they wanted to be baptised. Their parents and the church board approved their baptisms to be held at the Pathfinder Rally.

It didn't stop there, though, for we have since learnt that Andree's father and brother, both present at her baptism, have since been baptised at Croydon church. To God be the glory!

## Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE)

Fifteen clubs took up the PBE challenge to study the Book of Acts, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and the introductory sections to these chapters in the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Commentary.

After the final testing stage on 2 February the Croydon Pathfinders (Team Croydon) emerged as the winning team. It was no easy victory, as there was a difference of just three points between Croydon and the next-highest scoring team. Of the 7 teams scoring in the first place category, there was a difference of 9 points between the highest and lowest score. Team Croydon went on to the North American Division finals, held in Lincoln Nebraska, USA, and did exceptionally well landing in the second place category.

Many of the Pathfinders who have participated in the PBE challenge have a story to tell of how their lives have been transformed. Many have seen their school grades improve simply because they apply the same methods to their school work that they use to study their Bible. Others have expressed their joy in studying the Bible in a way that is effective for them. Family Bible studies in homes have re-ignited, and a genuine desire to know and understand the Bible has been kindled amongst our Pathfinders.



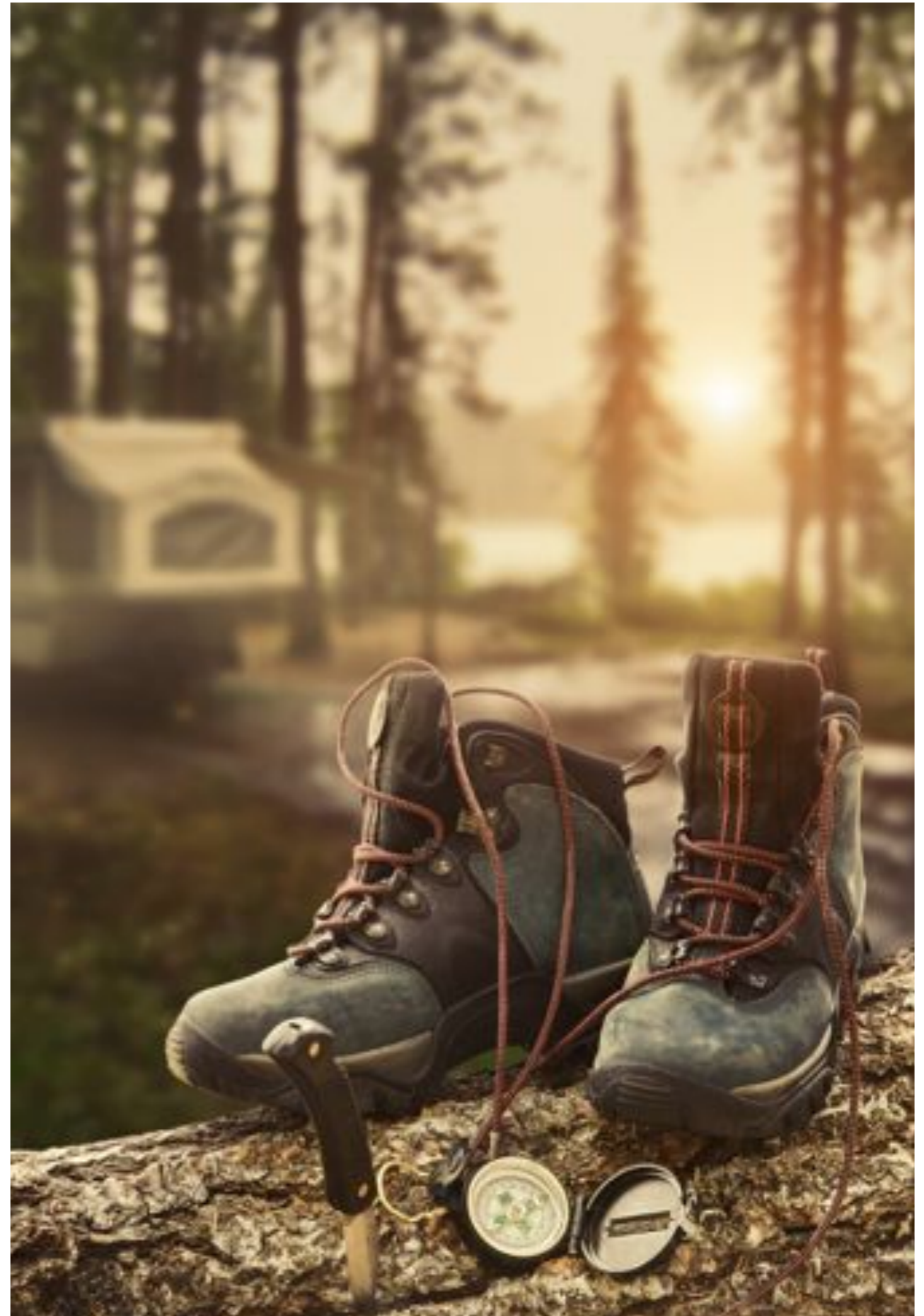
I would like to encourage all clubs who have not yet taken up the PBE Challenge do to so immediately. Churches, please encourage your Pathfinders to get involved with this event! The text to be studied for the 2014 challenge is 2 Samuel, along with the introductory section in the SDA Commentary of both 1 & 2 Samuel.

Thanks and appreciation is expressed to all Area Coordinators involved in the planning and implementation of events throughout the year, to those who worked tirelessly in the background to help make our events a success and to the catering team who make sure that SEC staff and others were well fed.

Further thanks and appreciation is expressed to the British Union Conference and the Stanborough Park School for the use of their facilities, their support and encouragement of our events.



*Pastor Kevin Johns*  
Pathfinder Director



# Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Department

The Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments of the South England Conference (SEC) have experienced tremendous blessings from God during 2013.

The text that underlines the theological philosophy and the *missio Dei* of the departments is Luke 19:10: "the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost".

The departments are driven by asking and answering three key questions: 'If not now, when?', 'If not me, who?' and 'If not here, where?'. These questions are asked to ignite a passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our family, friends, neighbours and others we come in contact with every day.

The theme of the departments is 'seeking the lost in a changing world'. The vision: "A highly trained, motivated & spirit-filled laity responding to the cross-cultural challenges of evangelising the South England territory now". The mission: "To move the Seventh-day Adventist laity and clergy of the SEC into diverse facets of witnessing, so that all can be grafted into the Kingdom of God".

During the first quarter of 2013, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School training programmes were held in the following churches: Southampton, London Asian, Bristol Central, Bristol North, Plumstead, Hanwell, Edmonton Central, Ilford and South West London Ghana. Some of the areas covered in the training were, 'making Sabbath School a place of happiness and learning'; 'motivation for witnessing'; 'planning and executing evangelistic activities'; and 'facilitating the Sabbath School Lesson to impact the learner positively'.

I conducted a series of revival meetings at the South West London Ghana church, where an entire Muslim family gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised at an SEC Camp Meeting.

## Teach 2013

8-10 March was historic, as the Sabbath School, Children's Ministries, Disability Ministries and Family Ministries came together to host TEACH 2013, at Wyboston Lakes.

The emphasis of this programme was on techniques and methods of teaching, and facilitating the process of learning and retention. The Sabbath School department was very fortunate to have the exceptional Dr Kathy Beagles as the main facilitator, who was ably accompanied by Jackie Bishop, a children's ministry specialist.

Together they modeled how the participants can connect with those they teach so that learning could take place. They were also exposed to many skills they can employ in teaching. The feedback at the end of the programme was very positive, with everyone pledging to do their best to help those they teach be inspired and encouraged.

