



BUC NEWS

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FINDING A GOD TO LOVE AT TEENS' CONFERENCE [Katie Ramharacksingh]



"When we're in storms Christ isn't oblivious to what's going on, He knows what we need and before we call Him He will answer - that's the God I'm trying to get you to fall in love with." These were the encouraging words from Pastor Roger Bernard, speaker at the half-term Teens' Prayer & Faith Conference, 18-22 February 2013.

Stanborough Secondary School, Watford, was bursting with 13-18 year olds, attending the South England Conference (SEC) Teens Department's twist on a Prayer & Bible Conference. With 200 young people on site, and another 100 viewers watching the live evening programmes online, it was an amazing week of powerful speakers, presentations and active teens.

"I am here as a musician at P&F Conference and I have had a ball. It's been amazing the spiritual healing that has happened. Even personally, for me in my life, I've been listening to the sermons and it's made me think about myself as a person and how I want to get closer with God", remarked Courtney Hoilett, from Plumstead Seventh-day Adventist church.

An online viewer, during the online chat, shared that she had been watching the programmes during the week and on the last night decided she would be speaking to her local pastor about getting baptised.

Amongst a week of sermons, praise, worship and prayer, the teens were able to study, socialise and get active. One competition, set by Earl Ramharacksingh, SEC Treasurer, challenged the teens to 'Survive for a Year on £6000 at University'; the team that came up with the most realistic budget won iPod Nanos!

Speaker for the week, Pastor Roger Bernard Jr, Executive Secretary of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, had previously worked as a Youth director. He spoke directly to issues that affect young people today. He touched on several topics such as not getting bogged down with

relationships that take our minds off God, our treatment of others, and he painted a picture of a God he wants us to "fall in love with".

"The highlight of the week, for me, was seeing the amount of young people that stood for baptism", enthused Pastor Bernard. "It's a wonderful thing when you see people surrendering, really giving their hearts to God.... They've made a step to show not just the world but their parents, their churches, that they are serious about their relationship with God."

[Book now](#) to save your place at the Prayer & Faith Conference, 28 October - 1 November, places are going fast!

NEWBOLD BIBLE CONFERENCE: FOCUS ON PROPHECY [John Baildam / Bjorn Ottesen]



Fifty participants at an all-day Bible Conference travelled from as far as Wales, Scotland, the Midlands, London and the North of England to enjoy five thought-provoking presentations by lecturers in the Department of Theological Studies at Newbold College of Higher Education.

Dr Philip Brown, Principal, opened the conference on Sabbath, 9 March. It was a follow-up to last year's successful inaugural venture.

The first speaker was Dr Aulikki Nahkola, Principal Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Languages, who presented the topic 'What is Prophecy?'. She explored who the prophets were, what their task was, and why they were needed. She noted that prophets do not necessarily foretell the future, but rather pronounce truth for their own time through visionary preaching.

With attendees wondering how Dr Nahkola's thinking might relate to the Church and Ellen White, Dr Michael Pearson, Principal Lecturer in Philosophy and Ethics, then spoke on that very topic, namely 'Disturbing the Peace: Ellen White, the Prophecies and the People'. His doctoral research examined the Church's attitudes to aspects of Ellen White's writings. Of particular interest was his exploration of historical context and our response in 2013.

, Principal Lecturer in Systematic Theology, spoke for an hour without notes on the subject 'Transformed through His Promise of the Second Coming', empathising with those who describe and experience 'spiritual pain' as they await the second coming of Jesus. His paper was underpinned by references to philosophers such as Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Hume, Voltaire, Leibniz, Hegel, Goethe and Sartre.

Pastor Gifford Rhamie, Lecturer in Pastoral and New Testament Studies, presented 'The Prophetic Voice: A Lived Reality'. This enabled participants through group discussion and formal lecture to think through a balance between giving appropriate pastoral responses and providing prophetic leadership to the challenging demands of our Church community and beyond.



The final paper was given by Pastor Bjørn Ottesen, Lecturer in Pastoral Studies. He examined in practical and often humorous terms our attitudes to Ellen White through his contextualising presentation 'Rediscovering Prophetic Roots'.

