



20 April 2017

To: All SEC Lay leaders, Elders and Communication secretaries

Office of the President

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Dear Elder,

The fast pace in which British Politics is moving is quite staggering, and we must not allow ourselves to be left behind or overwhelmed at whatever our leaders are doing. We were all surprised earlier this week with the snap General Elections called for the 8<sup>th</sup> of June by the Prime Minister Theresa May, and just today Parliament voted by 522 to 13 to formally fire the starting pistol on the election campaign. Many people may be fearful as to the mandate that the Government will have whoever wins the election - with Brexit in mind. Let us grasp the opportunity that this affords us as a church to use the current climate to interact through our work in the Community. Let God be our lamplight in these times.

The opportunity afforded to us by making friends in the Community is part and parcel of the SEC plans for Evangelism. We are just over 8 months away from the start of 2018 where we would like to have a good surge in all of our churches being visible. I encourage us to use this time for our strategic planning for how we will increase our Christian footprint especially with our neighbours. Whatever our plans are, let us promulgate the name of Seventh day Adventists from unknown to actively relevant. Let this be our passion.

Against this backdrop I am pleased to tell you that churches are still making friends and holding Bible Studies and baptisms. Churches like Chingford Community and Dagenham under the leadership of Pastor Hezron Adingo are still reporting efforts which have resulted in baptisms. We Praise the Lord for the evangelistic fervour which has allowed our Pastors to do what comes most natural to them in this part of the vineyard.

Pastor Kirk Thomas Personal Ministries department Director reported that the ADRA 2017 fun run was a tremendous success. Over 300 men, women, Children, professionals, athletes, cyclist, roller skaters, pathfinders and adventurers took part with energy, guts and determination raising funds for ADRA UK. The day was ideal for the exercise, with the weather at the right temperature and plenty of water and opportunities for fun, photographs and fellowship. It is continually a joy to see especially the elderly brethren who make it their duty to support this programme year after year.

Along with the Health Director Dr Chidi Ngwaba, I had the pleasure this year of witnessing the greatest turn out of Pastors to support the programme. Next year we will be planning with the Health department to make this programme bigger and better. It is hoped that we will have a massive health expo, five a side football, vegan and smoothie exhibitions and corporate sponsorships. Thanks to everyone who supported this programme and let's remember ADRA and the great work they do throughout the year.

I was privileged this week to share the SEC Media studio with our Youth Director Pr Anthony Fuller who has asked me to share the following descriptor and video link with you:

'On behalf of SEC Youth Ministries we share with you this video giving a snap shot of Pastor Osei's vision including his experience and passion for the youth across the SEC. <https://youtu.be/wZxKqNiwj0s> We both agreed with many of you that 'it's time' for us to stop avoiding real life hard conversations, to come together and talk openly and honestly, to hear the voices of our young people and conference at large'.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June we will be inviting many of you to join us for '50 x 7: Let's Talk' weekend of consultation, fellowship and worship. This is a concept partly influenced by ministers through the discussion held at the Workers meeting in Montenegro. We look forward to your support and input. Full programme details and venue will be announced shortly.

We are approaching the closing date for the Mission Possible 5 Conference in Israel this year; 2-11 June 2017 led by Pastor Simon Martin. If you are still interested in attending please contact Mavis Bramble here at the sec on [mbramble@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:mbramble@secadventist.org.uk)

Speakers for the 2017 SEC Camp Meeting (19-25 June) include Singing Evangelist Pastor Wintley Phipps as our Commitment speaker; Dr Daniel Duda as our Bible Study Speaker; Dr Chidi Ngwaba: Health Director; Youth Speakers: Pastor Paul Graham and Dean Culinane; Teens Speaker and Prayer & Praise Speaker: Pastor Carlos Patrick and Juniors Speaker: Pastor Karyle Barnes Jr. The 2017 booking forms with the significant reduction in chalet prices is available from the SEC Website on the Home page and SEC Events.

## **Diary Dates**

1. Easy Sew - sewing classes in association with the Community Services Department at Balham is available for anyone who is interested in learning to sew; Sunday classes are for the church: 21 May, 4, 18 June, 2 July and the Tuesday classes for the local community: 13, 27 June, 4, 11, 18 July.
2. **Free Bible Conference at Newbold (Sabbath 6 May)**  
Newbold is hosting its annual Bible Conference on Sabbath 6 May in Salisbury Hall, from 10am – 5pm. This year's topic is *We Can't Look Away: the Church and Social Justice* and will feature Newbold theology experts Dr Tihomir Lazić, Dr Ivan Milanov, and Dr Tom de Bruin, as well as Dr Daniel Duda (Education Director for the Trans-European Division). Register now, or find out more about this free event, at [newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference](http://newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference).

This week's 60sec News is now online:

<https://youtu.be/LivKmV5kTDk>

To download please click below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1hwx6dn5xzipz171/60sec%20News%20067.mp4?dl=0>

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

Let us continue to pray for Pastors, spouses and workers who need our prayers. Please remember them in your devotionals.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Osei', written in a cursive style.

Dr Emmanuel Osei  
President  
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE