



encore



**Global
Youth Day**
Spotlight on:
Adam Keough

2016
**Calendar
of events**
**Crux
of the
matter**

Cover photo: Chipo Janga & Vimbai Marimanzi © Nitha Puventhiranathan on behalf of SEC Teens Ministries.

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Design: Abigail Murphy

The purpose of **ENCOUNTER** is to develop youth and youth leadership spiritually and motivationally, in faith and in service.

To contact us directly or for regional youth director contacts, please see the website for details or scan this QR code.

www.adventistyouth.org.uk



This issue's contributors:

Youth Issues



Jaz Rodney-Sargeant has worked as a consultant in the training field, then in social regeneration, bringing together education, training and business. In recent years she has been employed as a self-employed consultant, trainer, coach and project manager. She began studies at Kings College London in 2012 for an MA in Ethical Leadership.

Events



Alastair Agbaje graduated from Newbold in 2011. He has been an Associate Youth director for the Norwegian Union and is now chaplain (75%) at Newbold as well as TED Teens and Community services director (25%). Alastair is energetic about teens, youth and young adults, wanting them to be supported, involved in mission and empowered to be leaders.

Meet the Director



Adam Keough also studied at Newbold and earned a post-graduate degree in pastoral studies. He has lived in Ireland for many years and is married with two children. He is an enthusiastic Youth sponsor, organising retreats, camps and trips for the Irish youth. He recently had a Sabbatical and travelled to modern-day biblical sites to research the churches in Revelation.

ENCOUNTER is a magazine for teens and young adults. If you are part of this age group then we are very happy to have contributions from you in future **ENCOUNTER** magazines. Perhaps you want to write about a recent faith-sharing experience or you want to tell us about your time volunteering. Maybe you are a student in the field of science and you have come across some research which has helped cement your faith in the Bible. Or you may even have a topic close to your heart that you would like us to tackle in the Youth Issues section. Contact us – we'd love to hear from you! bucyouth@adventist.org.uk

Love it, hate it or think you could do better? Have your say about your **ENCOUNTER** magazine. Fill in our online survey at www.adventistyouth.org.uk

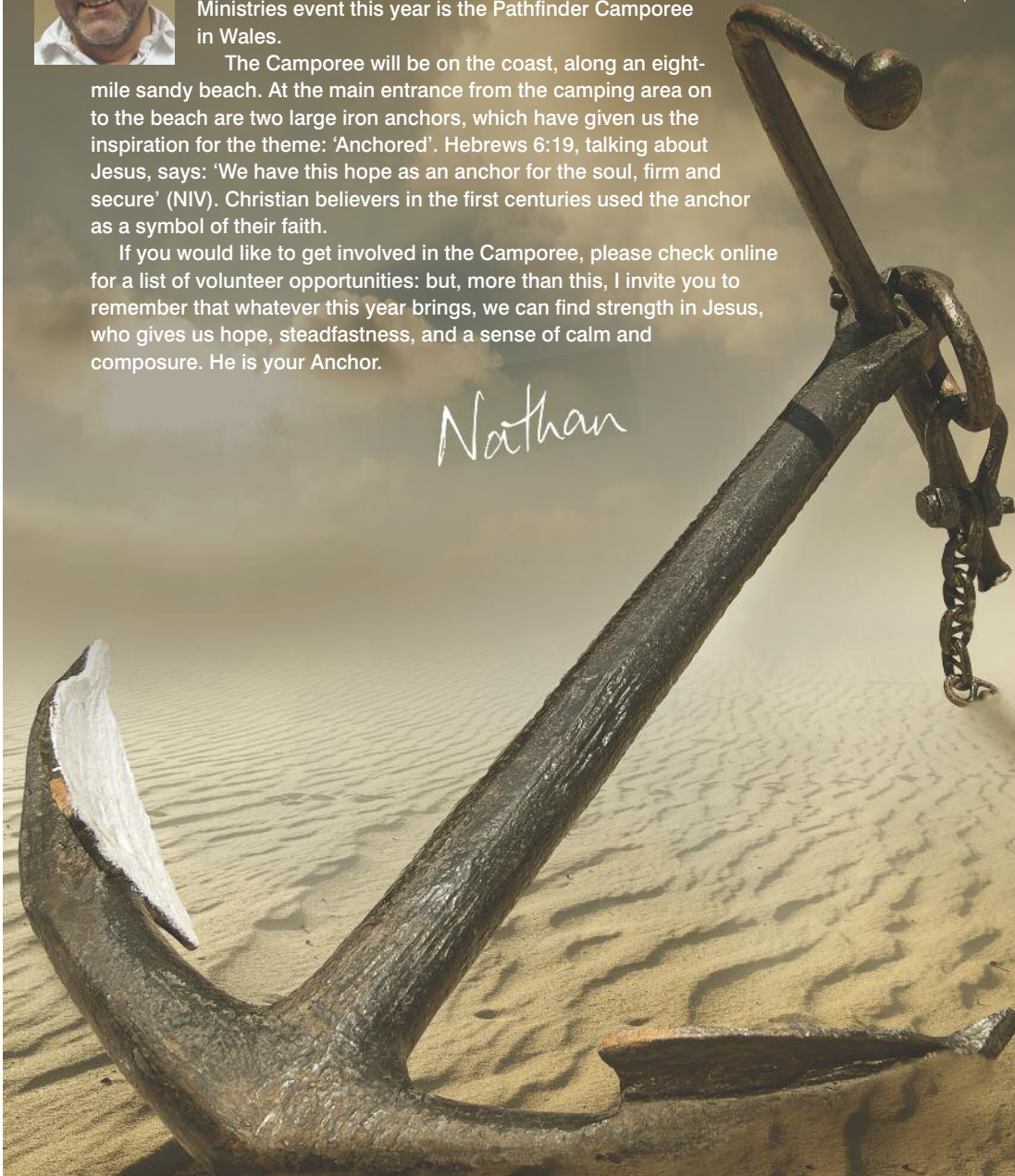


In this edition of **ENCOUNTER** magazine you'll find a number of advertisements for events around the UK and Ireland this year. Each of these events has, at least in part, an opportunity for faith development. The major Union-wide Youth Ministries event this year is the Pathfinder Camporee in Wales.

The Camporee will be on the coast, along an eight-mile sandy beach. At the main entrance from the camping area on to the beach are two large iron anchors, which have given us the inspiration for the theme: 'Anchored'. Hebrews 6:19, talking about Jesus, says: 'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure' (NIV). Christian believers in the first centuries used the anchor as a symbol of their faith.

If you would like to get involved in the Camporee, please check online for a list of volunteer opportunities: but, more than this, I invite you to remember that whatever this year brings, we can find strength in Jesus, who gives us hope, steadfastness, and a sense of calm and composure. He is your Anchor.

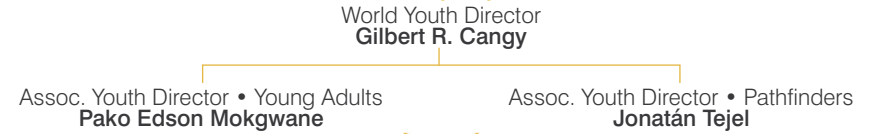
Nathan



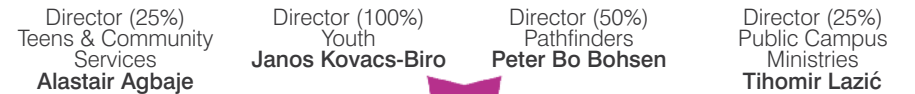


Youth Ministries Hierarchy

General Conference (GC) Youth Ministries



Trans-European Division (TED) Youth Ministries



British Union Conference (BUC) Youth Ministries

Director
Nathan Stickland

Conferences and Missions Youth Ministries

Irish Mission (IM)

Sponsor
Adam Keough
Sponsor • Senior Youth
Ben Pontanar
Sponsor • Pathfinders
Jeff Freeman

Scottish Mission (SM)

Sponsors • Youth
Audrey Mutongi & Claudiu Popescu
Sponsors • Pathfinders
Mthoko & Njabulo Ndlovu

North England Conference (NEC)

Director • Youth
Adam Ramdin
Director • Pathfinders
Alan Hush

South England Conference (SEC)

Director • Senior Youth
Anthony Fuller
Director • Pathfinders
Kevin Johns
Director • Teens & Students
Dejan Stojković

Welsh Mission (WM)

Sponsor
Jeremy Tremeer
Sponsor • Senior Youth
Jovan Adamović
Sponsor • Pathfinders
David Rancic



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Connect with Adventist Volunteers on Facebook to find new positions, inspirational stories and more information about how you can get involved in service.



- Some of the many positions available in 2016:
- ESL teachers in Guatemala
 - Lower School teachers in Honduras
English must be your first language. No formal teaching experience required.
 - ESL teachers in Ukraine
- Marshall Islands positions available from July 2016

www.tedadventistvolunteers.com



Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2016 Summer Staff

Volunteers required for the summer of 2016.
Ten maintenance team staff required for nine weeks.
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Please send your CV in the first instance to
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or email it to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com

Closing date for applications: **21 February 2016.**



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Pause for thought

Dr Michael Pearson
 Retired Lecturer, Newbold College.

Encounter 6

I have been surprised and shocked by the daily news of asylum seekers and refugees risking everything to reach the relative safety of Europe. You probably have too. I have been shocked to see lines of people snaking across central Europe. Shocked at the violence and loss that some of them have experienced. Shocked by mass drownings in the Mediterranean. Shocked by the sight of small children bewildered by what is happening. Shocked by the way in which traffickers are exploiting the misfortunes of other human beings. Shocked by the hostility shown by some Europeans to desperate people. Just shocked. What to do? What to do when in the back of my mind are echoing words like those of Jesus: 'When I was homeless you took me in . . .'? How does that work in the lives of those of us who live in modest comfort in reasonably safe suburbs? Set off for Calais with a load of supplies for people in the camps?

Maybe . . . but probably not. Give some money to a charity you trust working on the front line? Yes, probably. More specifically, donate some money to ADRA-UK, our own trusted humanitarian agency? Yes. Go on a demo? Maybe. Sign an online petition designed to put pressure on governments to reach difficult political settlements? Perhaps. Volunteer for some local charity trying to do its bit? Possibly. The fact is that the situation is so bewilderingly complex that any action on our

part is unlikely to be anything more than a gesture. The situation has developed for many reasons. One is the policies of colonial powers over a century ago when the map of the modern Middle East was drawn up, my own country being central to this process. Another is the development of fundamentalisms of many types in our world. Yet another is the breakdown of trust between people groups, between people and their governments, and simply between 'us' and 'them'. Most of us can only act on a very local level.

We could change the habit of a lifetime and express some sociopolitical view in some public forum. We could refuse even in our everyday conversations any attempt at the stereotyping of others and the embracing of conspiracy theories. We can refuse to be driven by fear of others who are different from ourselves. We can oppose extremism, not least in our own church congregations. We can encourage a willingness to understand how the other may be feeling. We can do our best to be trustworthy ourselves and foster the growth of trust in our own small circle.

It's not much, I agree. The key to this is probably the refusal to allow our lives to be driven by fear. After all, time and time again – if I remember correctly around 365 times, once for every day of the year – God says to characters in the Bible, 'Do not be afraid.'





Spotlight on: Adam Keough



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Name: Adam Keough

Age: 38

Place of birth: Newport, Isle of Wight

Living in: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Married: Yes, to Heather.

Children: Olivia (8), and Jacob (4)

Job title: Pastor/Irish Mission Youth Sponsor

Hobbies: Computers, cycling, web design

Pets: Polly (Border Collie cross)

Most inspiring Bible text: Jude 24, 25

'To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our LORD, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.' (NIV-UK)

What was your life like growing up?

I've not got the greatest memory, but from what I do remember, I enjoyed my childhood mainly, although there were many hard things, like many people have. My family seemed to move house quite often, for a number of different reasons. By the time I was 18 years old I think I'd lived in around 10 different 'homes'. I was born on the Isle of Wight, then moved to Newbold College when I was 3 so that my dad could study theology there. After that we moved to Co. Laois, Ireland, where my dad's first pastoral post was. In the summer before starting P3 we moved up to Larne in Northern Ireland. While living in Larne, I lost my mum when I was 10 years old, through suicide. So from then on my dad was the one who always looked after me. When I was 13 we moved to Watford in England and I lived there until I left home.

Favourite memory as a youth?

Probably my very favourite memories of my teen years were spending endless hours in the gymnasium at Stanborough School playing basketball. Basketball was not just my hobby, it became my obsession I'd probably say; my life. Everything revolved around basketball.

Where did you study and why did you choose that particular (those particular) subjects?

After finishing school at Stanborough Park School in Watford, I spent (around) a year working as a landscape gardener. During that year God convinced me, through various circumstances, that the right thing to do was to go and study theology at Newbold College. I wasn't particularly impressed with this, but knew it was God's calling for my life at that particular moment in time. So, I spent 5 years at Newbold College from

September 1997 to May 2002, first studying an undergraduate degree in theology and then a postgraduate Master's degree in pastoral studies.

Why be a pastor/work in youth ministry?

Eventually God led me into pastoral ministry in the Irish Mission. However, for the first three years while I attended Newbold College I had no idea why God had led me there; all I knew was that it wasn't to be a pastor! Funny how God leads sometimes. As I look back now, I think that God probably never gave me the pastoral calling until I needed to begin my MA because I would have done a Jonah and run away; so He just told me to go to Newbold and didn't tell me any more than that!

When I finished Newbold I was offered employment by the Irish Mission as they had sponsored me for my MA at Newbold. I began my ministry career as a youth pastor/intern in two churches in Northern Ireland – Belfast and Larne – as a kid I'd spent seven years in Larne. I kinda fell into my role as Irish Mission Youth Sponsor around

one and a half years after I began working for the church (January 2004), when Pastor Nathan Stickland, who was then Irish Mission Youth Sponsor, left the Mission to take up the role of Pathfinder Director in the SEC.

Worst/funniest experience in youth/pastoral ministry?

Worst – just last year when I had 45 junior youth/teens waiting for a coach to go to our summer camp. The coach didn't turn up and another colleague and I spent three hours trying to organise another one immediately. Thankfully it all worked out, even though everyone was four or five hours late!

Funniest – one summer camp on the way to the beach we had to stop the minibuses for one young lad because he was desperate for the toilet. We found the best place we could – and stopped beside the road near a slope which led down to a stream and a bridge under the road. So, off he went. About 10 minutes later he hadn't re-appeared so I went off to investigate. I looked over the edge and there he was – he'd fallen down the bank, then gone to the toilet, but couldn't get out again as the bank was too steep. So there he was, calling out for help at the top of his voice, but no one could hear him because of the traffic noise!

Your most standout moment as the Irish Mission Youth Sponsor:

I reckon one of two. Either the baptisms we've had in the lake during the summer camps or when I stand and watch 50-100 junior youth/teens at a youth retreat engaging with the worships and singing and creating 'a joyful noise unto the Lord'.



ALL TEENS WELCOME

ORGANISED BY THAMES VALLEY YOUTH FEDERATION SUPPORTED BY
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31st MARCH - 3rd APRIL 2016

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Contact: Cheryl Singo

e: cherylsings@hotmail.com m: 07428 151 087

SEC Teens department: Dejan Stojkovic

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NECYouth

Moving forwards

2016 is the year to 'move forwards' in your life, asking God to direct you in your choices. In 2015 we looked at G.O.A.L.S.[®] to get you started on the journey to achieving your dreams. This new series, titled 'Moving Forwards', builds on the G.O.A.L.S.[®] principles and stretches you further. Careers and business coach, Jaz Rodney-Sargeant, will be sharing tips for taking the next steps in the subsequent issues, but let's introduce her first.



Sharon: *Jaz, thank you for being part of this new series. By way of introduction, tell us a little bit about your background.*

Jaz: It's my pleasure, and thank you so much for inviting

me to do this!

Well, I'm a born-and-bred Londoner of first-generation Jamaican parentage, growing up in a strict Adventist home with seven siblings.

As a child growing up I was an avid reader. I always say to young people, 'If you want to see the world and have a real sense of adventure in place of the "real thing" – READ, and read well-written, innovative and creative books!' I don't actually remember being taught how to read, but I do remember my mother reading endless books to us.

I had a very strong work ethic, and this saw me through a work history of over 15 years without unemployment.

I left school and immediately got a job working in general administration in the city of London. After a series of different jobs I returned to higher education, aged 22, and completed a BA (Hons) in Social & Political Science – my thesis being, 'The Under-representation of Women in Politics and Public Life'.

As part of my degree thesis I spent some time in the House of Commons shadowing and interviewing people like the late great Mo Mowlam, Diane Abbott and other female MPs.

Leaving university, I set my sights on a career in politics, teaching or social work.

I later decided that working with young people in a consultative form was my calling. I returned to education for a further year, completing a Post-graduate Diploma in Careers Education and Training (1992), followed by a training year, before qualifying and spending nearly eight years as a careers practitioner in schools and colleges.

After getting married and having my son in 1997, I then diversified into working within consulting in the training field, then social regeneration, bringing together education, training and business; and in recent years as a self-employed consultant, trainer, coach and project manager. In 2012 I won a scholarship to King's College London to study for an MA in Ethical Leadership.

You have done quite a bit of work previously in regard to motivating young people to achieve. Can you give us an overview of what this entailed?

This is a Skills for Success Programme (SSP) delivered in schools UK-wide, involving students primarily 16-18 (and younger) to see how they can be more effective in their use of study and revision techniques through really innovative and creative methods for career and action planning.

Using numerous 'live' stories to provide illustration and guidance on navigating one's pathway, I have witnessed first-hand

groundbreaking change in student progression when using practical techniques that speak to their individual strengths and resonate with choices being made for life pathways. This enables easy transition into the Peer Mentoring and Student Leadership Programme (which I will talk more about next time).

Do you have any success stories to share with us?

I have many success stories, for which I give God all the praise. One most notable example was at a very challenging school in Welling (Hertfordshire) following a really difficult day with a group of Year 11 students. I asked the question to the class, 'If you had one wish for a career, what would it be?' A girl who had been particularly difficult turned and said, 'I would want to be just like you.' This was the biggest breakthrough the teacher had seen in this young lady throughout her entire secondary school life. I always say, 'If just one person gets it, my job is worth doing!'

I understand you are working on a new project, which will help individuals to achieve their goals in a more measurable way. Please tell us about this.

Yes I am! I've developed a new concept called Pathway to Life – the acronym is below:

- P** – Putting
- A** – All
- T** – Things
- H** – His
- WAY**
- T**
- L** – Lead
- I** – Innovate
- F** – Facilitate
- E** – Exemplify

This encapsulates many of the successful methodologies used in various forms across different audiences in current and

◦ Sharon Platt-McDonald & Jaz Rodney-Sargeant

previous projects. Primarily young-person-centred, it provides a package of skilled resources to enhance individual pathways to whatever their aspirations are. It offers a holistic approach to enabling life transition from education/employment/training and a clear and defined infrastructure to the enabling of successful achievement. This provides resources that give young people tangible outcomes, such as building relationships with educators, funders, employers/organisations who can help them be their best yet.

This programme is goals-oriented and outcome-driven. No young person entering the programme will ever leave without a tangible and sustainable outcome. We essentially create the connection to opportunities; with support, participants are then responsible for making it happen with the tools provided for them.

What would you say to a young person who feels doubtful about achieving their dreams in life?

I can only say to them what I've said repeatedly to my 18-year-old son. A life without purpose is a life half-lived. If you can dream it, you can achieve it! Start with the end first. Visualise where you want to be and work your way back from that. Connect with people who are doing what you want to do. Research . . . you can never ever know enough – never believe that you know it all. The learning process is for a lifetime and will serve you well – embrace it!

Look out for the next feature in the April edition when Sharon and Jaz outline the steps to take to move forwards in achieving your purpose in life. You can contact Sharon at splattmcdonald@adventist.org.uk or Jaz at jaz@smartpathways.co.uk alternatively why not stop by smartpathways.co.uk.

PATHWAY TO LIFE

Crux of the matter

16

Dear Pastor,

I am a young 22-year-old second-generation Seventh-day Adventist. I love my church family and my immediate family. I don't consider myself to be a beauty queen, but I am told that I am very attractive. I think it is important to look good and may I say to look attractive. What does get on my nerves is my family and church members constantly telling me what I should and shouldn't wear. As far as I am concerned, I am at an age where I can make my own choice. I can wear what I like, when I like, and no one should tell me what I should wear.

Allow me to share an experience I had in my early years in pastoral ministry. One Sabbath morning, one of my young church members wanted to talk with me in the vestry. I agreed, ensuring that the vestry door was wide open and that we could be seen by all passing by. Why? She looked very mature for her age and was dressed in an outfit that accentuated her figure and didn't leave much to the imagination. She was very upset about something. 'Pastor, as I came to church this morning, a man approached me and asked me how much? How dare he! What did he think I was?' (One of the routes to the church was through a 'red light district'.)

As I looked at her, I didn't know how to break it gently to her. I asked her, 'Did you notice how the girls standing at the street corner were dressed?'

She knew where I was going with this and immediately got on the defensive. 'Those dirty old men should learn to control themselves,' she said. 'I can wear what I like. No one can tell me what to wear. It's my body.'

'Really?' I said. 'You know that is not strictly true.'

'What do you mean, Pastor?' she asked.

I began by sharing two illustrations with her. Back in the day when hospital doctors used to wear white coats and stethoscopes in their pockets or around their necks, when they attended you at your bedside, did you enquire of them how long they had been



◦ **Pastor Cyril Sweeney**
BUC Family & Children's Ministries Director

doctors? Did you ask them from which university they procured their medical degree? Of course not. You assumed by their outward attire that they were doctors and you would therefore allow them to make very personal examinations of your body. Those girls who were standing on the street corner were dressed in a way that would say to clients in that area that they were providing a service, and clients knew it by their outward appearance. It would seem that our dress can say something about us whether we like it or not.

Secondly, if I worked on a building site and I went to work wearing only my bathing trunks, I can imagine my site manager on seeing me would enquire as to where I was going. I would say to him that I was going to work. I could imagine him saying, 'No you are not! Not dressed like that.' I could say to him, 'I can dress how I like. No one can tell me how to dress.' I am sure he would say, 'Yes I can, and so can health & safety laws and regulations. No proper attire and hard hat means no work today for you.'

I think she got the point. We are living in a time when 'self-image' is promoted as very important, especially at this time of the year. Just observe the number of adverts for beauty aids, cosmetics and fragrances. The emphasis and focus is about looking good and smelling good. Don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with looking good or smelling good. It is not a sin. Could it be, however, that, as Exodus 20:3, 4 tells us, we should not have any other gods before Him; that we should not make any graven images; and that, in following the pressure of the advertisers and perhaps peers, we make 'self-image' our god and turn ourselves into graven images? If you truly love the Lord and want Him to be Lord of your life, then it will be about Him, not you. May I encourage you to follow the counsel of Scripture as the psalmist requests of the Lord for himself: 'Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in thy ways' (Psalm 119:37, RSV).

So while society may be pressuring you to have the 'body beautiful' at all costs, be reminded of what the apostle Paul said to the Roman believers: 'Don't conform to the patterns of this world, but continually renew your mind by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ, letting Him transform you from the inside out. Then show by the way you live that God's will for you is good, acceptable and just' (Romans 12:2, *Clear Word* paraphrase, 1994). As the old song we used to sing says, 'Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.'



- 2 Spiritual Commitment Sabbath BUC
- 7-16 Ten Days of Prayer GC
- 9 Health Ministries Day BUC
- 9 PF Bible Experience (PBE) Area-wide Tests SEC
- 17 Masterguide In Training (MIT) Orientation SEC
- 23 Religious Liberty Day BUC
- 23-24 Regional Envision Youth Leaders' Retreat, Areas 4 & 5 SEC
- 24 New MIT, TLT, PLA Orientation SEC
- 29 BST Train the Trainer weekend SEC
- 31 Pathfinder AGM NEC
- 31 REYLR Retreat, Area 6 SEC



- 1-3 BELA 2 NEC
- 1-4 NEC Youth Congress NEC
- 2 Adventist Mission Emphasis GC
- 2 Day of Fasting & Prayer – Youth Spiritual Commitment BUC
- 10 MG First Aid 1 NEC
- 11-17 PBE Division/World Finals GC
- 15-17 YM Leaders' Weekend, Areas 4 & 5 SEC
- 16 Literature Evangelism Rally Day BUC
- 22-24 BELA 3 NEC
- 22-24 MG Training Weekend 2 NEC
- 23 Special Needs/Disability Awareness Day BUC
- 23 MIT Assessment SEC
- 29-1 May YM Leaders' Weekend, Areas 1, 2, 3 SEC
- 29-2 May Pathfinder Camporee IM
- 29-2 May Teens Congress NEC



- 5-7 Youth Leadership Training Weekend IM
- 5-14 Ski Trip NEC
- 6 PBE Conference-wide Tests SEC
- 6 REYLR, Areas 7 & 8 SEC
- 6-13 Christian Home & Marriage Week BUC
- 7 REYLR, Areas 1, 2, 3 SEC
- 14 JCI Training (USA) SEC
- 19-21 Youth Weekend IM
- 19-21 Winter Hike NEC
- 19-21 Relationship Weekend NEC
- 19-21 Winter Camp SEC
- 26-28 PLA Training weekend IM
- 27 SEC Youth Day of Fellowship SEC
- 27 SEC Youth Leaders' Lunch SEC
- 28 BST 2 SEC



- 1-31 Drug Awareness Month BUC
- 7 Reach the World: In the Community GC
- 7-14 Core of Adventism BUC
- 13-15 BELA 4 NEC
- 13-15 YM Leaders' Weekend, Areas 7 & 8 SEC
- 13-15 MIT Weekend SEC
- 21 World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk BUC
- 22 Tough Mudder NEC
- 27-29 YM Leaders' Weekend, Area 6 SEC
- 27-30 Adventurer Camporee NEC-SEC



- 4-6 MG Training (weekend 1) NEC
- 4-6 BELA 1 NEC
- 4-6 PEACE Alumni Weekend NEC
- 5 Women's Day of Prayer BUC
- 5 PBE Union-wide Test BUC
- 11-13 Walking Group Assessment NEC
- 11-13 TLT Workshop Weekend SEC
- 19 Global Youth Day – Be the Sermon GC
- 19-26 Youth Week of Prayer GC
- 25-28 3 Missions Easter Weekend in Wales IM-SM-WM
- 26 Christian Education Day BUC
- 26-10 Apr ADRA-UK Annual Appeal BUC
- 31-3 Apr Prayer & Faith Conference SEC



- 4 Mission to the Cities Challenge Sabbath BUC
- 4 Reach the World: Sabbath Services GC
- 5 Big 6 NEC
- 6-12 SEC Camp Meeting SEC
- 10-12 Wilderness Camp NEC
- 11 Women's Ministry Sabbath BUC
- 12 MG First Aid 2 NEC
- 12 Aberdaron Team Two Castles Run NEC
- 19 MIT Assessment SEC
- 19 Newbold College Graduation TED
- 20-26 NEC Camp Meeting (tbc) NEC
- 24-26 MIT/PLA Weekend SEC
- 26-7 Jul Youth Summer Camp in Greece SM
- 30-2 Jul British Union Conference Session BUC



- 1-3 MG Training Weekend 3 NEC
- 2 Day of Fasting & Prayer BUC
- 3 Athletics Day NEC
- 3-10 Special Needs Camp in Aberdaron BUC
- 4-10 SEC Camp Meeting SEC
- 5 PEACE 4-month programme begins NEC
- 9 World Mission Promotion GC
- 16 Reach the World: Media Ministry promotion GC
- 16 NEC Rally Day NEC
- 18-22 Student Camp SEC
- 21-24 North England Conference Session NEC
- 23 Children's Sabbath BUC
- 31 Welsh Mission Session WM
- 31-7 Aug BUC Pathfinder Camporee BUC
- 31-7 Aug Junior Camp NEC



- 1 Day of Fasting & Prayer BUC
- 2 Irish Mission Session IM
- 8 Pastor Appreciation Day BUC
- 8-9 Student Day of Fellowship & Training Weekend BUC
- 14-17 Youth Retreat incl. Youth Day of Fellowship (17th) SM
- 15 Adventist Heritage & Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath GC
- 22 Creation Sabbath GC
- 24-28 Prayer & Faith Conference SEC
- 28-30 Youth Weekend IM
- 29-5 Nov Week of Prayer GC



- 1-7 Youth Camp SEC
- 6 Global Mission Evangelism GC
- 7-14 Earliteen Camp NEC
- 7-24 Conference Jamaica Pathfinder Camporee NEC-SEC
- 9-17 Summer Camp IM
- 13 Reach the World: Church Planting GC
- 13 Teens Summer Concert SEC
- 14-21 Youth Camp NEC
- 20 Education Day BUC
- 22-28 Extreme Teens Camp SEC
- 27 'EndItNow' and Lay Evangelism Emphasis GC



- 5 Annual Sacrifice – Global Mission Offering GC
- 11-13 SEC Youth Congress SEC
- 12 Pathfinder Rally Day SEC
- 18-20 PLA Training 3 IM
- 19 Sabbath School Guest Day GC



- 1-4 ASC Students' Training Retreat NEC
- 2-4 MIT/PLA Weekend SEC
- 3-10 Family Togetherness Week BUC
- 4 Stanborough Press Open Day BUC
- 9-11 MG Training Weekend 4 NEC
- 10 Youth Day NEC
- 10 Mission Promotion – World Mission GC
- 11 Sports Day IM
- 12-17 School of the Prophets NEC
- 17 Pathfinder Rally Day GC
- 18-24 Make a Difference Week BUC
- 23-25 PLA Training 2 IM
- 24 Power of 36,000 BUC
- 30-2 Oct SEC Youth Congress SEC
- 30-3 Oct BELA Assessment NEC



- 2-4 World Stewardship Day GC
- 2-4 Iron Sharpeneth Iron Retreat SEC
- 9-11 2016 Youth Leader Level 1 Training NEC
- 10 Health Emphasis Day GC
- 10 Teens Day of Fellowship SEC
- 11 Pathfinder AGM SEC
- 18 Fund-raising Banquet NEC
- 18 Pathfinder Banquet SEC
- 31 End-of-year Programme (tbc) SEC

Take a gap year – at Newbold

22 How do you make time to reflect and plan your future? Do you know where you want to go in the next year or even two or five years? In this fast-paced life, where everything is about now, how will you ever know if you don't take time out to sit down and reflect? In a world that demands everything immediately through instant messaging and social media it's hard to find the time to stop and think about the direction you want to take in life. Imagine that there is a place where you are given the time to reflect, to sit on the bench of life and watch the world pass. Imagine that this is a safe place where you can grow spiritually and take the time to prepare for your next challenges.

Newbold's Gap Year programme can give you just this experience – the opportunity to discover your purpose through a combination of academic learning, personal development, and voluntary experiences. The one or two semester programme allows you to acquire new skills as you study modules such as Mission and Volunteerism, Anthropology (the study of origin, the behaviour and the physical, social, and cultural development of people), and your choice of a selection of modules from the Business, Theology, and Liberal Arts study areas, such as accounting, economics, management, marketing, biblical studies (historical and practical), theological

studies, British history, English literature, fine arts and performing arts.

Students will also work with an experienced personal development mentor to discover more about themselves and what they would like to do for their lives. The self-discoveries and the newly acquired skills can be put into action in a variety of local voluntary opportunities and during overseas mission trips. You will also be able to take advantage of, and become fully involved in, all aspects of life on a Christian campus – including worship, campus ministries, sport, social activities, and educational as well as cultural trips while on your own personal journey.

Former Gap Year student AnniElina Vänskä reflects on her Gap Year experience and attributes her current career journey and studies to the experience she had at Newbold:

'Doing the Gap Year and going on the mission trip was a great source of inspiration for my current studies, and as a result of my experience at Newbold I realised what my personal mission could be,' she said. AnniElina is now studying a Bachelor's degree in International Studies in the Netherlands. To learn more, or to apply for Newbold's Gap Year programme, please visit:

www.newbold.ac.uk/gap-year

www.newbold.ac.uk/scholarships-grants



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Hunting one of the Bible's bad guys: Who was the Pharaoh of the Exodus?

Most of us have been impressed by movies on the story of the Exodus. The 'evil' character and arch-enemy is usually known as 'Rameses'. Big blockbusters and cartoons have used different portraits (mostly from the wrong ethnicity) to represent Moses' nemesis, having in common strong, angry and bold men. But was Rameses the Pharaoh of the Exodus? Why all the hate and bad press against him? After all, Rameses II was one of the greatest rulers of Egyptian history (that's why he's also known as 'Rameses the Great'): the one who constructed megalithic buildings, awesome statues of himself and huge representations of his victories over territories in Canaan! Join me with my son, Nathan, in our adventure to find the identity of the Pharaoh of the Exodus.

First of all, the truth is that many people think that the Exodus is just a story, not real history. As I read the Bible with Nathan we understood that the Scriptures present the exit of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage as a fact, not just a parable or myth (see Exodus 2-12; cf. Acts 7:36; Romans 9:17).

Now, is there any extra-biblical historical evidence of the Exodus? As we searched in books from the library on Egyptian history we were not able to find any reference to the Exodus or the events described in the Bible. In order to solve this mystery we needed to find a map to trace the place where we could find evidence.

Looking for a point to start

The first location to search is where the Bible presents Joseph settling the Israelites, and that was the land of 'Rameses' (Genesis 47:11). The book of Exodus describes the Israelites building a city known as 'Rameses' (Exodus 1:11), a city that is mentioned in the itinerary of the Hebrews as they departed from the land of bondage (Exodus 12:37; Numbers 33:3). Where and when was that city built?

A site with several statues of Rameses II (who reigned from 1292 to 1225 BC) was modern San el-Hagar (ancient Tanis). However, the remains that dated from the time of Rameses seem to have been moved there later and came from elsewhere: most likely from a site some 30 kilometres from there, known as Khatana-Qantir, two kilometres from ancient Avaris.

Rameses was located in the north-eastern part of Egypt and the area regained importance during the time of Egypt's Nineteenth Dynasty. That is the dynasty that rose to power after the death of the now-famous teenage King Tut (Tutankhamun). After years of instability with the end of the previous dynasty, the Rameseses came to power. Rameses II, also known as 'Rameses the Great', built his capital close to the land of Goshen.

Evidence of the Israelites?

Ancient Rameses has been dug for many years now, but no ancient library or archive has

been found. There is evidence of Rameses' accomplishments, but no records of Israelites being there in the time of Rameses (fourteenth century BC). Egyptians were hesitant to record negative events, due to superstition and also propaganda. They made sure that events or records that were not desirable could be erased from monuments.

There is not a lot of hope of finding documentary evidence of the Israelites in Egypt or their epic exit from the land of the Pharaoh. However, in the city of Rameses there are remains that prove that Semites lived there. The Hebrews were Semites, and Canaanites often migrated to Egypt. The city of Rameses was known as Rowaty during the time of Joseph. The area was invaded by Semitic aggressors, known as 'Hiksos', who built the city of Avaris. The city at the time of Moses was known as Perunefer. In the thirteenth century BC, humble Rameses was called after him. (This has happened recently, in Russia: Saint Petersburg's name was changed to Petrograd [1914], in 1924 to Leningrad and back to Saint Petersburg in 1991. Did you know that New York was at one point known as New Amsterdam?)

So, no evidence there for the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Evidently that is the wrong 'bad guy', and cannot be the Pharaoh of the Exodus; at least, that is not consistent with biblical history. The first book of Kings describes the beginning of the construction of Solomon's temple 'in the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came

◦ **Pastor Efraín Velázquez**
President of the IAD Adventist Theological Seminary

out of the land of Egypt' (1 Kings 6:1, ESV). Solomon began building the temple in 967 BC, which means that the Exodus should have happened some 200 years before Rameses. There are other Bible verses that point to a time earlier than the favourite evil Pharaoh of cartoons and Hollywood movies (for example, Judges 11:26).

Where is the Pharaoh of the Exodus?

Nathan is tired and disappointed, and we will have to look elsewhere for the Pharaoh of the Exodus. The Bible provides a date, based on 1 Kings 6:1, so we can trace the date of 1447 BC. What was happening then in Egypt? Who was the Pharaoh?

Egyptian chronology identifies two pharaohs ruling at the same time, as co-regents. This was common in antiquity, when a ruler was old and wanted to make sure that the transition was smooth after his death. Tuthmosis III made his son Amenhotep II his co-ruler, but it is puzzling that Tuthmosis III's mummy is one of a young man. Nathan does not want to see the mummy because it's gross, and – as far as someone his age considers – they all look the same in pictures.