The second quarter of 2013 was just as exciting as the first. Personal Ministries and Sabbath School programmes were held at the Edmonton, Lighthouse, Welling, South End, Plumstead and Emmanuel churches, as well as at the SEC Camp Meeting.

## GO SEC Urban Ministry Summit

3-5 May was groundbreaking for the Personal Ministries department. It was the first time in its history that an Urban Ministries summit was held. The theme was 'Knowing God's Heart for the Cities'. Its emphasis was on equipping as many of our members with the necessary tools to effectively evangelise in the cities where they live.

The General Conference (GC) was well represented through the presence of Dr Gary Krause, Director of Adventist Missions; Dr Kleber Goncalves, Director of the Center for Secular and Post Modern studies; Dr Samuel Wang, Director of Asian and Chinese Studies; and Dr Richard Elofer, Director of Jewish Studies. At the end of the programme, over a 150 participants made spiritual and physical commitments to participate in the 'Mission to the Cities' programme.

During the third quarter, the departments' programmes were held in the Slough and Hackney churches and at the Area 2 day of fellowship. I also conducted an evangelistic series with the Frimley group from 31 August-14 September. In addition, I lead out in the Week of Prayer for the Stanborough Secondary School from 16-20 September. It was a wonderful experience to see young people make a commitment to Jesus.

In the fourth quarter, programmes would be held in the following churches; Holcombe Road, Colchester, Ipswich, Basildon, Borough, Great Yarmouth, Cambridge and Filipino International. One of the blessings of spending time with the churches is hearing the many testimonies of what God is doing in the lives of men and women who are willing to be used by Him.

## GO SEC School of Evangelism

The GO SEC School of Evangelism was launched on 23 September, 2012. The Adventist Church in the SEC is a growing Church. As the Church is multiplying, it has more urgent needs than ever. Establishment of the School of Evangelism will continue to meet the following needs:

- nurturing new members to be faithful to the Lord;
- more trained leaders and members who can nurture new members;
- more leaders and members equipped to do personal and public evangelism;
- more leaders and members specialised in teaching children, youth and adults;
- more lay leaders and members to work together with pastors in fulfilling the gospel commission.

Saturday 29 June, 2013 was a landmark day for the School of Evangelism. The first students of the school were about to graduate, and what an occasion it was. Students graduated from the following cohorts: Women-to-Women Evangelism, Lay Bible Worker, Lay Bible Instructor, Church Growth and Discipleship, Health and Community Evangelism and Lay Preaching.

Dressed in their graduation regalia, 101 students marched up the isle at the Pontins site in Prestatyn, Wales, and collected their well-deserved certificates of completion. We thank God for this result.

The new school year started on 22 September, 2013, and there are over 125 students enrolled, with 95% new to the school and with a 30% increase in youth attendance. This year, the aim of the school is to organise and execute a number of evangelistic projects around the country.

## Super Sabbath School

The Sabbath School is the heart of the Church, and if the heart is sick then the whole Church is sick. In recognising this, I have worked with churches to set aside Sabbaths where Sabbath School can be emphasised for the entire day.

I was happy to be present at all of the churches that participated in this day, Bristol North, Plumstead, Hanwell, Southall, Northolt, Edmonton, Welling, Holloway, Emanuel, Slough, Cambridge and Filipino International did well in organising the Super Sabbath School. I know in the new year this idea will spread further around the Conference.

This brief report is just a glimpse into the great work that is done by these departments on a daily basis. I must pay tribute to Mavis Bramble, our administrative secretary, who works tirelessly to help these departments to be successful.

Thanks must also be given to Chucks Golding, who volunteers her efforts in the School of Evangelism. Thanks also to the many volunteers and leaders for all your help.

I close with this quote: "Radical obedience to Christ is not easy . . . It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us" (David Platt, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*).



