



17 August 2017

To: All SEC Lay leaders, Elders and Communication Secretaries

Office of the President
25 St John's Road
Watford WD17 1PZ
Tel: (01923) 232728
Fax: (01923) 250582
Web: sec.adventist.org.uk

Dear Elder,

We were blessed to have participated in and enjoyed the 'Reform-a-Nation' programme put on by the BUC last weekend.

I recently met with Pastor Kavaloh to discuss the way going forward for our religious liberty strategy. He shared with me some of the issues and challenges to faith especially to Christians. We are beginning our plans for a Religious Liberty Conference which promises to be revealing and riveting, with some senior human rights speakers. That is planned for 1st - 3rd December, venue to be agreed. Allow me to share the following link;
http://pjsaunders.blogspot.co.uk/2017/07/justine-greenings-transgender-proposals.html?utm_content=bufferb2470&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&m=1

The European Commission published on 26 April 2017 the 'interpretative communication' concerning EU Working Time Directive (2003/88/EC) and in it highlighted among certain aspects Sunday as the 'normal day of rest in half' of the Member States. The European Sunday Alliance (ESA) was delighted that the question of Sunday had been taken up in the communication.

In continuation of the series of presentations at the Advent Centre, Dr Brighton Kavaloh's presentation will seek to update us on this ongoing Sunday issue which in recent years has gathered momentum particularly in the light of Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty (TFEU) which provided the legal basis for an "open, transparent and regular dialogue between the EU institutions and churches, religious associations, and philosophical and non-confessional organisations." He will also demonstrate that based on Daniel 2:43 prophetic axiom "they shall not cleave one to another", could infer that Brexit may not after all mean Brexit from a religio-legal perspective.

I am please to report to you another initiative to engage the local community.

In consultation with Malika Bediako, Keriann Greene has informed us that every Wednesday at Holloway Church a 'Haven Café' is run as part of their weekly services to the community. 'At the Haven Café they provide support and help to any member of the community. They offer health checks, massage, assist the community with household needs, Immigration advice, clothes, food and someone to talk with when they feel isolated, alone or just in need of a friendly chat. They have been operating for over two years and since our opening every Wednesday people have been able to walk into their café and find help when they need it most. On Sunday, 27th August they will have an Open Day where they will exhibit their services and launch new programmes such as the food and clothes bank and their youth services. I am attaching a flyer for your information.

Pastors and Elders, I need to address a matter of utmost importance with you. I do know that we have broached this subject with you before and as Churches are now approaching the point of the year where the election of Officers for the coming year is undertaken by Churches. In keeping with Child protection rules, you are required by law to be CRB

Checked. If you do not possess a CRB certificate then you should not be elected to serve in areas where you would come into contact with children or the vulnerable. As leaders of the church, this is a mandatory action.

Please pray for the Croydon's Men's Ministry Retreat where they will be addressing very sensitive topics which affect our spiritual, and social lives. This retreat takes place on 25th – 27th August at the De Vere Horsely Estate Hotel.

For the purpose of promoting and supporting UK talent It's time that we started singing songs based on our own experiences created by writers within the UK Seventh-day Adventist community – songs in accordance with our beliefs and a songbook that our congregations can utilise. The solution is to produce material we know to be true and which gives opportunity for our own writers and arrangers to showcase their gifts.”

The project will kick-off with “New Songs to Sing” workshops at the North Wembley Church over the weekend of 18-20 August. Registration is £50 for the weekend of sessions, meals, and materials. Full details are online at www.secmusicskills.com

Leading the workshops will be renowned Seventh-day Adventist writer, Gale Jones Murphy, who has numerous songs published in various US and worldwide publications. Some UK churches are using her song, “Sabbath Rest”, as a prelude to worship. For more details contact: Mike Johnson, 07757 816316.

A reminder that on November 18th there will be a joint departmental day of fellowship under the theme 'In His Image'. The Women's, Family Life, Disability, Diversity, Men's, Music and Youth departments are working together to host this day of spiritual upliftment, praise and worship, discussion and learning towards Restoration. The venue will be Walthamstow Academy, Billet Road, London E17 5DP. Everyone is welcome! We are encouraging all churches in the London area and beyond to come together for this day of celebration, praise, thanksgiving and worship.

Please remember to share details of the ASNA Carers Respite weekend from September 29th - October 1st at Jury's Inn Oxford. All unpaid carers are encouraged to attend this weekend to receive spiritual, peer, emotional and physical support. To book a place and to receive more information contact: Sophia Nicholls at snicholls@secadventist.org.uk

Stanborough Press will host the annual Press Open day at their headquarters in Grantham on the 3rd September 2017. Please follow the link.
https://drive.google.com/a/stanboroughpress.org.uk/file/d/0B6ht4r6stMf6UGFCTnd2TkREZ0U/view?usp=drive_web

If you have significant stories for next week's edition to share with the constituency please send them to News@secadventist.org.uk

Let us continue to pray for the work of the church, remembering Pastors, spouses and workers who need our prayers in your corporate and personal devotionals.

Warmest regards,



Dr Emmanuel Osei
President
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE