



University's first step – Freshers' Fair

Pursuing excellence

Vol. 10 • Issue 4 • October 2014

Evolution and creation





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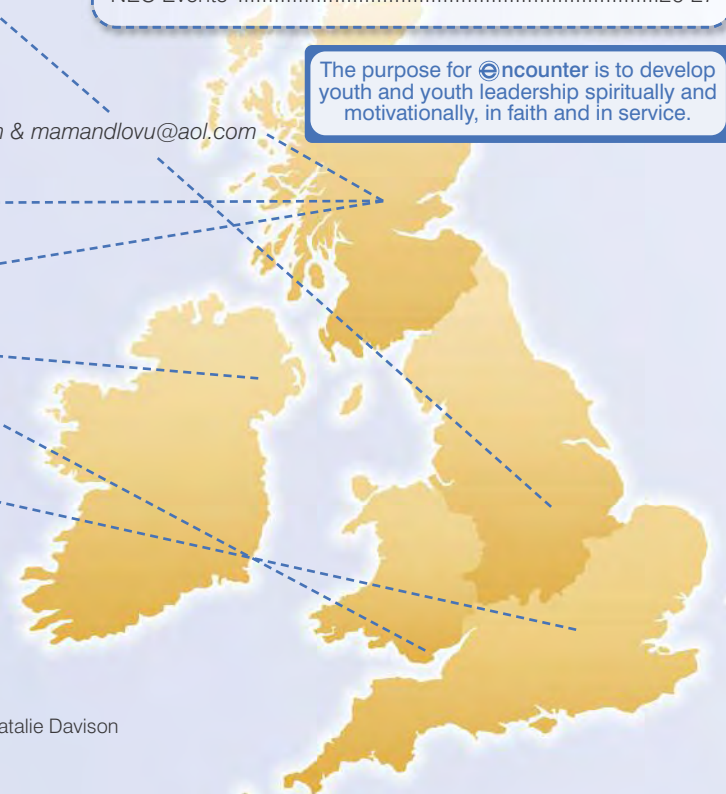
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The purpose for **e**ncounter is to develop youth and youth leadership spiritually and motivationally, in faith and in service.



So this is the last edition of **e**ncounter! In this size format anyway. Over the decades **e**ncounter has taken different formats; size (A4, A5, square), print colour (black on white with greyscale pictures, to full colour), and content (themed editions, news and reports, and regular sections).

In 2015 we will see the return of the A5 size, full colour, with feature articles and regular sections and columns. But we are always keen to hear from you readers as to how this magazine can best serve you. We invite you to go online to [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk) and take the questionnaire about **e**ncounter magazine. Please leave comments as your opinions are valuable to us.

I read recently about questions you should ask yourself if you are about to buy something. Basically, challenging the actual importance and value in your life of the desired product. That which is old isn't always considered valuable, but it might just need a refresh. One reason for changing the **e**ncounter size is to better fit poster-size promotions on the pages without wasted

space. We are having a magazine rebirth! It's a time for refocus.

And so, with a new academic year started, a new format of **e**ncounter coming, I invite you to fill your diary with the events of the new year, many advertised in this edition. Be sure to add the events calendar listing all the events for Adventist youth in the UK & Ireland (see QR code and web address below). Not least for you to 'attend with a friend' the UK and Ireland Adventist Youth Congress over Easter 2105, themed '**REBORN**'. Your renewed life with Jesus is about to begin. Daily. Yearly. For eternity.

Nathan

APR [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk)

WWW.MASTERGUIDECAMP.EU  
 APPLY AT YOUR LOCAL UNION OR CONFERENCE

## THE FUTURE

# TOGETHER V

# INTERNATIONAL

# MGC 15

08 - 11 May 2015

Kamp Šobec, Lecse, Slovenia

A camp, only for leaders and Master Guides, where you can share your Master Guide experience with others, discuss relevant issues to pathfinding in Europe and learn new leadership skills.





## ADRA-UK needs your help

### Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers Needed!

For this year's Gift Box Appeal to Togo, we have organised a Quality Control process in which UK volunteers can help us check and sort our 9000 Gift Boxes!

Taking place on every Sunday between 20 October-20 November, and weekdays during the October half term (27-31), this will be a fun and lively opportunity to see our work first-hand! If you would like to get involved and want more information, [volunteering@adra.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@adra.org.uk)





Fancy having your voice heard?! We're running focus groups (London and Birmingham) between October and November and we'd love to hear from you!

