



# BUC NEWS

## Edition #814 (1 February 2013)

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

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### WINTER KAYAKERS LAUNCH ADRA 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



*Starting the day at Ross-on-Wye, left to right, Jon Meredith, John Surridge, Victor and Tim Hulbert.*

Heavy rain melted snow into a rapidly rising river. A strong headwind pushed waves up into the faces of the kayakers; one had a serious capsized and had to withdraw. Yet at the end of an epic rush down the River Wye, a smile of satisfaction appeared on the weary faces of the four-man team.

"It was much more difficult than I was expecting", reported the youngest team member, 27-year-old Tim Hulbert. An experienced outdoor adventurer, he especially found the buffeting headwind to be a particular challenge.

Perhaps it was the sympathy factor from those donating from the comfort of their warm living rooms, but the winter fundraiser on Sunday, 27 January 2013 far surpassed its £1,000 goal. At the time of going to press the total stood at £1,688.25 (including Gift Aid).

During a welcome pull-in at the side of the river, Pastor John Surridge, President of the Adventist Church in Wales, explained that "while we have an excess of water here, villagers in Burkina Faso have just the opposite." Looking at the buffeting waves on the fast moving river he added, "It's hard to imagine life over there right now but that is why we are doing it."

There is no need for imagination, either for the kayaking trip or the benefits of the money raised as a short [BUC News video report](#) highlights both activities.

The money will assist in building eight wells in remote villages. The double benefit of this initiative is that not only do the villagers obtain safe drinking water, but the girls of the villages will no longer have to walk up to eight miles to collect the water – meaning that they have a chance to go to school and gain an education.



*Tim & John carefully shooting the rapids at Symonds Yat*

"The four of us all love kayaking and the outdoors", explained Victor Hulbert, Communication and Media director at Adventist Church Headquarters. "With 2013 being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of British



*Surprised hikers watch the kayakers shoot by on the final stretch towards Monmouth.*

Adventists collecting money for humanitarian aid around the world, we wanted to do something different to launch the celebrations with a bang!"

The Ross-on-Wye to Monmouth kayak is just the first of hundreds of fundraising events that will take place across the British Isles during 2013. A special ADRA edition of MESSENGER, published in March 2013 will highlight the fascinating history of collecting for what

was originally World Wide Advent Missions, the forerunner to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

"This was a great fundraiser to start this special year", enthused ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit. "I loved how the team turned their passion for the outdoors into a way of helping others in need. I know our church members and am convinced that the passion seen here will explode in the myriads of initiatives that will give ADRA their best fundraising year ever."



*Flying the flag for ADRA.*

With stiff muscles and aching bones the whole team agree, among them Carmarthen church member, Jon Meredith. As the expert on the water he worked hard to ensure everyone was safe. "It was a really tough day. I was really exhausted, but it was so worthwhile."

Watch the stimulating video report on the [Hope TV UK](#) website, find out more on the [activities of ADRA](#), or specifically donate to increase the total of the [Wye kayakers here](#). A [picture gallery](#) is also available.

## 'REAL' WINTER CAMP FOR NEC PATHFINDERS [Alan Hush]



*Steve Bull (left) and Ron Lawrence (right) lead out in the Peak District 'snow camp'.*

Winter Camp took on real meaning for the ten brave souls who ventured out into the white wilderness of the Peak District in search of adventure, ambition, and the Pathfinder winter camping honour.

The expedition, over the weekend of 26-27 January, was led by Steve Bull from Grantham, assisted by Ron Lawrence, an old friend of the North England Conference Youth department.

Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Pathfinder director, jokingly stated that he was praying for a minimum of six inches of snow. While many would not recognise this as a gift from God, Pastor Hush decided that the Lord rained down manna from heaven in the form of ten inches of the cold white stuff on Friday night.

After morning devotions the group set off to climb Win Hill, enjoying the stunning beauty of God's creation, returning later that afternoon all present and correct – if a little cold. The tents did not fare so well. Two were damaged by the weight of the snow, and even the gas stoves for cooking were running a little below par as the fuel had nearly frozen in their containers.





Pastor Hush commented that these experiences go a long way in developing personal growth and leadership abilities for those who serve in Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs across the Conference.

Everyone enjoyed the weekend which will become a regular feature for the North England Conference. The group are planning to meet again in February and March in order to complete the six night's winter camp out requirements for the Pathfinder honour.

### WAKA WAKA WESTON STYLE [Joneanne Nash]



When Alva Gallaher, deacon and Junior Sabbath School assistant read the Waka Waka Appeal in the 12 October 2012 [MESSENGER](#) he asked the children of Weston-Super-Mare church if they would like to help. There was an enthusiastic response.

All the boys and girls eagerly got together and over two months found various ways of raising funds. Donations of their pocket money, sales of their own arts and crafts along with sales of collected donated items resulted in the children presenting a total amount of £238.50 to ADRA.

A child at heart, Pastor Wayne Erasmus offered a big and sincere thank you to the boys and girls of Weston. He told them that, "Now that the cost of a lamp is only £10, your efforts mean that twenty four more families can live safer and their children study longer."

### INDIAN-THEMED EVENING RAISES OVER £2,000 FOR STOP INTERNATIONAL [June Coombs]



Watford-based charity STOP International raised over £2,000 thanks to an evening of Indian food and 'entertainment', and an auction of promises attended by 80 people.

STOP International was founded by Kish Poddar, a teacher at Stanborough School in 2000 and helps children in orphanages in Tamil Nadu in Southern India. During the evening founder Kish outlined his next humanitarian project. Next summer he plans to set up a sewing room at the Vocational Training Centre in one of the orphanages he helps. Asking for volunteers to accompany him, including paying their own expenses, he was pleased to note a positive response from some of those present.

