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EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN THE UK & IRELAND

BUC
NEWS



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Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland
For additional and updated news and a full listing of coming events visit our website:
www.adventist.org.uk

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WIDOW'S MITE, MIGHTY FOR ADRA



There may be just a few days left to raise funds for the essential work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Annual Appeal. ADRA-UK is helping people who live in poverty and distress and those who are out knocking on the doors are getting a welcome response.

Collectors from Clapton Adventist church found tears in their eyes after visiting the home of a very fail old lady who, one volunteer reports, could hardly could hear us. "I kept talking, smiling and shaking the tin and showing her the pictures of the children and she informed me that she had nothing to give and that she was very sorry. I said 'thank you and Jesus

loves you'."

However, that was not the end of the story. "After about 10 minutes we saw this same old lady hurrying towards us with a very visible limp. Cupped in her hands were copper coins, which she was so excited to put into our tin. She told us that she had looked around and found this small change and

she had to give this to help the children in need. This astounded us and we remembered the story of the woman with the mite and understand how Jesus felt."

Four volunteers from Stanborough Park church faced a cold night collecting on Thursday, 4 April. Between them they collected over £125 in just over an hour. Faced by a door displaying the 'No Cold Calling' sticker one of our collectors was about to turn away when the door opened. Explaining they were collecting for charity the occupant replied 'I know collecting is tough so I will make a contribution anyway!'



From Scotland we heard: "We have been going out three times and there is plenty of money out there. What a pity more of our people don't get involved!"

Enthusiastic collectors on the Isle of Man report that the collections are going well and that they hope to reach their £10,000 target. This is £2,500 higher than last year but local publicity is spurring them on their way.

These are just snippets of the action happening with collectors all across the British Isles. With just a few days remaining to collect from door-to-door or to make a personal contribution to ADRA's work, why not take the challenge, make a difference, and share the joy these volunteers have felt. [The Annual Appeal](#) concludes on 14 April (21 April in Greater London).

[Bert Smit, CEO ADRA-UK]

THE DAY THE DEVIL LEFT YARDLEY – TO ATTACK IRELAND



"She had the friendliest smile when I picked Danielle and her friends up at the airport. Little did I know that underneath the warm exterior lay a cruel, heartless character intent on bringing others down by loading them with heavy burdens..."

In real life, Danielle is a student in Birmingham who studies accountancy and finance. She is an active member of the Yardley

church in Birmingham and together with her very close friends, Charlotte, Sherone, and Kia they began an outreach group, *Transparent Truth*. They do a little bit of everything, from singing in care homes, to meeting people on the streets. But on Thursday, 28 March, they flew to Banbridge in Northern Ireland to



participate in a gospel concert with a difference.

The Banbridge church was raising money for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency [ADRA] as part of their Annual Appeal fundraising drive and with the help of Maureen Gatharia (a close friend of the Banbridge church who also happens to have a beautiful voice) they had invited vocal artists Kia Curtis (from Birmingham) and Elisa Alvarez (from Cardiff) to present an evening of gospel singing and drama. Danielle, Charlotte and Sherone acted in the drama.

Pastor Weiers Coetser states, "It was a remarkable rendition of themes from the first four chapters of a well known Christian book, *Steps to Christ*. It featured a character who was



laden with baggage, real baggage - heavy suitcases, bags and pouches that became more and more and heavier and heavier as time went on. There was no need to carry all this baggage, but the Devil, persuasively played by Danielle, somehow convinced the other lead character that there was no other option but to carry the burden alone. As the play went on the tension became palpable as awareness slowly dawned that Jesus could remove these burdens and that it would be possible to live a much more carefree life. Of course, this caused the Devil to redouble its

efforts to keep the character in submission. Everything ended in a climactic and heart wrenching finale."