We want to hear from ADRA Agents, Youth Leaders, long-standing members and youth – we're keen to know what you think of ADRA! Contact [communications@adra.org.uk](mailto:communications@adra.org.uk) for more details.



 [www.adra.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/](http://www.adra.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/) 

 Check our Facebook page for exciting updates: [www.facebook.com/adrauk](http://www.facebook.com/adrauk) 

 Check our website: [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk) 



Cyclists in a velodrome have only one gear. This is for keeping weight down and so there are fewer mechanical parts to go wrong. But it means the start is slow and takes much effort to get up to speed.

The concept of YES Project has been publicised, and we are off to a slow start, but we will gather momentum into 2015.

Basically stated, YES Project is an endorsement and an advertising method for youth to find evangelistic and community service-based projects to get involved with across the UK & Ireland.

Projects include summer camp staff, event staff, designers, musicians, cooks, leaders, presenters, in fact anything you can turn your hand at. If you need some help with a project, let us know how we can advertise for help. All positions are voluntary.

For more information join us at [www.yesproject.org.uk](http://www.yesproject.org.uk) and like us on Facebook via 'Adventist Youth, UK & Ireland'.



 Search for Adventist Youth UK & Ireland 

 [www.yesproject.org.uk](http://www.yesproject.org.uk) 





## Albania Trip 2014



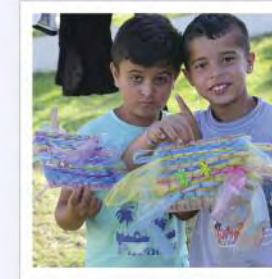
This summer 12 young people from the BUC participated in the TED AVS short-term mission trip to Albania, where they helped run health expos and provided a summer camp for local Roma children. To read a full report of the trip visit <http://eepurl.com/YW23P> and to get involved in future short-term trips sign up for the AVS newsletter at [www.tedadventistvolunteers.com](http://www.tedadventistvolunteers.com)



Big hugs from Leslie.



Marshall and the boys after a good game of football. Albania united.



The boys enjoying weaving with plastic bags.



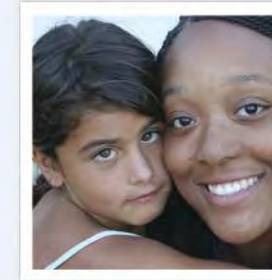
The children loved to play with cameras and phones. Not sure how much Debbie actually saw of hers!



Pastor Stephen and Marshall meeting people on the streets of Durres.



Happy to be home, the children smile as they show Josh around their homes.



Melissa with beautiful Sonia, always full of joy and love.



It took a while for Pamela to come out of her shell, but Joshua quickly gained her trust.



Healthy living, Play-Doh creations.



Josh and Aurora.



Cousins Leslie and Eric relaxing while overlooking Tirana.



Three beautiful little ballerinas posing with Josh.



One of the girls from camp showing off her baby sister.



Marshall checking local people's blood pressure at our health expo in a park in Fier.



Smiles all round!



Fun and games at the youth congress in Voskopoje.

visit [www.tedadventistvolunteers.com](http://www.tedadventistvolunteers.com) to find your next adventure.



## Pursuing excellence

*'Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.'* Daniel 6:3 (ESV)

What does excellence mean to you? Is it something you strive to attain or something you become? Is it a goal or is it a lifestyle? Maybe you feel it is neither one nor the other but a combination of both.

There are many commentaries about excellence. Here is one I really like:

'If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.' Colin Powell.

Excellence, then, is not something that one just arrives at; it comes as a result of daily habits that produce good results.

In our striving for excellence we should never lose sight of the fact that what we do, we should do for the glory of God. Scripture reminds us of this fact. 'And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.' Colossians 3:17 (KJV).

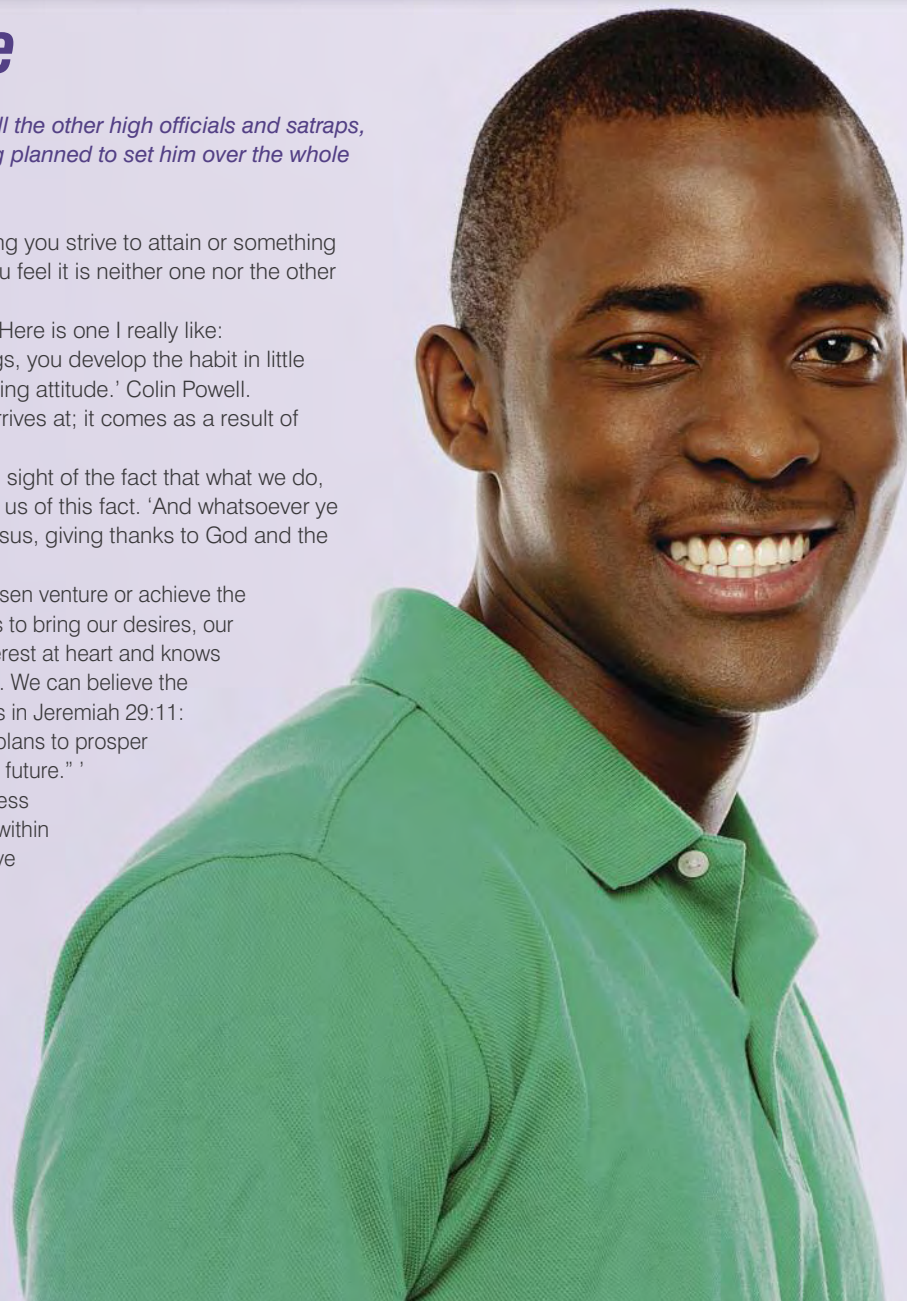
We all want to be successful, to succeed at our chosen venture or achieve the goals we have dreamed about attaining. God invites us to bring our desires, our dreams and our plans to Him, because He has our interest at heart and knows the best path we should take for a successful outcome. We can believe the promise He has spoken over our life, when He declares in Jeremiah 29:11:

' "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." '

(NIV.) With this assurance we can be encouraged to press forwards with the confidence that whatever we pursue within the will of God, He will give the empowerment to achieve it and be excellent at it.

Throughout my career and working life I would often repeat Scripture to keep my attitude positive and accept the potential God had given me to excel. In particular Philippians 4:13 was a favourite of mine. It reads (NKJV): 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

In my pursuit of excellence, however, there were great motivational and inspirational writers whose expertise in the field of 'success thinking' and achieving life goals has inspired me to reach for the potential



that God has ordained for my life. One of my favourite authors is Brian Tracy, who wrote *The Seven C's of Success*. This was a result of him having studied top achievers and peak performers over the past 25 years. He concluded that these unique men and women have, in most cases, mastered 7 key areas of success. Here's how Brian Tracy categorised the 7 attributes that were common to all of them.

### 1. Clarity

Eighty percent of success comes from being clear on who you are, what you believe in and what you want.

### 2. Competence

You can't climb to the next rung on the ladder until you are excellent at what you do now.

### 3. Constraints

Eighty percent of all obstacles to success come from within. Find out what is constraining in you or your company and deal with it.

### 4. Concentration

The ability to focus on one thing single-mindedly and see it through until it's done takes more character than anything else.

### 5. Creativity

Flood your life with ideas from many sources. Creativity needs to be exercised, like a muscle: if you don't use it, you'll lose it.

### 6. Courage

Most in demand and least in supply, courage is the willingness to do the things you know are right.

### 7. Continuous learning

Read, at the very least, one book a week on business to keep you miles ahead of the competition. And just as you eat and bathe, organise your time so you spend 30 minutes a day exploring email, sending messages, going through websites – because, like exercise, it's the only way you can keep on top of technology. If you get away from it, you'll lose your edge.

## o Sharon Platt-McDonald

BUC Director for Health, Disability Awareness and Women's Ministries

In addition to daily prayer, memorising key Bible promises and being a diligent student, these were some of the principles that I incorporated in my steps to success as I strove for excellence. Why not give them a go and see the results for yourself?

With summer now over, if you were a student, gone is the wait for exam results. Maybe you got the results you wanted and celebrated, or maybe you were a little disappointed and are retrying for better grades or moving on to something else. Whatever the outcome, you have commenced a new chapter in your student life, a new school or college term, maybe even started your first job or launched out in the career of your choice. Whatever brings you to a new beginning will require of you the right attitude to face whatever lies ahead as you strive to be the best that you can be.

The Bible refers to Daniel having 'an excellent spirit' (Daniel 6:3). This to me encompasses both a good attitude as well as striving to be the best in all areas of his life. This, I believe, is one of the factors that made Daniel the success that he was, and as a result he was singled out for promotion by the king.

Whether you are commencing a new academic year or embarking on a new season in your life – I wish you the very best of success as you strive for excellence. Tomorrow is within your grasp. Reach out and embrace each day God blesses you to experience as you face your life with the conviction that with God all things are possible!





**Dates -**  
Oct 30th to November 2nd

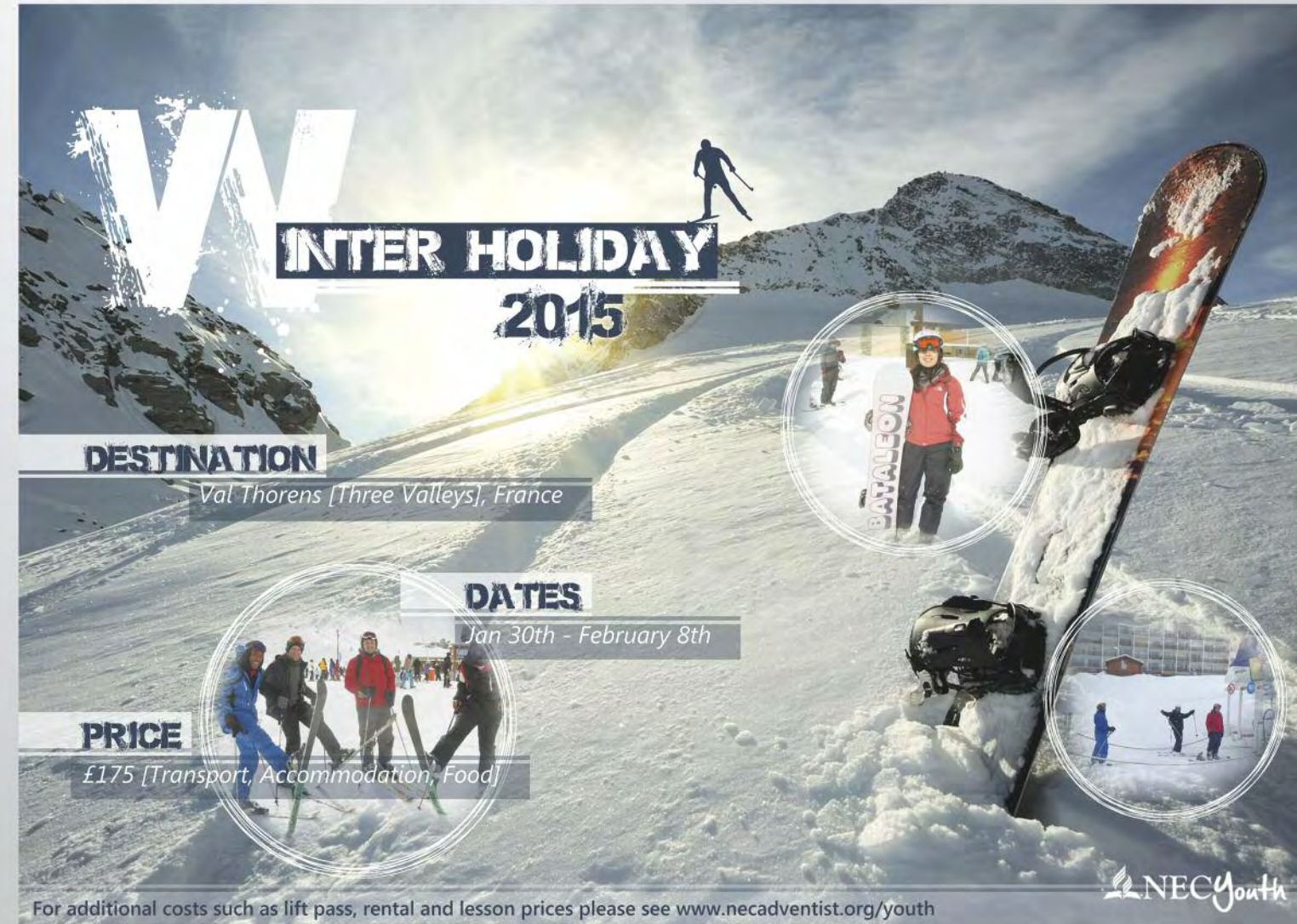
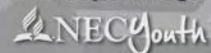
**Venue -**  
Pioneer Center, Kidderminster  
Cost - £125 or £140 with book

**Are you young, gifted and able?**  
The NEC Youth department is looking for young men and women who wish to be trained in the art of preaching. Attendance at this event will go towards qualification for the NEC Lay Preachers Certificate.

**Speakers:**  
Pastor Henry Wright, Peter Gregory,  
Pastor Ian Sweeney, Pastor Alan Hush and  
Pastor Adarn Rarndin



For further information and booking please visit  
[www.necyouth.org.uk](http://www.necyouth.org.uk)



## WINTER HOLIDAY 2015

**DESTINATION**  
Val Thorens [Three Valleys], France

**DATES**  
Jan 30th - February 8th

**PRICE**  
£175 [Transport, Accommodation, Food]

For additional costs such as lift pass, rental and lesson prices please see [www.necadventist.org/youth](http://www.necadventist.org/youth)





## University's first step – Freshers' Fair

One of the first things I experienced in university was the Freshers' Fair. There were many different stalls where I signed up to a variety of societies, from the wonderful to the downright weird. I found myself with free bags, enough pens to last me for the whole of my degree, a various assortment of paperweights and badges, and (when I found the right societies!) cake. I signed up for the Cross Country Society even though I hate the mention of sport, the Malaysian Society just because I liked their food, and the Eurovision Society because I was intrigued as to what on earth they could possibly do, and because, secretly, I quite like a good sing-along.

One of the societies that I would highly recommend to get involved in is the Christian Union. This is a student-led movement that seeks to give each student on campus the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel, acting as the evangelistic arm of the local church.

Joining the Christian Union was one of the best things that I ever did. Here's just two reasons why:

### 1. It's the best way to tell your friends about Jesus.

Before going to university, I would never have dreamt of doing Bible studies with my non-Christian friends, or to tell them unashamedly about my faith. Perhaps I'd be able to have a good conversation here and there, if I was lucky. But evangelistic Bible studies, or mission weeks, they were for the real pros, not for me.

My Christian Union experience helped me to understand that God delights to use me to reach my friends, despite my weaknesses. That He doesn't need evangelism pros, but simply surrendering servants who are willing to be used by Him. The CU challenged me to speak boldly to my friends about Jesus. To ask Tom on my course if he wanted to read the Bible (he said yes!). To study the Gospel of Luke with Ayesha, an international

student who wanted to know more about Christ (one of the most exciting things I have ever done!). To pray for my friends. To have life to the full and to live it with a missional intent.

