



3 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,


Schools are out for the summer and many of you will be away or planning to be away on family holidays. It is my prayer that you will enjoy the next few weeks before the end of the summer holidays. If you are going away, may God grant you traveling mercies.

A number of our members and Conference Officers are currently experiencing the joy of attending Youth Congress in Valencia, Spain. Pr Douglas McCormac has sent the following report which I am sharing with you;

“Welcome from a very hot Valencia, where we are currently enjoying the largest gathering of Adventist youth in Europe. Over 4000 young people have gathered from both the Trans European and Inter-European divisions for a week of Spiritual enrichment, with the theme being ‘The Journey’. There are over 400 young people from the UK and Ireland and about half of them from our own conference.”

Pastor Sam Leonor, Chaplain at La Sierra University and one of many speakers, has been taking the young people on a Journey each evening reminding them of the amazing lives that God wants them to lead, lives which change lives and lives which make a positive impact on the world. There is a strong SEC participation at the event this year. The theme song, ‘Lets take this road’, was a collaborative effort of Peter Manner-Smith, Kart and Tihomir Lazic, with the evening worship being led out by our own Ana Thompson nee Costescu and Luke Whyte, with the Newbold Contemporary Service praise team each evening. The SEC media is also present, assisting with video production, archiving and photography. There is definitely a hum of excitement which fills all the venues throughout the day with the many workshops, stands and events. There is even an attempt to achieve a Guinness world record by creating the largest nail mosaic. You can find out so much more about the mosaic and what is going on by going to <http://www.aycongress.org/> and there is a link to the live stream each evening.

Please join with me in praying for our young people and the leaders of this Youth Congress.

Dr Chidi Ngwaba the SEC Health Director and other health practitioners will be happy at the knowledge that we are being careful in what we consume. Equally we have been advised not to share any information that has not been verified or that could impact on you or the church. There is a letter that is circulating on social media about the Kellogg’s brand of cereals and nutritional bars containing pork and beef gelatin. While this information is clearly reported on the US website http://www.openforbreakfast.com/en_US/content/nutrition/do-mini-wheats-have-pork-gelatin.html it does not appear on the UK site because the preparation and treatment of foods in Europe are different to how it is made in the Americas. On research and in speaking with the company, we have been advised to read the information which also clearly states whether that product is carrying the Vegetarian symbol .

On a wider but relative matter, in the past I have advised you on the sharing of information, especially using social media. We are living in a technological age where the use of social media dominates the world agenda. We have seen that in the way that the US President

uses Twitter. We have also witnessed the emergence of 'Fake news' sometimes as a smokescreen but also as an agenda to divide or to dominate. It is important that we do not become part of the problem by circulating and sharing information that is not confirmed or verified by a reputable source.

Thank you to those of you who submitted your interest in preaching in Zambia. I am sure that besides having the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who come to hear, it will be a rich and blessed experience for you.

Commendations to the Pastor Royston Smith and the Bristol Churches for engaging with their local community which has led to a number of baptisms. I wish to encourage other churches within the SEC to make a difference in their local communities by being relevant.

Remember 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

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 and 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.

The SEC Disability Ministry department training in Deaf Awareness, Communication and BSL Level 1 (accredited course), run through The SEC School of Evangelism, will take place on the 22 October 2017 at the Stanborough SDA church from 10- 3.30pm. For more information or to register: contact snicholls@secadventist.org.uk. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

The Counselling Service has informed us of a free 1 day training on "Helping People Through Trauma & Traumatic Grief" the date is 3 September 2017 to be held at The Advent Centre (room 1) from 11am- 3.30pm. Contact email ccs@secadventist.org.uk or call : 0207 723 8050 to book your place.

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