*Pastor Kirk Thomas*

Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Director

# Prison Ministries

## Department

This year, the Prison Ministries theme has been, 'The Least of These'. This theme was taken from Matthew 25:31-46, which tells us to look out for and look after each other, even those who are perhaps easily forgotten, like those in prison.

Some of the prisons I have had requested visits from are HMP Bure, Norwich; HMP Birmingham; HMP Bronzefield, Ashford; HMP Send, Woking; HMP Belmarsh, Thamesmead; HMP High Down, Surrey; and HMP Rochester, Kent. My work has included one-on-one visits to offer words of encouragement or to be a listening ear.

I also had the privilege of being the guest speaker at the Alliance of Prison Ministries Organisations and Associates (APMOA), a Prison Ministries Convention held in Florida earlier this year. If you are interested in attending the Convention next year, which takes place in Minnesota, please contact my office and we will be happy to send you the information. My own work is merely a snippet of what goes on, so my Prison Ministries leaders from different churches have provided the stories shown below of their work this year.

### Bristol Central

We at Bristol Central church attend Eastwood Park Women's Prison in South Gloucester at least 3 times a year, and on each occasion we conduct 2 services. Before the inmates come into the chapel, we sing from the hymnal so that they are received by familiar, spiritual songs. This sets the tone and some who know the songs can sing along with us.

We have a lively song service with easy, repetitive songs. Someone from the team will give a testimony on how God has seen them through a difficult situation. This is followed by a Bible text and a special item of song, followed by an appealing sermonette. The prison chaplain was amazed by the fact that even hardened criminals are softened by the singing and leave the chapel changed individuals.

Angela Victor  
Prison Ministries Leader

### Basildon

Chelmsford prison has cleared us for visits. We have been given a trial date of 1 December, and if this is successful we have been promised 4 dates next year. We are doing this in conjunction with the Chelmsford church Prison Ministries department, who have sought our assistance in setting themselves up.

The Chatham Prison Ministry group are awaiting clearance for Stamford prison on Sheppey Island. They too sought our assistance in setting up their department. They have been given permission to start regular visits after our trial service in February. Unfortunately the clearance process takes a while. We will continue to support them as best we can.

God is expanding this ministry ahead of our plans, which means He is leading and we are following. I am encouraging as many of our members as I can to research SOVA. It will help us understand the varied needs of ex-offenders and aid us in providing good mentorship as we plan to implement it at Chelmsford prison.

Vivian Jere  
Prison Ministries Leader

### Grays

Currently we deal with the Rochester Youth Offending Prison. Our group includes a drama group, musicians, preachers and poets. We provide a service for the inmates and involve them as much as possible so that they can feel ownership of the experience.

On one visit, an inmate composed his own song about what Christ has done for him. This was greatly received and he has been advised to put together a CD on his release. Furthermore, the same inmate has expressed that he would like to record an album with the help of members of our team.

At the end of the service we leave room for one-to-ones with the inmates so that we can talk and pray with them and build up a rapport. After one service I went to pray with a young man who was crying. As soon as I asked if I could pray for him, he said, "How about I pray for you, I feel strongly impressed to pray for you." I discovered that his were tears of joy, as he had accepted Christ.

In addition, Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. is Bible study time. Around 15 young men attend the session, which is lively and exciting. The inmates open up and tell you about their struggles, while encouraging each other. It's also a time for them to talk about what God has done for them.

Other elements we organise are band performances and special speakers, including Pastor Kevin Johns, who visited in both October and November and was greatly received and appreciated by the inmates.

Finally, the group also donates praise and worship books and soundtracks for the chaplaincy, and we look forward to putting on a concert for the inmates in the near future.



*Pastor Kevin Johns*  
Prison Ministries Leader

# Stewardship Department

The Stewardship Department assists the administration in accomplishing the mission of the Church through leadership training and the education of church members in stewardship principles. More specifically, the purpose of the department is to aid in the integration of the faith walk with God in every area of life, individually and corporately.

During these very turbulent economic times, it is necessary for us to be aware of our duty to God and to the mission of His church as it relates to our stewardship. As we look at the current global recession, the chance of it affecting us becomes more apparent as the days and weeks go by, as we see firms go bankrupt and people losing their jobs. The church is not immune to this. Members are also losing their jobs, and as a result the money donated to the church to fund its mission is being affected.

The true ministry of stewardship is helping believers become disciples of Christ in the use of all the resources God has provided. This includes the management of one's body, material possessions, abilities and time. Ellen G. White states, "Every believer should be wholehearted in his/her attachment to the church. Its prosperity should be his/her first interest, and unless he /she feels under sacred obligation to make his /her connection with the church a benefit to it in preference to him/herself, it can do far better without him/her. It is in the power of all to do something for the cause of God." (Counsels on Stewardship, page 42)

## Stewardship Training

We have continued our Certified Stewardship Consultants Course, with 6 trained this year and scheduled to graduate at the end of 2013. These stewardship leaders have been trained with the specific task of disseminating stewardship principles throughout the South England Conference (SEC). Topics that were covered in the course included: Biblical Stewardship, the 21st Doctrine of the SDA; Historical Development of the SDA Giving System; Stewardship as Leadership in the Church; Stewardship in the Writings of Ellen White; Tithe & Offerings & the Role of Money in Stewardship; Wills & Estate Planning; Budget Coaching.

## Stewardship Spotlight

Stewardship Spotlight is a quarterly newsletter sent out to all Stewardship Leaders, treasurers, pastors and elders around the SEC. Each newsletter contains encouraging articles on stewardship, as well as hints and tips for better stewardship.

## 'Make Us One' Day of Fellowship

The SEC is arguably the most diverse Conference in the world, with members from nearly all of the 193 United Nations' recognised countries. We have been entrusted as God's stewards with a rich heritage of cultural diversity, which should be appreciated, applauded and celebrated!

It is with this in mind that the Stewardship department organised the first Day of Fellowship that celebrates the rich diversity of our Conference under the theme 'Make Us One'.

Members dressed up in their national costumes for the programme which began with a parade of nations, organised and led by Elsie Staple, Pastor Kevin Johns and the Pathfinder Drum Corps. The main speaker for the day was Pastor Shelton Kilby III of the Breath of Life Quartet. The original Breath of Life Quartet was also in concert in the evening at the Dominion Centre, under the theme 'Celebrating God's Gifts: The Gift of Music'.

## Tithe and Offerings Readings 2014

It is my distinct privilege and humble honour to have been asked by the General Conference's Stewardship department to write the tithe and offerings readings for the World Church that will be released for 2014. The readings are entitled 'Celebrating God's Goodness'. The forward reads:

The age of austerity has given rise to the age of anxiety, as people around the world are worried about their economic future and they see no hope.

As God's people, however, our faith must remain resolute and strong even in the ruins of a recession, for even in the midst of austerity there is all-sufficiency in the provisions and the goodness of God!

Celebrating God's goodness to us is the overarching theme for this year's tithe and offering readings. Each month we celebrate a different aspect of God's goodness as an encouragement to us to hold on and remain faithful to Him in our giving.

Remember that He will "open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And [He] will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field [ . . . ] And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts!" (Malachi 3:10-12).

Be encouraged, my friends, and celebrate God's goodness this year! The 2014 Tithe and Offerings readings can be downloaded at: [www.adventiststewardship.com](http://www.adventiststewardship.com) or by downloading the iGiveSDA app (free of charge) on your iOS or Android.

I end on a personal note, as a few weeks ago I shared with my colleagues and my congregation some news I now share with you. I have been diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's disease. I want no tears, but I need your prayers as God still heals. God still has a plan for my life and I will minister to His people until He says rest! 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me".

Keep me in your prayers and may God continue to bless you!



*Dr Richard J Lisser*

Stewardship & Trust Services Director



# Teens Department

During this past year, we have had the opportunity to plan and run different events targeted to both students and teens.

Events such as the Prayer and Faith Conference, Camp Meeting, Student Camp and Extreme Teens Camp were a success, thanks to God and the staff that selflessly gave their precious time. These events also resulted in teens making the decision to give their lives to Jesus—the sole purpose of the Teen and Chaplaincy departments.

## Prayer and Faith Conferences

At the recent Prayer and Faith Conference we had 20 teens decide to give their lives to Jesus and 36 who decided to take Bible studies. It is our hope that we have received double these numbers from the October Prayer and Faith Conference. At this conference, teens spent their time praying in groups, receiving Bible studies and life advice, as well as partaking in social activities.

Later in the evening the teens would spend time listening to the guest speaker, and witnessing to their friends and fellow teens on the good that God has done in their lives. The Prayer and Faith Conference has been a spiritual backbone in the lives of the teens we encounter, and of the staff. When we asked teens and parents to describe the conference, the consensus was that it had been life-changing.

## Student Camp

Something exciting for our students this year was our first SEC Student Camp, which was held at Chapel Porth in Cornwall. The main aim for this camp was for our students to meet each other and share their experiences of their spiritual journeys while at university. Only a student can understand the struggles and journeys of another student. Therefore, sharing and receiving advice was another main part of this camp. A bonfire brought warmth to the site during the cold Thursday evening. Amanda Brown and Natalie Lim reported that "the directness of the message and the passion behind it, as well as the spiritually uplifting music, made for a really amazing worship experience." A counsellor also commented that "it's a place to network, to focus and to prepare your mind and soul. It is a place to laugh together, to cry, and a chance to find strength."

## Extreme Teens Camp

Another important event in the lives of our teens was the Extreme Teens Camp, which was already full with applications before the payment lines were open. Teens were excited and eagerly urging their parents to call in to register.

"We spoke about turning your tragedy into a testimony," explained Amy Cornwall, a camper for the first time. "I thought that was important because you can always tell other people about the bad things that happened in your life and let them know how God got you through it."

Seven teens decided to give their lives to Jesus at the camp, with a further fifteen deciding to take Bible studies in their own local churches. Extreme Teens Camp is a place where our teens can spend time with their Christian friends and also have the chance to invite their non-Christian friends to participate in energetic outdoor activities.

## Teens Day of Fellowship

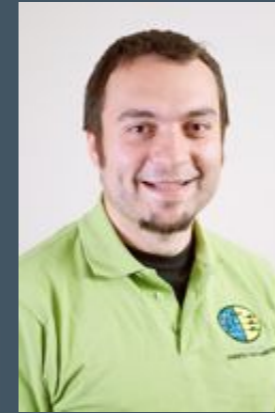
Our Teens Day of fellowship will take place at the Emmanuel Centre on Saturday, 14 December. It is a spiritual gathering for our teens, where over a thousand young people get together to worship in one place.

The spiritual development and growth of our teens is the most important part of the day. We also want our youth to see a part of the bigger picture, especially for those coming from smaller churches and the provinces. The day of fellowship will take place during the Advent season, so throughout the programme we want to send a very clear message to our teens about the real meaning of the season.

On the behalf of Teens, Chaplaincy and AVS departments, we would like to thank all the teens, parents, chaperones, pastors, elders, youth workers and teens workers who supported us through this very busy (but blessed) year.

Another big thank you goes to the administrators at the South England Conference who have found time and offered understanding and support in any means possible towards the future of our teens, students and most importantly the future of our Church.

Please keep us in your prayers for the coming year.



*Pastor Dejan Stojkovic*  
Teens, Chaplaincy & AVS Director



To keep updated with news and events and much more from the South England Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

visit: [sec.adventist.org.uk](http://sec.adventist.org.uk)





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