Participants noted a clear thread running throughout the day with regard to our reception of the writings of Ellen White. Bisser Stykov and John Baildam took advantage of the coffee breaks to interview a number of attendees, some of whom had also attended last year's conference.

All those interviewed expressed delight with the organisation of the day and the presentations and had clearly benefited from what they had heard. Edited clips of these interviews will be available on the College website at <http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference> this week.



Several participants had not been back to Newbold for almost 50 years and were excited to find an expanded campus boasting a vibrant academic community – they even commented on the delicious lunch which far surpassed anything served up in their day!

As is often the case, the closing question and answer session, hosted by Dr John Baildam, Deputy Principal, provoked unpredictable questions and provocative responses from each of the five panel members.

A number of visitors are keen to attend [Newbold College of Higher Education](http://www.newbold.ac.uk) either as regular students from this coming September or as participants in the published summer programme – and many are already looking forward to the 2014 conference.

GHANAIAN WOMEN BUILDING FAITH THROUGH PRAYER [Grace Mansah-Owusu]



Women all over the globe celebrated international Women's Day on Friday, 8 March. International Women's Day has been celebrated for over 100 years.

London Ghana church was no exception as it celebrated Women's Ministry Day of Prayer the preceding Sabbath, 2 March. The platform party comprised inspirational women with strong messages – and all wearing the same women's ministry printed Ghanaian traditional cloth.

Women were at the forefront of the day, conducting songs for the church choirs, interpreting, preaching and reading scripture. This day showcased the skills and talents of the church's women.

The message 'Building faith through prayer' highlighted those who have had struggles in the Bible but overcame them through faith and prayer. The whole congregation could relate to this message. In the afternoon a presentation and discussion took place about keeping a happy home, and sharing and discussing Biblical teachings on family life. It was an inspirational and interesting day.



USA, MAKE WAY FOR THE CROYDON PATHFINDER TEAM! [Katie Ramharacksingh]



Croydon church's team of Pathfinders won a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the North American Division 'Bible Bowl' finals, after an exceptionally close win at the Conference level finals of the Pathfinder Bible Experience, on Sabbath, 2 March.

"I was excited to be a part of the experience and fascinated at how the stories of the experiences of Paul and the Apostles unfolded", enthused 14-year-old Andy Butts, a member of the Croydon team. "At times I felt very stressed, as I did not quite know how to manage my time and effort between my schoolwork and my studies for the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). It wasn't until I stopped

focusing on the competitive side of the PBE that I truly started to enjoy the studies and my schoolwork and my PBE studies became effortless."

Held at Stanborough Secondary School, Watford, the afternoon was centred around a tough but friendly, two-hour competition that included 13 teams of Pathfinders from Adventist churches across the south of England. The teams were tasked to learn the entire books of Acts and 1 and 2 Thessalonians, as well as the introductory sections to those books in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.

"The idea to hold the event came out of a desire to see our children studying their Bibles again", explained Pastor Kevin Johns, Pathfinder director at the South England Conference (SEC). "As Pathfinders we usually do lots of physical activities, but here we wanted to help their spiritual development and specifically improve their knowledge of the Bible. I came across the 'Pathfinder Bible Experience', at our global Church headquarters, and really believed in the initiative."

A couple of examples of the types of questions asked were: "According to Acts 16:6, where were Paul and his companions forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the Word?"* and "According to the SDA Bible Commentary, page 113, since ancient times, by what title has the book of Acts been known?"**

Despite the difficulty of the questions, there were only three points between the winning team and the runners-up from Hounslow Cornerstone church. "The Bible challenge was a challenge alright!" commented Chevonne Ndebele, a Pathfinder from the Hounslow Cornerstone church. "However, it was a great experience and I had to learn the books of Acts and Thessalonians. Initially I found it hard to understand what I was reading but, as time went on, it became clearer.... I am glad I took part because I had a blast and would love to do it again."

The winning team now looks forward to competing at the global finals in Lincoln, Nebraska this coming April. They will be the first team to compete representing the UK.

"What a wonderful opportunity", expressed Pastor Sam Davis, SEC President. "I was very pleased to be part of the PBE as the quiz master and very thankful I was not sitting on the other side! I know how brilliant these guys are, very talented and they've put in hard work. I'm confident they'll represent themselves very well as they go to the USA."