It is not possible to date Tuthmosis III's death, but it has been suggested that the Egyptians wanted to cover up his humiliating death (see Psalm 136:15). Egyptian records present Amenhotep II at a military campaign in Canaan by that time. Amenhotep's first child must have died in that fatal night.

So, now that we have found the 'bad guy' of the Exodus story, we have even more clues of this epic historical event that we could visit later. In the meantime I will try to get Nathan down from this camel at Giza's pyramids. My friend is trying to charge me extra now for bringing him down. He is being more difficult than Tuthmosis! Let my child go! But this guy is not bad, he just wants some money. . . . We will be delivered!



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Relationship WEEKEND



NEC Youth

University of Essex Adventist Society

◦ Farirai Manangazira

28

An Adventist society on your university/ college campus can be an amazing blessing to your fellow students. Here is how the University of Essex Adventist Society has been changing lives. . . .

‘Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity’ (1 Timothy 4:12, KJV).

Throughout Scripture there is the constant reminder that the youth are the church of tomorrow, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that they are nurtured in the faith, especially when they are released from the protection of their parents and into the world. The Adventist Society at the University of Essex was put in place to do such a work. The society not only gave grounds for a family of believers to enjoy the Sabbath and the Word of God together, but also created friendships that will last a lifetime. Time and time again, we have seen the Lord’s support within our small but ever-growing society, and have seen Him impact our lives both as students and as members of the faith. Harry De Lisle De Bouchard, an atheist turned Adventist, is a prime example of the importance of campus ministries. Having been raised in a household where religion was generally mocked, his interest in God was sparked after being sent to a Catholic school. However, his doubts and questions were never fully answered until, by chance, he was introduced to the Adventist Society on campus. Now, not only is he a fully baptised member of the church, but he is also part of the executive committee of both the society and the Area

8 Youth department. His story, along with many others, is a strong example of just how God is using the campus ministries movement to bring strong and faithful servants in to His work.

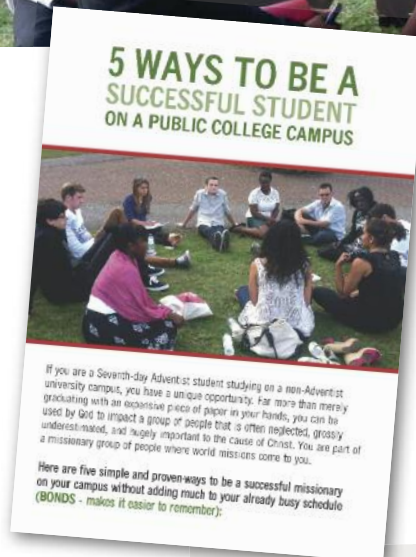
The beauty of the society is the spiritual support it provides. Many students attending universities without an Adventist society may find the walk more difficult than if they had a support system. Every Monday, we have our prayer and Bible study sessions – an opportunity to begin the new academic week with God at the forefront. We also welcome the Sabbath together every Friday evening, giving us an opportunity to talk about our week, as well as open the Word once again. Last Sabbath we witnessed the baptism of Diane, another of our members, and we continue to keep her in our prayers and wait in anticipation to see where God will take her.

As we have just begun the fourth year of the Adventist Society at the University of Essex, we look forward to see what else God has prepared for us, and are eager to continue behind God’s lead in the New Year.

Listen to Harry’s testimony here – it’s a fantastic story of God’s leading in this man’s life: <https://youtu.be/tW-E09dEpn4>



Encounter



Five ways to be a successful student on a public campus

If you are a Seventh-day Adventist student studying on a non-Adventist university campus, you have a unique opportunity. Far more than merely graduating with an expensive piece of paper in your hands, you can be used by God to impact a group of people that is often neglected, grossly underestimated, and hugely important to the cause of Christ. You are part of a missionary group of people where world missions come to you.

In the link below are five simple and proven ways to be a successful missionary on your campus without adding much to your already-busy schedule.



Download our free guide here:
<https://youth-adventistchurch-org-uk.adventist.eu/5-ways-to-be-a-successful-student-at-uni>

To find out how to get an Adventist society started on your campus, please contact:

- North England** • Adam Ramdin aramdin@necadventist.org.uk
- South England** • Dejan Stojkovic dstojkovic@secadventist.org.uk
- Irish Mission** • Adam Keough adam@adventist.ie
- Scottish Mission** • Audrey Mutong Audreymutongi@yahoo.co.uk
 • Claudiu Popescu claudiu470@yahoo.com
- Welsh Mission** • Jeremy Tremeer jtremeer@adventistwales.org

Be relevant in the community as Seventh-day Adventists

Global Youth Outreach Day: 19 March 2016

The worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church is planning a Global Day – 19 March 2016 – when millions of Adventist youth are mobilised to ‘be the sermon’ to the people around them. Witnessing in practice is representing Jesus Christ in the most natural way possible, not on one day a year only, but constantly. This day provides an opportunity to experience belonging to and sharing with a worldwide family of believers.

Many grown-up Christians have a hard time witnessing about Christ, and touching someone’s life with the gospel. A Gallup Institute book states: ‘Believers in Christian faith have some bridge-building to do in the new century; too often the message of religious people has seemed only judgemental and less than inviting or redemptive. . . . Believers need greater sensitivity than ever before.’¹

Telling the truth is much easier sometimes than representing and ‘doing’ the truth. And the doing part adds the relevant ingredient to the witnessing part a Christian – a Seventh-day Adventist – can do. George G. Hunter III said: ‘On average, it takes between twelve and twenty significant “gospel touches” for people to make a decision for Christ.’²

1 How to get involved?
Start by talking to God, and telling Him: ‘Lord, I am available to You today. Please use me for Your glory, and make me a representative of Your Kingdom. Let me meet those people who need exactly the type of representation I am for You.’ God responds to all who make themselves available to Him, and provides representation opportunities.

2 Know your goal: to genuinely love friends, family members, and even strangers into a more intimate and life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ – without being pushy, manipulative, or obnoxious.



3 Be genuine – naturally the person God created you to be. We just need to be ‘normal’, everyday people rather than ‘strange religious nuts’. As the candle gives light by nature, the salt gives salty taste to food by nature, and the yeast makes the dough grow by nature, so Christians should impact those around them by their natural participation in the life of their community.

4 Know the Master’s approach: ‘The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”’³

5 Observe: many times we have sent out young people during the Division Relay Youth Training sessions in the centre of a city to find out where most people are, what activities they are involved in, and what needs they have that we could meet.

6 Discuss: after this observation exercise young people form groups and discuss the most relevant and real needs, and by using their own spiritual gifts and abilities brainstorm about possible ministries which can meet some of the needs detected.

As we prepare for the witnessing activities we need to follow the four Ahas as follows:

- Aha: make it simple enough for simple people.
- Aha: make it an ongoing process.
- Aha: make it a really friendly, non-offensive approach.
- Aha: make it immediate.

7 Prepare: as soon as the group came up with a practical ministry idea, they needed to prepare the tools and supplies which were necessary to serve according to people’s needs. One very important ingredient to this is that the approach should be attractive to people, so they would come to us asking questions

Alastair Agbaje
 Teens & Community Services Director, Trans-European Division

rather than us going and trying to ‘sell’ them something.

8 Do it: go out and serve. Be a blessing and be the sermon to people around. Be ready to answer the questions: ‘Who are you?’ ‘Why are you doing this?’ and ‘How can I join you?’

9 Evaluate and rethink: as soon as you have served, experienced the response of people, and assessed the attractiveness of the approach used, answer these two questions: ‘What went well?’ and ‘How would we do it differently next time?’

10 Do it again, evaluate, rethink, and do it again, and again – without routine. It is important to keep our activities ongoing and relevant. Serving, blessing people, and answering their questions, letting them get involved and leading them to follow the Master.

This approach takes away the fear from hearts, and helps all Christians naturally to represent the values of God’s Kingdom in their community.

For more information about getting involved on Global Youth Day, see the Events section at: www.adventistyouth.org.uk

Youth Week of Prayer

The Global Youth Day marks the start of the Youth Week of Prayer, 19-26 March 2016. The readings will be available online at the web address below. Hard copies will be sent out to churches at the end of February (via the Personal Ministries secretary). If you haven’t already done so, please plan to make this week a special and uplifting one in your church. Start preparing now! For more ideas, check out the website: www.adventistyouth.org.uk

¹ George Gallup Jr and Timothy Jones, *The Next American Spirituality: Finding God in the 21st Century* (Colorado Springs: Cook Communications, 2000), p. 160

² Steve Sjogren, Dave Ping, Doug Pollock, *Irresistible Evangelism: Natural Ways to Open Others to Jesus* (Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data), 2004, p. 53.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

Suggested acts of kindness

Global Youth Outreach Day: 19 March 2016

“He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live” (Luke 10:27, 28, NIV-UK).

Each church should focus on creating a GYD campaign that will inspire daily acts of kindness throughout the entire church. The goal is to integrate daily acts of kindness into our lifestyles, both as individuals and as a church.

Visit the homeless

- Pack toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, snacks, gloves and warm socks, literature (books, magazines, and so on) and hand them out to the homeless in your church community.
- Prepare healthy snack bags (sandwiches, fruit, water, drinks).
- Donate new or good used clothing.
- Give literature (check with your Personal Ministries Department ahead of time).

Visit a nursing home

- Arrange to play an instrument or sing at a nursing home in your area.
- Help with crafts.
- Help serving meals.
- Pray for someone.
- Take flowers for the ladies.

Call or visit someone who is sick

- Call and ask how they are.
- Surprise them with a visit and bring flowers or a card.
- Bring a meal over.

Use technology

- Post on Facebook the Act or Acts of Kindness you've done during the GYD.
- Post on Twitter the Act or Acts of Kindness you've participated in during the GYD.

Read to a child

Time = Love. Giving your full attention to a child is a simple way to show them they are loved. Reading together can also be very relaxing and can create a bond with a child or children you care about.

Keep it going. This is a very easy, inexpensive and sustainable project. You can begin on Global Youth Day and continue it throughout the year. Spend quality time with the children, sharing positive messages with them, and ensure that they are learning values they may not be exposed to elsewhere.



Donate your locks Under 18s please check with a responsible adult first!

When you can't donate your blood, there is another way of donating a part of you. Donate your hair! If you have long hair, you can cut your hair short and donate it to a foundation that uses it to make wigs for people with cancer. For the best results tie back the hair before you let the hairdresser cut it off. It will be easier to make a wig out of it! www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancers-in-general/cancer-questions/hair-donation-and-wigs
Keep it going. This can become a sustainable project and can be done individually. If you have a local organisation that makes wigs for children with cancer, you can become a friend of the child who will be receiving a wig made out of your hair.



Food drive

Organising a food collection drive is an excellent way to help build a stronger community and show others that they really do matter. Through your generosity others will know that you, your youth group, and your church care.

There are so many ways to help your food drive project.

- Collect canned goods and other non-perishable items.
- Every time you go to the grocery shop, add a few cans or other non-perishable items to your list. Make a storage container at home and put the items in there and when it is full, donate it. Make giving a regular part of your shopping.
- Go door-to-door in your neighbourhood and collect non-perishable items that can be donated to a food bank.
- Organise a canned food drive at your office, school, or the local grocery shop. Every can counts!

Keep it going. This is a sustainable project and can be done individually or as a group. You can volunteer at the food bank itself by stocking goods, preparing meals or manning the checkout counter. Remember, stock up at home so that when the chance arises you are prepared to donate to the food drive.

The Trussell Trust runs many food banks across the UK and their website is a great place to find out how to start a food bank in your local area – if one doesn't already exist. www.trusselltrust.org

For invalids/shut-ins/ persons in need of assistance

- Prepare food baskets.
- Share literature (*The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, magazines).

At the orphanage

- Share Bible stories.
- Hand out toys (toys must be new or in very good, usable condition).
- Clothing (clothes must be new or in very good, usable condition).
- Share songs (sing-alongs).
- Give age-appropriate books.



Acts of appreciation

Consider making thank-you baskets or other acts of appreciation to the police and/or fire departments of your city/town.

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THEME: ANCHORED

Guest speakers:

PASTOR RICHARD REID, WAHROONGA, NSW, AUSTRALIA

PASTOR JONATHAN BURNETT, SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE, UK



WWW.ADVENTISTYOUTH.ORG.UK

Youth Ministries