After the event, Stephen Cooper, director of ADRA Trans-Europe director, remarked that "this presentation should be seen by others. The girls from the Yardley church are very talented." Mr Cooper had attended the fund raising event to help raise awareness of the work that ADRA was doing across the world. He had brought copies of John Arthur's book *A Man with a Mission* with him to sell. The audience was titelated by some of the stories that were recounted in this book and many copies of the book were sold. Kia also sold copies of her CD, [My Exodus](#) which is also available online.

Banbridge is a small town with a warm heart. The concert, attended by both church members from across Northern Ireland and local Banbridge residents raised about £300.00 in donations for ADRA.

"The Banbridge church continues to seek ways to engage with the community on a basis of friendship, and helpful service. We really enjoyed the visit by these girls, but we are slightly relieved that the Devil has made its way back to Yardley shortly after her appearance in our congregation," says Pastor Coetser.



[Weiers Coetser]

NEW LOOK: IMPROVED MISSION FOR BUC NEWS



BUC News is expanding its news reach with more content on the [new Adventist website](#) and a shortly to be released, new look style for the newsletter.

"We have been working on the new, integrated website for many months now and a better news sharing mechanism is an important part of the new site", states BUC Communication and Media director, Pastor Victor Hulbert.

"One of the important features of the new website is that we can include regional stories that before we did not have space for. Many of these stories may not make it into the newsletter – but they are still important to share as they can engage and inspire other congregations."

A prime example of this is a story posted on the [North England section](#) of the website on Wednesday, 10 April. It shared the joy of the baptism and witness of children in the Loughborough church. "It is a lovely testimony," Victor states, "but before we really could only include baptisms if they were incidental to another, larger story. Now we can share this good news with a bigger, worldwide audience as well as with local and regional congregations."



In the last week Ireland has posted articles on a small [Youth Day of Fellowship](#) and [a wedding](#). Good stories and a positive witness in their own right.



A further advantage of the new service is the ability to easily share the news via social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

There is an advantage for Communication directors across the British Isles and for the editorial team as well. Thando Mlalazi, who has been working on the format of the news pages over the past months, explains that the newsletter and the news on the website are now more closely tied together. "Someone in the Scottish Mission or the South England Conference can now upload a news article on their own section of the website. That will appear there, be immediately available to the BUC News editor, and can also be more easily seen by those in other parts of the country."

Convergence is the name of the game in news reporting. The new website should now provide BUC News readers with a better service while at the same time reducing the total number of hours taken to edit news by the combined news teams at Conference, Mission and Union level. A test newsletter should go out today and it is hoped that the new look news will become the regular format from next week.

[Victor Hulbert]

TEENS 'TRIUMPH OVER FEAR' AT PRAYER & FAITH CONFERENCE



Teens attending the Thames Valley Youth Federation's Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC), 1-5 April 2013, were challenged to submit their fears to God during the weekend themed, 'The Triumph Over Fear'.

Held at the Pioneer Activity Centre, Shropshire, 70 teens came together to worship, pray and discuss their faith. Alvin McQueen, speaker for the week, explored topics such as 'Media Manipulation' and 'Bible Truth', covering many important issues that affect Adventist teenagers.

"This is my second time here, at PFC, as a leader and I'm also here as a parent", commented Clarissa Cupid, from the Slough Adventist church. "PFC is very uplifting, my daughter has been attending for the last four years and I have seen such a change in her attitude and her spiritual life and I just wanted to be part of it."



During the week, the young people looked at special role models and their advice on triumphing over fear. This included Nelson Mandela, who said, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is he who does not feel afraid but he who conquers that fear."

The young people gave inspirational testimonies of how God has worked in their lives. Many were left in tears as they witnessed the power of God for themselves or through someone else's experience. At the end of the week, 20 out of the 70 attendees decided to give their lives to Christ, deciding to move forward to baptism.



The discussions across a variety of topics were beneficial, as they allowed every teen to ask questions that they would not feel comfortable asking anywhere else. There was even time set aside for outreach, taking part in group activities and revision for exams!