* Asia; ** The Acts of the Apostles

THE WALTHAMSTOW CHALLENGE [Sylvester Davis]



The 8 – 11 year old boys outshine the men!

Walthamstow men had a challenge. It was a big one but the men of Walthamstow accepted it – perhaps not realising what they had agreed to. It shouldn't be that difficult surely?

The challenge was for 22 men of the church to stand in front of the rest of the church and recite the longest chapter in the Bible, Psalms 119.

Our local pastor, Mohan Abbadasari has always encouraged the church to commit scripture to memory and his daughters regularly recite scripture during the Divine Service. For instance, Monica age 13, recently recited Hebrews chapter 11 as well as Revelation

21 and 22 and her sister Christina, age 8, shared Psalms 91.

Pastor Mohan noted that he didn't see many of the children in our church reciting multiple scripture texts and felt that as parents we were limiting our children to repeating only one or two verses. He decided to throw out the gauntlet.

What better example than to have the men of the church, the spiritual heads, learn and recite scripture in church. What better encouragement did the children of our church need?

Back to the challenge. The chapter was divided in sections of 8 verses and shared among the men. They had 4 weeks to learn their verses. This seemed like a very long time until as men we started to learn the verses. Speaking to many of the men after 2 weeks had gone by, it was evident that this task was not as straightforward as it first seemed. It seemed that age was playing havoc with their ability to retain the texts.

On the day of the challenge, the men all met around the back of the church and you could see the pain on some of the faces as they struggled to remember what they had learnt. Silence abounded as the men went over their verses in their heads.

I am glad to say that we did it. For some it was a struggle and others a breeze. Some men had a tough time because not only did we have to learn the texts but we then had to recite it in front of a congregation of 200. Nerve-wracking!

Christopher Peynado said it is such a wonderful chapter. Head Elder, Joe Lindo said that he finds himself still repeating it now whilst going about his duty. Rohan Alexander, another of our elders said it was tough but very rewarding and hoped we could do it again.

Following the challenge for the men, Pastor Mohan challenged 8 young boys, aged between 8 and 11 to recite Revelation chapters 1-3. The boys did so well that they outshone the men who had gone before.

Roz Parson and Darren Johnson said the boys were excellent and now the pressure is on the women. The next challenge (and they may only be discovering it as they read this article) will be for our ladies to repeat Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7).

There is a serious point. Memorising scripture focuses the mind, sharpens the intellect, and gives positive messages to reflect on while going about the tasks of the day.

ST DAVID'S DAY WITNESS AT YSTRAD MYNACH [Miriam Wood]



The daffodil, national flower of Wales, is seen in profusion on St David's day.

It is not every day that someone asks, "Would it be all right for me to come to your church on Saturday?"

The conversation began on a street in Cardiff when Luna (her chosen British name) from China and Ystrad Mynach church member, Leslie Wood, were waiting for the crossing lights to change. She explained to him that she is an International Journalism student on a one year MA course at the University and he told her that he is studying music. Luna asked if he would be the subject of a short film for her studies and they arranged an appointment to commence filming the following Sunday.

Luna and her Chinese friend Daisy (her chosen British name) met with Leslie and his wife Miriam at a Welsh Chapel in Cardiff to film him playing the organ and then be interviewed about his music studies. Hearing that he plays for a congregation every Saturday Luna was keen to come to church to film him, hence the request.

Sabbath, 2 March proved to be a special day for Ystrad Mynach Adventist church. Alvin Fielding presented a celebration related to St David's Day, albeit one day late, and Luna was able to film. The congregation joined in singing Welsh hymns, listened to Brian Watkins repeating the Lord's Prayer in Welsh and singing a Welsh solo. Miriam Wood, dressed in Welsh costume, also sang in Welsh. The

enthusiastic singing carried over into the main service when a group of church members sang together and the congregation enjoyed singing further hymns.

On Sabbath afternoon Leslie and Miriam were able to go with Luna to visit Llandaff Cathedral where she was able to see the very beautiful organ on which Leslie is privileged to have lessons.

Luna was delighted by the welcome she received at Ystrad and enjoyed discussion on aspects of Christian belief during the day.



WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE? [Luibov Milis-Hopa, Librarian]

Reading is not dead. That is clear from students at Stanborough School who took up the spirit of the World Book Day with enthusiasm and excitement!

On Thursday, 7 March 2013 local students and a group of visiting students from Spain participated in a specially adapted version of the quiz, 'Who wants to be a millionaire?'. Categories included: Bible, Literature, History, Geography, Science, Stanborough Library and General Knowledge.



Boys outshone the girls on this occasion taking the first three prizes but the girls are quite determined to claim the first place next year! While the three winning teams received their prizes, all students received a book token. St Albans Waterstones bookshop set up a table in the Assembly Hall to ensure that all students had an opportunity to exchange their tokens for a 'World Book Day' free book.

After lunch Stanborough students opened their books and enjoyed an uninterrupted hour of reading. And why not? A book is like a wallet. You don't know what's inside until you open it!

PRAYING FOR PAKISTAN



Church members in Pakistan are asking for special prayer following violence that erupted on Sabbath, 9 March 213. According to *Asia News*, at least 160 houses, 18 shops and two churches, one Catholic and one Seventh-day Adventist, were burnt.

Samuel Nazir, Communication director for the Pakistan Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church reports that the protest, in a Christian neighbourhood of eastern Pakistan's Lahore, was related to a blasphemy row. Local media reported that protestors turned violent over derogatory remarks allegedly made by a young Christian against the Prophet Mohammed in a Christian neighbourhood in Badami Bagh area.

There were no casualties as members of the Christian community, including women and children, had left the area on Friday evening after police advised them to do so.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church and the pastor's house were both burned. Pastor Afzal Bhatti – an Adventist pastor, was able

to get out unharmed although his spectacles and mobile phone were both snatched from him. However, Nazir reports that the pastor, his wife, two daughters and son are in shock.

On Sabbath afternoon, they reached the Pakistan Union office where they are being cared for and supported spiritually and emotionally. Physically they have more of a challenge as they have lost almost everything including their home and all their belongings. Roughly fifty other church members, as well as Christians of other faith communities, find themselves in the same situation.

Bhatti and his wife, Parveen, returned the morning after the riots to comfort and pray with affected community members. Now the family have begun the process of rebuilding their lives by purchasing necessities for work, study and ministry.

The Pakistan Union has [posted some pictures](#) of the results of the riot and are pleading for your prayers. For more on this story visit the [ANN website](#).

GETTING YOUR STORY PUBLISHED



The current Journalism Tutorials being produced by the BUC Communication and Media department are proving to be a success. Justin writes, "Thanks for the great tutorial on how to write news stories that you put on YouTube. I watched that recently!" Justin has now had an article published in BUC News.

But how do you get your church profiled in your local newspaper? Pastor Peter Jeynes has specialised in this area, both as a local pastor and now as North England Conference Communication director. He believes, quite rightly, that getting your church mentioned in your local paper, or on your local radio station, helps raise the profile and awareness of your church in the local community. That then gives opportunity to raise the profile of the God we love and serve.

Quoting real examples of the success that he and other church members have shared, the latest video focuses on practical tips to get your story out into the broader community surrounding your church.

You can find part three of the BUC journalism series: 'Get a story published in your local paper' on [YouTube](#) or via the [Communication page](#) of the Adventist Church website.

DEATH OF JOHN WILLIAM GEORGE BARNARD



We are saddened to announce the passing of John William George Barnard on Friday, 8 March 2013, aged 81.

Born on 27 November 1931 in Rawalpindi, at the time, in the Kashmir area of Northern India, he came to England in the late 1950s and enrolled at Newbold College. He graduated with a BA in 1962, married Marion Daly in 1963 and completed an MA and BD at Andrews University in 1964 and 1965.

In August 1965 John and Marion commenced many years of service at Stanborough School where they jointly worked in the boarding school until 1972 and John taught in the secondary school, continuing as a teacher until 1993. From 1994 until his retirement in August 1999 John continued to serve the school as Registrar and Librarian.

Many young people have been influenced by this quiet man over the nearly four decades of his involvement at the school and we share in the loss at his death. John and Marion had no children and John is survived by cousin Diana Scott and second cousin John Barnard (Jnr).

The funeral service will take place at the [Stanborough Park church](#), Watford on Wednesday 27 March at 9:30 am followed by an interment open to everyone at the North Watford Cemetery at 11:00 am. Donations to ADRA requested in lieu of flowers.

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY HIGHLIGHTED IN LIVE HOPE CHANNEL PROGRAMMES



With a Global Youth Day across the Seventh-day Adventist world on Sabbath, 16 March, two special one hour live programmes will air on Hope Channel.

In a web exclusive, a one hour European perspective on Youth Ministry will take place live from the Voice of Hope studios in Germany starting at 3:00 pm. You can watch the broadcast using the following link: <http://www.hopechannel.de/tv/livestream-global-youth-day>. By clicking to 'like' the content in Facebook you will create a direct reference to the stream and allow more youth to enjoy the programme.

The second programme will air from Sydney, Australia between 7:00 and 8:00 pm on Hope Channel Europe (and all other Hope Channels worldwide). Tune in via satellite or [online](#) to watch this inspiring presentation.

Other 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 15 March: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Why did Jesus have to die?](#),
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Teens and Faith](#),
 Midnight: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?
 Sabbath 16 March: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?,
 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Teens and Faith
 Monday 18 March: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Garth Anthony](#) – Consummate storyteller,
 9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [What is truth?](#)
 Wednesday 20 March: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Is technology good or bad?](#),
 11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Michael Lattibadare](#) – Growing from abuse
 Friday 22 March: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Iona & Worship](#),
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is God a moral monster?](#),
 Midnight: The Journey: Iona & Worship
 Sabbath 23 March: 9:00 am: The Journey: [Iona & Worship](#),

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

Due to changing formats on our website, the possible inclusion of posters, and the increase in the numbers of Coming Events, this section of the newsletter will now be fully updated online and is the best source of events either in your own area, or in another part of the country. Please note: The Coming Events web page is still under some development and date order is still a bit of an issue. However, this should be resolved over the next few days. Select your region for events nearest to you.

SMALL ADS

TEACHER NEEDED: Stanborough Secondary School. **Modern Foreign Language (French) and Female Games Teacher Key Stage 3 and 4** needed for September 2013. The closing date for applications: 16 April 2013. See our job vacancies website for more details on this and other vacancies.

CAN YOU HELP 'SCHOOL BY THE SEA'? An Adventist language school known affectionately as School By The Sea in Kołobrzeg, Poland, urgently requires somebody who can teach conversational English for a period of 3 months, for approximately 20 hours per week, commencing immediately. Housing is provided together with a stipend. There are two other student missionaries, so you will not be alone. The students are great! The local church is fine, too. Unfortunately, the School is unable to cover the cost of a plane ticket. Check out the School's website: www.schoolbythesea.pl<<http://www.schoolbythesea.pl>>. If you are interested, or require additional information, please contact the School's director, Tom Sulej jan-3-16@tlen.pl<<mailto:jan-3-16@tlen.pl>> or apply via the [Adventist Volunteer Centre](#).

THE GREAT HOPE VIDEO PROJECT Evangelistic project bridging the age gap between 14 to 70+. The Stanborough Park church AV team undertook this task as a way of promoting the Great Hope project – a GC-led initiative for the world Divisions to promote/distribute copies of the Great Hope (abridged version of Great Controversy) in any format of their own choice. Church members and friends were invited to take part in reading a portion of the book and be filmed doing so. In the end, more than 50 people took part – not all church members – with an age range of 14 to 70+. Videos are now available to the general public on <http://Vimeo.com/stanborough/videos>. Please contact the AV team at spcavteam@gmail.com if you would like to request these videos on a DVD format or you have a query. This product is not available for sale.

A LIVE-IN CHILD MINDER needed immediately in the Binfield area, Berkshire to look after our 3-year-old son. He starts nursery at Newbold School (a walking distance from the house) this April. For more details please contact Oster on 07825270057 or milambo@btinternet.com.

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. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <http://adventist.org.uk/events>. 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 identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk>.

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