



BUC NEWS

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'MISSION TO THE CITIES' LAUNCHED AT SEC EVANGELISM EXPO [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]



"How many friends have you got?" A simple question from BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney

"We need to mingle with people who don't look like us", challenged Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference President. His [straight talking message](#) reached the 800 people who had found their way to the South England Conference Evangelism Expo at Newbold College on Sunday, 13 January 2013.

The focus of the day, and what drew leaders from the Trans-European Division office, was the launch of 'Mission to the Cities', an initiative originating from the General Conference. London has been chosen to be the TED city of focus for mission

in October 2013.

This evangelistic programme is a combined effort of the Division, Union, and the Conference, but rooted in the local community. With plans being made for a variety of evangelism initiatives across London, Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, TED Evangelism director, [presented the initiative](#) and was thrilled to see members getting excited and their willingness to participate in Mission to the Cities. Recognising this was a launch of the initiative, and for many the first they had



Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, TED Evangelism director



heard about it, Pastor Janos expressed that members would need more training. It is expected that local churches will crystallize the programme and make it practical for the local communities.

The day was packed with an impressive diversity of workshops and presentations aiming to motivate church members to become involved in evangelism and sharing God. Pastoral intern, Anthony Fuller, found it refreshing to see and learn from ministries such as the Watering Hole in the Southampton area.



Pastor Sam Ouadjo had arranged coach transportation for his churches as he recognised the importance of his members, and especially newly elected leaders in the churches, to catch the vision of taking the gospel to London.

Pastor Maureen Rock was thrilled to see her members catching the vision for Mission to the Cities. Mani Cudjoe from Reading found the expo had been an eye-opening experience; both in how passionate people were about evangelism and also about the opportunities available to share the Gospel.



Pastor Simon Martin set the bar high with his [morning sermon](#), recognising that "God may be missing in our culture today, but we are to make Him known." He emphasised, "We make God known when we move out of our comfort zones." Pastor Martin really challenged the congregation with his sermon and throughout the day you could hear the challenge become a consistently repeated catchphrase, "We need to make God known."



See video recordings of the main presentations by visiting the [Mission to the Cities Vimeo](#) page.

KEEPING THE FAITH – EXAM STYLE [Katie Ramharacksingh]



Five days before their scheduled exam, two Adventist students reading Business Finance at the University of Sussex, won their struggle to change a Saturday, 9:00 am exam, on 12 January 2013, to a 5:00 pm sitting on the same day.

Sharon Mensah, 20, took the lead in trying to rearrange her exam after she found out her exam timetable in early December, 2012. "It felt like a test", she explained. "But I kept saying to myself, I am not doing this exam on the Sabbath. I wouldn't change my mind. After talking to God about the situation, I knew that at the end of the day something good would come out of it."

It wasn't until Monday, 7 January, five days before the exam was due to take place, that the University told them of the decision to permit the students to take their exam after sunset.

Following protocol, Sharon had notified the Examination Office in good time about the need for her, and fellow student Nnamdi Mgbenwelu, to change their exam to a more suitable time. After asking their local pastor, Jonathan Burnett, to send an official letter confirming they were Seventh-day Adventists, they were told they could rearrange their exam and would be notified of a new date in the New Year.

Early in 2013, they were shocked when the University decided they would no longer allow the change and were told that, if they didn't take the exam as scheduled they would have to sit it in September 2013; meaning they would both be forced to graduate a whole year later, in June 2014.

During this time, while it seemed the University would not change their stance, the Brighton and Hove church, along with family and friends of the two young people, came together in prayer.

With this sudden, reverse decision, Sharon again sought the help of Pastor Burnett, pastor of the Brighton and Hove Adventist church, and Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference and Director of Religious Liberty. Together, they researched the University's Examination Handbook, talked with the Examination Office, wrote letters and eventually, over a few days, were able to speak on a senior level with the University's Assistant Registrar. This finally resulted in a positive response and they were notified that the young people could sit the exam on the same day, but at 5:00 pm, after sunset.



Sharon Mensah, pictured centre, would rather take an extra year to graduate than go against her Christian ideals.

"I learnt two things through this situation", said Pastor Burnett. "The first is that being able to do a bit of research and find out what your rights are as an Adventist is important, especially as such a large percentage of our Church is students. The second is that at no point did the two students ever say they were going to sit the exam, they spoke of graduating in 2014 as a real second option. They were willing to put their lives on hold because of their faith and that's the real story here to me."