"I'm not surprised by the baptismal decisions of the young people", said Dejan Stojkovic, pastor and Teens director at the South England Conference (SEC). "The Prayer and Faith Conference continues to be a life-changing experience for teens in the SEC. Those who experience it once know that our young people go home changed. I believe that every teen should have the opportunity to experience the Holy Spirit and God working in their lives."

A selection of pictures is available on the [Adventist picture gallery](#).

[Katie Ramharacksingh with Zee Sayi]

ARE YOU LEADING? WHO'S FOLLOWING?



Local leaders in the Leicester Central Adventist church are now focused on increasing levels of expertise following a day of training led by Denise and Max Williams on Sunday, 7 April.

The training focused on models of leadership and ways in which effective leaders should operate to increase levels of expertise and the quality of experience, when church leaders work together within departmental teams, to achieve set goals successfully.

Denise and Max are active members of Leicester Central and additionally have a wealth of experience as leaders in their own professional lives. Denise is the Headteacher of Isebrook SEN College in Kettering, and Max, Chief Inspector of Northamptonshire Police Force.

The day of training was prefaced by a devotional session led by Elder Thulani Thebe who spoke of the disciples who learned their trade during a period of 3 years with Jesus, just as most of today's students complete degrees over a period of 3 years. Yet their training did not end there, as they were to enjoy lifelong learning and continuing professional development.

Participants were asked to reflect on what an effective leader does through influencing groups of people to be motivated to sign up to achieving goals successfully. It was also noted that sometimes leaders think they are marching forwards with a great vision, but when looking behind them, sadly no one is following in their footsteps. It is crucial for a leader to know that their influence is effective and how people are following this influence, along with the ultimate affect this makes.

Models of leadership were explored such as the coercive, authoritative, affiliative, democratic, pace setting and coaching, and how they might be applied in specific situations and circumstances. There was also the opportunity for leaders undertaking the training to consider their own personal preferences, tendencies and characteristics. Trainees enjoyed exploring their own individual characteristic results that would determine what type of individuals they were and how this affected their productivity, creativity, ability to be organised and devise clear cut strategies: or whether they were mavericks operating on a higher cerebral level! Trainees were asked to reflect on being aware of how their own personal qualities as a leader might affect their human interaction with the teams they would lead and the degree to which team tasks could be accomplished successfully.

The conclusion of the training pointed towards the need for leaders to have emotional intelligence and the use of emotional competencies to engage with groups of people in their organisation to achieve strategic goals, successfully. This is particularly important when leaders are dealing with church officers who might be enthusiastic beginners with low levels of competence – but highly committed, or a disillusioned learner with low levels of competence or commitment, or even a capable but cautious performer with moderate to high competence – with variable levels of commitment, and the church officer that is a self-reliant achiever with high levels of competence and high commitment. A leader needs to find the appropriate way in which to support these different individuals with their different skill sets.

Discussions also explored situations where a leader may want to delegate, but is still to be held accountable for ensuring that a task was completed successfully. Further discussion covered issues

related to the avoidance of the tendency to shed responsibilities under the guise of delegating to team players further down the chain; as this has its own consequences, that may not lead to the highest levels of productivity.

Pastor George Kumi, summed up the training day by quoting from Romans 12:11 counselling church leaders by saying they should be 'not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.'

[Philip Herbert]

SEC 'STRENGTH TO LOVE' MARRIAGE RETREAT



Anthea Davis shares her personal view of a recent marriage retreat. It seems her marriage is secure!

What do you expect from a marriage retreat? I certainly was not sure! I was hoping for a chance to spend time – away from cooking and cleaning – with my spouse and learning something new. I got all that I wanted and a lot more besides.

On the weekend of 22-24 March, in the picturesque setting of Hellidon Lakes Hotel, Daventry, twenty couples gathered for a weekend of marital enrichment.

The atmosphere that Pastor Les Ackie and his wife Irma created was warm and open, giving the opportunity for us to ask questions and discuss points. Les and Irma set the tone for the weekend by being open about some of their real struggles as a couple, whilst showing that it is possible to have a highly successful marriage despite the challenges. The presentations had been meticulously researched with relevant advice and practical approaches to marriage in the 21st century. Our sessions included 'Anger Management', 'Forgive to Live' and 'The Spirit of Love'.