Not only this, but through regular meetings and evangelistic events, the CU provided me with an easy and non-intense way to introduce my friends to Jesus, as well as equipping me with great teaching and resources to help me on the way!

### 2. Meeting Christians from different denominations provides you with an incredible network of support and encouragement.

Unfortunately, my university didn't have many Adventist students, with about three or four of us overall. However, by joining the Christian Union I met many sincere, Christ-centred Christians in other denominations who were seeking to do exactly the same as I was; to follow Jesus in a secular environment and to reach friends with the Good News of the Cross. We prayed, studied and fellowshiped together. I was

encouraged. I was challenged. I was equipped. We had our differences in doctrine, but these did not diminish our friendships and our common goal (In fact many discussions led to their investigation of biblical teachings on subjects such as the Sabbath or Hell!).

My experience at university was greatly defined by what the Christian Union taught me: confidence in the Gospel, boldness in speech, a desire for others to know Christ, and joy in the Cross. I saw friends come to Christ, and have been equipped and encouraged to live for Jesus in all circumstances, whether in halls with people I've only just met, a lecture when everyone laughs at the Christian worldview, or now, the scary world of post-uni life.

So when you're wandering around the Freshers' Fair, take the free pen (and hopefully the free cake), and sign up for the CU! Or, alternatively, start up your own Adventist Student Society! The time that you spend at university is defining – and there is no better time to know Christ and to make Him known.

Alex Browne studied at the University of Durham and will be attending the BUC Student Day in Leicester Central on 18 October.

**You're invited too!**

Sign up to book your lunchtime meal at this free event on Facebook:

**UK & Ireland Adventist Student Day**

or at the BUC website: [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk)





## Newbold Freshers' Week

The beginning of the 2014/2015 academic year marked the beginning of new friendships, new ideas, and new experiences. As the students arrived from different parts of the world, they were in for a good start. Theology student Joe Philpott, President of the Newbold Student Association (NSA), said, 'We planned Freshers' Week to be an exciting time for new friendships to flourish and to help students get settled in their new home.'

Registration began on the morning of Monday 1 September, followed by a barbeque lunch, but thanks to the British weather, this took place in the cafeteria. Familiarisation was the order of the day for Monday, as all new students were offered campus tours as well as trips into town. 'The trip to town made me become independent – now I'm confident using public transport and going out and about,' said Business student Lucas Karpiuk.

On Tuesday morning our principal, Dr John Baidam, caught everyone's attention with a rousing speech. He began by expressing his delight in the rising number of students, comprising around sixty different nationalities. He commended the choice of the students to study at Newbold as they were not only opting for a quality, Adventist education but they would also be able to learn a lot from the variety of cultures that exist on campus. The day continued with introductory classes and ice-breaker games later in the evening.

A group of 9 students and the new chaplain, Alastair Agbaje, headed to Wembley to watch England beat Norway. Student Remy Miller said, 'I was thrilled by Wembley Stadium! Seeing it was a dream come true!'

'Freshers' Week activities were planned to cater for both new and returning students,' said NSA's Student Activities Officer, Liana Quenga. 'It's amazing how the campus is filled with so many happy faces and willing participants.' On Thursday, the weather had picked up a little, allowing the NSA to make the outdoor games a reality.

Impact Day took place on Friday. It is a bi-annual event in



and staff alike with ample cakes and biscuits. Thankfully, these calories were burned off with an exciting night of sports and activities, led by the NSA.

The weekend concluded with 84 students visiting London and enjoying many of the sights.

Would you like

to visit our campus and experience Newbold for yourself? Great – register for a taster session! You can meet our teaching staff and attend classes, stay in our Halls of Residence, speak to current students, eat in our cafeteria, experience campus life – from student-led worship programmes, to sports and other social activities – and meet with our admissions and finance staff.

If you enrol as a student at Newbold following this preliminary visit, then you will be eligible to claim up to £150\* worth of travel expenses from your visit to Newbold (keep your receipts) and we'll even cover your accommodation and food for the duration of your visit!

which both students and staff participate in a variety of community projects. 'I have never had the chance to do mission work so having this opportunity was great,' said Ali Reiner, an Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) student. The community projects included singing at care homes for older people, litter picking, fence painting, gardening and offering free car washes.

To end the day, the hard-working volunteers were welcomed to a beautifully decorated cafeteria where they were given a three-course meal, which preceded a reflective service led by the students at the Newbold church. Testimonies were shared and God was praised for the wonderful work the staff and students did in the community that day.

But that wasn't it for Freshers' Week! Sabbath morning was such a blessing and was followed by the Cream Tea event which fed students

\*See our website for terms and conditions

For more information and to book your visit, see: [www.newbold.ac.uk/visit-us](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/visit-us)



## Alumnus profile: meet Daniela Ursulenko

## Alumnus profile: meet Daniel Opoku-Mensah

**Please tell us a bit about yourself and your time at Stanborough.**

My name is Daniela Ursulenko. I am from Ukraine. I came to Stanborough in 2012 for a summer camp and afterwards I decided to study here and learn English for university. I have been at Stanborough for one year and nine months. It was such a good experience for me to be part of the Stanborough family.

**Who was your favourite teacher? And your favourite subject/s? Why?**

My favourite teacher was Mr Edwards. He is the EFL teacher, so I spend most of my time with him. He helped me to feel at home and speak English. I came to Stanborough without any English and could not speak at all. So for me EFL was a perfect subject.

**Did you go on any international trip organised by the school?**

I went to India on a trip in 2013 that Mr Poddar organised. It was fantastic to be there and experience a different culture. Teaching those children was a pleasure.

**What was the most valuable lesson that you learnt during your time at Stanborough?**

Stanborough changed my thoughts and changed my worldview. I am 17 right now and I want to continue growing. Thanks to Stanborough, my English has improved and I have been admitted to study at Southern Adventist University, Tennessee.



**Please tell us a bit about yourself and your time at Stanborough.**

My name is Daniel Opoku-Mensah. I studied at Stanborough from 2005 to 2010. I have just finished my first year at uni, studying biosciences and health studies in Canterbury, and currently do volunteer work with the SEC Teens Department in helping run teens' programmes in the SEC. When I finish I hope to go into paediatrics or microbiology. Not quite decided which path yet.

**Who was your favourite teacher? And your favourite subject/s? Why?**

I'm not sure if having favourites is allowed but if I had to choose I would probably say Mr McKie as PE was my favourite subject all through school.

**Did you go on any international trip organised by the school?**

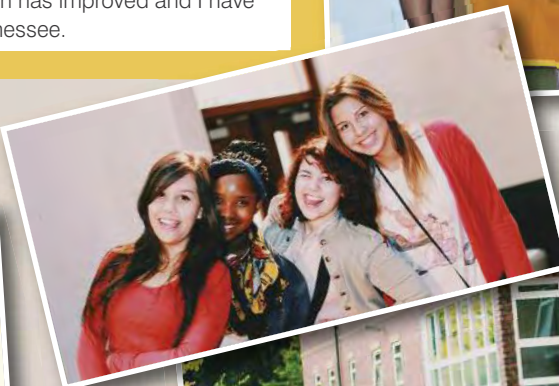
I didn't go on any of the international trips organised by the school but I went to France quite a few times with the French class if that counts.

**What was the most valuable lesson that you learnt during your time at Stanborough?**

You can do anything you put your mind to but it's only through hard work.

**Any final thoughts?**

As the famous Nelson Mandela said, 'It always seems impossible until it's done.'



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Stanborough Park, Watford,  
Hertfordshire WD25 9JT  
[www.spsch.org](http://www.spsch.org)





## Aberdaron 2014

◦ Adam Ramdin  
NEC Youth Ministries Director

Aberdaron, Wales, home to the Advent Youth Campsite in Glan Yr Afon, each summer hosts three camps put on by the NEC Youth Department. From 10 to 17 August it was Earliteen Camp for those aged 13-16. Almost 50 teens came from all over the country for a fun-filled week that included rock climbing/abseiling, coasteering, canoeing, football, camp ball (those that have been know what it is), go karting, beach games, hiking and much more. Some came for the first time but for many they were returning on what is a regular part of their summer schedule. Throughout the week the outdoor activities were conducted by fully qualified instructors and they aimed to challenge the campers with activities that are not a part of our normal everyday lives. Building determination and overcoming one's fears is something that teaches valuable lessons to the campers and can be used in everyday life. Throughout the week we were blessed by the thought-provoking worships from Pastor Isaac Liburd as we looked into creation versus evolution, how to believe when there is little proof and the three angels' messages. The worships

were engaging and involved the campers acting out key points or Bible verses and explaining certain passages from the Bible. The camp was led out by Derek Simon, who recently graduated from Newbold, and Pastor Bran, along with staff from all over the NEC who served as counsellors, kitchen staff, activities leaders and nurses.