Further advice for Adventist students facing Sabbath problems can be found on the [Religious Liberty page](#) of the BUC website.

ADVENTIST STUDENT WINS TWO MAJOR LAW STUDENT AWARDS [Frazer Ansell / Katie Ramharacksingh]



Former College of Law student, Serene Allen, has scooped two of the major law student awards in the country.

Serene, a member of the Willesden Seventh-day Adventist church, has won both the Roger Leyland Prize, awarded by leading international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, and the Nigel Asquith Prize, which is awarded by top law firm Morgan Cole.

The 23-year-old commented, "I am thrilled to have won these two awards. I am especially pleased to have won an award relating to Business Law, as it is an area I find particularly interesting. I look forward to the future and the rest of my career in law."

The Roger Leyland Prize recognises the highest overall mark achieved by a black or Asian student on the College's Legal Practice Course (LPC). The Nigel Asquith Prize is awarded to the student who obtains the highest overall mark in the Business Law part of the LPC.

All those intending to become solicitors must pass the LPC before they can proceed to the next stage of practice. Serene was a student at the College's London Bloomsbury centre, until July 2012, and scored an overall average of 86 per cent in the LPC and 97 per cent in the Business Law exam. Before this, she graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with a 2:1 honours degree, in Law.

As well as recently starting her training contract to become a solicitor at leading regional law firm Matthew Arnold & Baldwin LLP, Serene has also taken on teaching the Willesden Teens Sabbath School class – a volunteer task equally as challenging and rewarding as her law degree.

SNAKES ALIVE! [John Surridge]



On Thursday morning, 10 January Pastor John Surridge was delivering a Bible to a student from the Adventist Discovery Centre's Gift Bible project.

"You never know what to expect when you meet these students", writes Pastor Surridge. "On this occasion I walked into a room filled with what looked like packing cases, turned a corner and found myself face to face with a large, pregnant, boa constrictor!"

"Just managing to avoid any utterances unbecoming of a pastor I stuttered out some nonsense about it being a beautiful snake, and how fascinating it was to find one in someone's front room. Mercifully it was behind glass but I later found that it was regularly released to have a 'walk' around the house. Paul admonishes us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks in all circumstances, and this was one of those. Just imagine if I'd arrived during walkies!"

If you are looking for a bit of excitement as you witness for your faith why not contact your local pastor, or the [ADC directly](#), and see how you can support the Gift Bible project.

TAKING PHOTOS TO CATCH THE EYE



The first of a new series of mini-video guides is now available to help you get your church on the map. ['Successful picture publishing'](#) compresses the best of a full photography workshop into just 17 minutes.

The aim is to give you simple tips on how to take a good photograph and get it published, either in MESSENGER, BUC News, on your local church website – or even better, in your local newspaper.

"It's actually quite straightforward to take a decent photo that people will want to look at", states BUC Communication director, Pastor Victor Hulbert. "I've been running these workshops across the country for over six years now and without fail people tell me that it has given them confidence and new ideas."

One result of these workshops is increasingly better photos in the MESSENGER. However, even with a team of trainers it is impossible to cover the whole country, so these simple tips are now online and available to every church member.

Successful picture publishing is the first of a series of training videos to roll out this spring. Other titles will cover areas of News writing, How to use social media, How to get your story published in your local newspaper, and How to increase the visibility of your church in the local community.

The idea of converting the live training workshops into a video setting is the brainchild of BUC New Media Producer, Kofi Osei-Owusu. "I attended a LIFEconnect training event last year and experienced this very practical workshop. My immediate thought was, 'we need to get this out to a bigger audience'."

Is it helpful? [Take a look](#) and tell us what you think – either by email or on the [BUC News Facebook](#) page.



Knowing a few simple tricks can turn something nice into something stunning.



While longer, practical workshops are held at venues across the British Isles, a condensed video like this makes helpful, practical tips available to all.

VIEW FROM ON HIGH [Victor Hulbert]



The CN Tower, formerly the world's tallest building, provides lessons of trust. Click on the picture to listen to an audio journey.

The Shard, Western Europe's highest building, opens to the public on Friday, 1 February 2013. This week the news media got a sneak preview of the stunning views from the 95-story building (72 habitable floors) that has changed the skyline above London Bridge station.

I've enjoyed the view via [the Shard website](#). I'm not sure I can justify the £24.95 for the quick journey up the viewing platform 300 metres (984 feet) above London. However, it did remind me of a similar journey I took during the 2000 General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada, as I climbed what was then the

world's tallest building, the CN Tower. It is worth the nostalgic experience to [listen to this archive recording](#), courtesy of Adventist World Radio. Warning: If you suffer from vertigo, take a seat before you listen – and discover how even man's architecture can teach us a lesson about God.

READER RESPONSE



Among the reader responses to last week's article, ['So who was Alan White?'](#), Laverne Wharton noted that the BBC making a mistake about Adventists gave an opportunity "to proclaim to the world who we are and who God is." He correctly emphasised that we need to "see the opportunity to evangelise not to be 'subtle' my brethren."

Barry Gowland also wrote that he had experienced similar mixed messages to that of the young man mentioned by the author, Pastor Peter Jaynes. Barry wrote: "When reading Pastor W L Emmerson's book 'The Bible Speaks', I would from time to time come across a quote from someone listed simply as 'E G White'. Having never heard of such a person before I seem to have – quite naturally – assumed that 'E G White' was a man!"

Barry then went on to make the larger point that Adventists tend to have an 'Adventist-speak' only understood 'in-house', even in some of our publications intended for the general public.

Other comments on the [BUC News Facebook page](#) referred to extra postings regarding Irish church members who host a Friday night programme on a local community radio station, condolences to the family of Ken Hammond, a well-loved lay-leader of the Adventist Church, and a commitment to give to the [charity mid-winter kayak trip](#) being headed by the BUC Communication department.

If you have comments you want to make you are welcome to email, or share them on our Facebook page.

DEATH OF PASTOR RONALD JOSEPH EDWARDS



We are saddened to announce the passing of Pastor Ron Edwards who died on Monday, 14 January 2013. Born in Cape Town, South Africa on 23 September 1937, Ron had his schooling at Helderberg College where he studied for a BA in Musical Evangelism and came to England following graduation. Following work in the accounts department of the South African Embassy in London where he met and later married Sandra (née Jarvis) in 1965, he later worked as a partner in a diamond business after which he went to Newbold on a special graduate programme and entered pastoral ministry in the South England Conference in 1987. Ron and Sandy have one son, Jason who lives and works near Bristol.

Ron and Sandy served church districts in the SEC and then for three years (1993-1995) Ron served as the Albanian Mission Director, before returning to the SEC where he served until retirement. Ron was a kind and friendly pastor and it was difficult for Sandy when he was found to have Alzheimer's. They continued to be as active in church life as this allowed until recently when Ron became ill and required hospitalisation.

We remember Sandy and Jason at this time of their separation and pray that the hope of the resurrection at the second coming of Jesus will be their support and strength.

Details of the funeral will be posted when known.

PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Our programme highlights for the coming week:



On [Revelation TV](#) (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): **Faith Talks** returns with discussion and debate surrounding issues central to the Christian faith. Join the debate Thursdays 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 1:00 pm.

On **Hope TV** you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and [website](#). Next week's schedule includes the following UK produced programmes among its much larger international output:

Friday 18 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [What kind of God?](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why is Christianity so divisive?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: What kind of God?

Sabbath 19 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: What kind of God?,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why is Christianity so divisive?

Monday 21 January: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Sonia Clarke Swaby](#) – Past sadness turns to hope and achievement,

9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Why should Christians care for the environment?](#)

Wednesday 23 January: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Christians and Politics](#),

11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Reinder Bruinsma](#) – From a windmill to a leader and thinker

Friday 25 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Why did Jesus have to die?](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is religion good for children?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?

Sabbath 26 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children?

COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit www.adventistevents.org.uk



100 YEAR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE: It is just 10 days to go until BUC Communication director, Pastor Victor Hulbert, Welsh Mission President, Pastor John Surrige, and two lay-members launch their kayaks down the almost frozen River Wye in a mid-winter fundraising challenge. Your support has already raised 20% of their goal. In the 100th anniversary of Ingathering, help them to help the villages in Burkina Faso who so desperately need the drinking water that we have a surplus of. Visit www.justgiving.com/100-years, or donate by texting WYER77 £5

to 70070.

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