One point I took away from the weekend was that we as individuals are responsible for our own emotional well-being. It is not for our spouses to make us happy but rather to love us, hoping that happiness will be the result. This point generated a lot of discussion amongst the group, which for me, only helped to make it more real in its application.

There was diversity in the age groups of those attending and varying lengths of marriages. Couples ranged from being married six months to twenty-five years. It was really encouraging to see so many positive examples of happily married people. Communal meal times (with a stunning view) gave us the opportunity to get to know other couples and discuss our common challenges and hopes for the future.

Added extras for couples included the spacious rooms, a pool and a steam room. A real highlight was the banquet on Saturday night, where we all laughed and laughed 'till late into the evening, listening to the stories of how couples came together. Many couples had the moment memorialised with pictures taken by Greystone Carmel.

By Sunday morning, even with around six inches of snow outside, we all stayed to the end of the programme. I hope and pray that the blessings we received over the weekend in worship, fellowship and instruction will help to keep the frost out of our marriages for many more years to come.

NOT PLURALITY BUT HOSPITALITY



How do we translate the gospel to a pluralistic world – a world content with coexisting in parallel, secular and religious communities though with little meaningful and reciprocal contact? This is the question that greeted a room (the Smith Centre) packed with attendees from the Newbold community and beyond, Tuesday, 9 April 2013.

Dr Mike Pearson, Principal Lecturer at Newbold College, presented the last of a series of lectures hosted by the Diversity Centre this academic year (2012-2013). His talk was originally prepared for and presented to a group of Adventist theologians at the Middle East University in Lebanon – a setting acutely ripened for discussions on The Gospel and Pluralism given its heightened and sometimes inflamed geopolitical-religious context. However, the talk was felt no less apropos for Tuesday's audience given its own rich, multicultural context.

Dr Pearson prepared the ground by telling three stories (parables) that highlighted the complex nature of sharing one's beliefs. We often share them using superlatives as though the superlatives were in and of themselves objective facts when, indeed, they are statements of subjective commitment. For instance, 'my wife is the best in the world'. We often lose sight of perspectives – people often see the same things from a different angle. We often share without feeling and listening – although churches are often in the middle of a community like the cathedral next door to the market place.

Dr Pearson then traversed the contours of philosophical contributions to the discourse of religion and pluralism – secular: Hume, Feuerbach, Freud, Nietzsche, and Wittgenstein; and Christian: Hick and Knitter. Their postulates served only to show the intricate and nuanced challenge facing Christian witness.

So, what are the implications for Adventist witness within Christian pluralism? Do we witness from the standpoint that we are like the NRSV, the newest, final and purest translation of the Gospel? Or are we like L'Académie française (the French Academy), which seeks, officially, to preserve and promote its own (translatable and sometimes untranslatable) French language?

There are implications for Adventist witness within Adventist pluralism too. Adventism is a broad spectrum where some people believe that their position along the spectrum is superior to others. Some scholars do not even speak to each other because of this. Is the Sabbath enough to hold us together?

Finally, Dr Pearson left us with some suggestions for a way forward. I will note some. We shouldn't domesticate or compromise the gospel when we share. There is something unique about the way it arises out of scripture. We shouldn't buy into the pluralistic argument that all truths are equally the same. If this were so, then what is there to argue? We are each called to indwell our story, ie let it live in our plausible local culture. If we have a personal story, it has to be our own story – not a karaoke of someone else's, or one that has a tag, made in USA. In interfaith dialogue we should not be seeking to agree with each other, but be challenged by each other.