The fundraising evening at The Stanborough Centre, Watford, on Saturday evening, 26 January, was organised by Pat Walton. She is one of the trustees for STOP International.

Following the meal and some spoof 'Bollywood-style' dancing, there was an auction of promises. This sparked some lively bidding for 15 lots including: 5 hours of gardening, an Indian meal for six,



gliding, a spring clean, theatre tokens, sailing in the Mediterranean, a handyman offer, website development, a week in north Wales for 6, private tuition, decorative plates, birthday cakes and an antique coffee table.

The evening concluded with a final repeat 'Bollywood' performance – where guests paid extra to see some members of the organising team join the performance. This raised both a further £90 and cheers from the audience.

### **LONDON GHANA TRAINING DAY [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]**



More than 150 people came to learn how to serve their churches better as the London Ghana church hosted their fourth annual training event for elected officers on Sunday, 27 January.

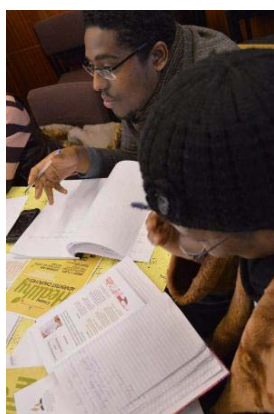
This year for the training was opened to all churches in London Area 6C. From Church Clerk and Elders' training, to Communication and Women's Ministries, the day covered the range of local church departments.

This is an intentional initiative according to Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, pastor of London Ghana church. "Members want to learn how to fulfil their role so they can serve their church", he explained. "I have in previous years, seen how the tasks in the church are better performed, as a result of this type of training received at the beginning of the year."

Local pastors took a lead in teaching the workshops, and were joined by Pastor Eglan Brooks from the British Union Conference, and Pastors Øster-Lundqvist and Bahadur from the South England Conference. The training inspired other pastors to contemplate the impact it may have in their own church. "I am thinking of doing something like this in my district", said Pastor George Dadey. "Members wanted to learn how to fulfil their roles in church."



### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS – NORTHERN STYLE [Peter Jeynes & Workshop Participants]**



Communication Secretaries, Pathfinders and representatives from other departments of the church met in West Bromwich to learn communication skills on Sunday, 27 January 2013. The aim was to acquire or develop skills in writing articles for publication in both the Seventh-day Adventist press and local media.

Conducted by Pastor Peter Jeynes, North England Conference Communication director, the 17 attendees from the Birmingham area learned the kind of questions they should ask to create a story as well as a simple procedure to develop a relationship with a local journalist. These attendees compiled the information to write this news article.

Another group of attendees recognized that the event helped in personal development and a greater knowledge of the role of a Communications Secretary in a local church.

Pastor Jeynes asked each of the attendees to create an article based on a recent Natural Church Development training using different sources from that event. The result was that the trainees were able to create articles suitable for publication.

The North England Conference Communication department will repeat the training in several areas across the Conference and develop more training on photography, website operation and presentation skills. For more information please contact Pastor Jeynes at [pjeynes@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:pjeynes@necadventist.org.uk) or phone 0115 960 6312.

## **KRISTOF FINDS GOD** [Mphathisi Ncube]



Kristof Linke is Polish. He came to Bognor Regis eight years ago in search of a job – but found much more.

When he arrived in England he was just your average Polish immigrant. He described himself as "just someone who used to drink and smoke without a care in the world." However, despite his Catholic background he found himself searching for more – including a search for a church.

Kristof's search took him online where he stumbled across a presentation on the Ten Commandments. It was different from what he had been taught back in Poland. He read through the Bible until he got to the part about the Sabbath. As soon as he saw that he knew the Sabbath was true.

He stopped working on Saturdays. An Adventist work colleague and good friend, Phil Ducasse, found out about this and the questions Kristof was asking. Phil excitedly introduced Kristof to Portsmouth elder, Andrew Chenge, and to Pastor Robin Lewis.

Andrew began studying with Kristof and says, "One thing that amazed me with Kristof is that every time he came across something new in the Bible he follows it to the letter."

Kristof says, "no one witnessed to me or knocked at my door. It is God who led me to this new found truth and I am not looking back."

Kristof is one of nine candidates baptised at Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath, 26 January 2013. His testimony is special, but so is that of six teenagers who were baptised with him – partly as a result of the South England Conference Teen Prayer and Bible Conference.



*Kristof was joined by 8 others, including 6 teens who made their choice for Jesus at the recent SEC Teens Prayer and Bible Conference.*

SEC Teens director, Pastor Dejan Stojkovic was there to witness the joy on their faces. He encouraged the candidates that they made a good choice. He stated that "as you grow spiritually you will start overflowing with the love of Jesus which you need to share with people you come into contact with."

Portsmouth pastor Tihomir Zestic and former Portsmouth pastor Robin Lewis officiated in the baptism.

## **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 1 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Iona and Worship](#),  
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is God a moral monster?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Iona and Worship

Sabbath 2 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Iona and Worship,  
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is God a moral monster?

Monday 4 February: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Paul Lee](#) – Singing for life,  
9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [End of Life Choices](#)

Wednesday 6 February: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Sabbath Rest](#),  
11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Pansi Katenga](#) – Privileged to serve

Friday 8 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Iona and Worship](#),  
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is God a moral monster?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Iona and Worship

Sabbath 9 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Iona and Worship,  
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is God a moral monster?

**COMING EVENTS** For a full listing of Coming Events please visit [www.adventistevents.org.uk](http://www.adventistevents.org.uk)

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