This was a provocative presentation, which was evidenced in the discussion that followed. One attendee remarked, "I was taken by the suggestion that we shouldn't be well-adjusted to plurality but accommodative to hospitality." This is a hospitality where the Christian is ever poised to take strangers in and as we welcome and feed them be mindful that they are bringing the gift of themselves

and therefore be prepared to listen and receive. For this is what Jesus did. It seems then that culturally, at least, we need to claim back and rehabilitate the spirit of hospitality.

[Gifford Rhamie]

COME DINE WITH ME – RAW



Eleven guests crowded into a small Bracknell kitchen on Sunday, 7 April for a delicious two hour demonstration of raw food. Various ladies from the Newbold church community had asked about raw food after sampling 'raw mince pies' at a Christmas festive function. As a result, Luisa Hulbert opened up her home and showed how eating raw is both healthy and tasty.



"You need to listen to your body", she said, noting also that a jump to more raw food in the diet should not be extreme. "Balance is important – and in northern climates, particularly with the extended winter we have just had, some hot, cooked food is also important."

The ladies enthused over the raw lasagne – based on courgette, nuts and various vegetables. "Delicious", exclaimed one sceptical participant. "This is not what I was expecting. This tastes fantastic." Other recipes during the evening included a breakfast of raw porridge of flax seed, apples, banana and cinnamon, and a tasty dessert of raw chocolate mousse and nut cream.

Luisa knows from personal experience that a change towards more raw food in the diet is beneficial and is looking forward to attending church to see if husbands and children are also glowingly radiant from what the wives learnt.

"This was a great eye-opener", enthused Johannie Gungadoo. While keen on healthy eating for her family, she now wants a further demonstration, probably in Newbold church café, to allow more people to participate.



[Newbold Church Communications]

UNRULY GUESTS INVADE DUBLIN CHURCH



The atmosphere was electric at the Ranelagh Seventh-day Adventist church in Dublin on Sabbath, 30 March as the church welcomed some unique and special guests. Every neck was craned, and some children's mouths were wide open as two one week old lambs were introduced to the church during a communion service that would remain imprinted in members and visitors' memories for a long time.



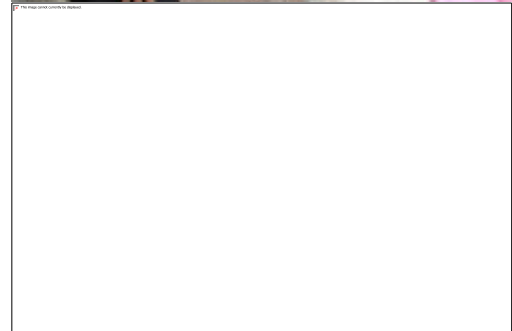
The two lambs, who, according to pastor Stephen Wilson, were very cute, but did not behave all the time, were visiting to illustrate the story of the feebly ill man by the Pool of Bethesda. He was hoping for a miracle in the swimming pool for 38 years and knew he had little hope. Ironically he was so busy looking at the water to see if it swirled that he did not notice the lambs outside on their way to the temple. Little did he realise that in their story there was a deeper meaning, a symbol of a Saviour that he would soon meet face to face. "The two lambs reminded us of Jesus the lamb of God, the hero of the

book of Revelation and how important it is to look to Him, and not to the empty promises of the world."

The Ranelagh church hospitality extended to the lambs during the day as children were encouraged to bottle feed them.

It was a busy day for the church. Members and visitors shared in a fellowship lunch and in the afternoon they celebrated the baptism of Glaucio Barbosa Quadros. Originally from Brazil, Glaucio came to know Jesus in Dublin. He shared how the pleasures of the world lost their flavour when he came to know Christ.

Glaucio lost his job and confused his friends but is so happy to declare to the world that he chose Jesus. The



Brazilian community in Dublin welcomed him warmly into the Adventist church and continue to share their faith passionately with their friends.

[Stephen Wilson]

PRAYER MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



Balham Adventist church, London, was the venue for the latest Ministry of Healing and Prayer (MOHAP) day retreat on Sunday, 31 March 2013. Attendees, mainly from the South of England but with some travelling from as far as Scotland and the West Midlands.

Paul Lee's rhythmical tenor voice, led minds to focus on Christ at the start of the day. Pastor Simon Martin's devotional centred minds on the lame man at the well. He emphasised that Jesus knows our condition and what it takes to make a difference in our situation and He also challenges and encourages us to take appropriate action. One attendee gave his account of healing from cancer and several others shared their testimony of how God strengthened them through their period of illness.

BUC Health Ministries director Sharon Platt-McDonald outlined the reasons for depression, recognising the signs and taking the appropriate interventions for managing depression. Angelle Muller shared a God-centred nutritional approach to well-being and the impact on the whole body.



The inspirational praise, worship and testimonies section was enthusiastically led by Fen Braithwaite. Pastor Andrew Fuller encouraged people to pray in twos for each other's needs. In the afternoon Pastor Jonathan Burnett provided an opportunity for quiet meditational prayer. The anointing service enabled individuals to have one to one time with a pastor, in a very reverent atmosphere.

The next MOHAP day retreat is on 26 May 2013, at Newbold church. Please see www.mohap.org for any queries telephone 07407 692 256.

[Janet Hamilton]



LIGHT FOR SHELTER – LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

In the midst of the ADRA Annual Appeal, the 12 April Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland leads with an update on the WakaWaka lights in Burkina Faso. Julian Hibbert reflects on language – following criticism from a new member, and a new Q&A column takes your questions on Bible topics. Pastor Ian Sweeney reflects on 'Persecuted'. We discover about Reformed Adventism and catch up with six pages of local news. [Read it online](#) or pick up a copy from your local Adventist church.

[Julian Hibbert]

PROGRAMME CHOICES FOR THE WEEK



Programme highlights for the coming week:

On [Revelation TV](#) (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): **The Journey** returns with five new programmes starting Thursday, 11 April, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 14 April at 1:00 pm. The first in the new series visits Portugal and reflects on the Great Lisbon Earthquake in ['When disaster strikes'](#).

Next week, 18 & 21 April, in **'The Sanctuary'**, a New Year hunt in Dorset sets Victor Hulbert's mind working on how two people can have very different reactions to the same event.

For internet radio listeners: Fridays at 8:00 pm, **'My Song'** with Mike Johnson, online at www.lightfm.net. Two hours of your favourite songs from across the decades. Send your requests/dedications to radio@lightfm.net.

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 12 April: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [The Angel Song](#),
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why is Christianity so divisive?](#),
Midnight: The Journey: The Angel Song
Sabbath 13 April: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: The Angel Song,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why is Christianity so divisive?
Monday 15 April: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Petula Peters](#) – Social Anthropologist,
9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [King James Bible](#),
Wednesday 17 April: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Organ Donation](#)
11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Terrence Blackman](#) – Life in the city
Friday 19 April: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [When disaster strikes](#),
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is religion good for children?](#),
Midnight: The Journey: When disaster strikes
Sabbath 20 April: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: When disaster strikes,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children?

[Victor Hulbert]

COMING EVENTS

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit <http://adventist.org.uk/events>

With the ability to display posters, and the increase in the number of Coming Events, this section of the newsletter is now fully updated online and is the best source of events either in your own area or in another part of the country. Select your region for events nearest to you. You can also share events important to you on your Facebook or social media profile.

SMALL ADS

JOB VACANCIES. **Executive PA**, Trans-European Division office, St Albans. Closing date, 18 April 2013. **KS2 teacher**, Dudley House School, Grantham. Closing date, 25 April 2013. For full details and all current vacancies visit our [job vacancies page](#).

REQUEST FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS. Do you have the ten volume set of The Bible Story by A S Maxwell and/or My Bible Friends? A family would like to buy them to use with their children. Please contact Viv Vine on 01933 275922 or email josephineanne@talktalk.net.

THE SMALL PRINT

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to bucnews@adventist.org.uk and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text or [submitted online](#). All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <http://adventist.org.uk/events>. Small ads should be sent by email. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you

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