This year there was a week's gap between Earliteen Camp and Youth Camp for the 17+ age category. Youth Camp was a small camp with 13 campers but that did not take away from the fun, fellowship and good times that were had by all who were there. While the weather was not the greatest it did not detract from getting out in the beautiful countryside to rock climb, canoe and go coasteering. Abseiling tested their fear of heights, canoeing tested their teamwork skills, while coasteering tested their ability to follow instructions and follow the leader – all while enjoying the great outdoors. For many it was their first time doing such activities and, despite their age and size, the same fears had to be overcome. In the words of one of the instructors for the

week, 'The outdoors are just one big massive playground and cannot compare with sitting at home watching the telly.' We were well fed by the catering team, led by Cheryl Banton, with some campers even commenting that they had eaten too much that week! The timing of Youth Camp meant that it coincided with the Ice Bucket Challenge surge that was sweeping through the country at the time and no fewer than 12 people took up the challenge throughout the week. Some were aided by the big barrels at Aberdaron and a few even took advantage of the dumper to get a really good soaking. We were again blessed throughout the week with some excellent devotions by Pastor Jonathan Holder, who opened up the book of Proverbs, showing how 'God is concerned with the ordinary parts of our lives'.

Aberdaron provides a great retreat for the youth in our church to connect with each other, to connect with God, to try challenging new activities, to learn new skills and to make friends with other youth from around the country, and if you have never been then plan to come next year! Next year's dates for Earliteen Camp will be 9-16 August and Youth Camp will be 16-23 August. Booking will be available at [www.necyouth.org.uk](http://www.necyouth.org.uk)





## Aberdaron 50th Anniversary

From 16 to 18 May more than 100 people gathered at the Aberdaron Advent Campsite in North Wales for the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The campsite was purchased 50 years ago by Pastor Ron Surridge, who was serving as the Youth Director of the NEC at the time. Pastor Surridge believes that the Lord led him to this site, which was able to be acquired for a very reasonable sum of money for the purpose of youth ministry. The first camp was held in much more primitive conditions, with outdoor cooking, a limited water supply and tents, instead of the chalets, camping pods or slick modern tents that we enjoy today. Notwithstanding this, those who came had a great summer and the foundations were laid for many years to come. In the early

◦ **Adam Ramdin**  
NEC Youth Ministries Director

years the hall and kitchen as we know it now was built, largely by volunteers from church who dedicated time, money and holidays to make what many have since enjoyed. Throughout the weekend we heard stories from campers from every decade since – the '70s, '80s, '90s, '00s – many of whom now send their children or grandchildren to Aberdaron; they were all able to reminisce about the 'good old days'.

For many people 'Aberdaron', as the site is known by those who come, has become an annual fixture in the annual calendar. It is a place to retreat from work life, normal church life and city life, and in the peace and quiet connect with God and fellowship

with other like-minded friends. There were several couples at the anniversary weekend who have been to Aberdaron every year since the site opened, taking the meaning of being a 'regular' to a whole new level!

Present at this anniversary weekend were several of the previous NEC Youth Directors, Pastor Ron Surridge, Pastor Bob Rodd (who entertained us with an old-fashioned slide show, complete with running commentary), Pastor Steve Palmer and Pastor Alan Hush, along with former NEC Family Life Director, Pastor Paul Clew. Many of the present NEC administration and departmental directors were also there, providing a link between the past, present and future. The site, named locally as Glan Yr Afon, was named by the church as the Advent Youth campsite, as it was originally run and operated by the Youth Department, but it has grown in both size and infrastructure since it was bought 50 years ago. Originally it was just the lower field, but soon this was expanded to include what is known to regulars as the 'top field', and around the year 2000 the old caravans were replaced by the

modern Scandinavian-style chalets that we have today. There are plans to develop the site even further to increase the capacity and provide year-round accommodation and activities. The site is now no longer run by the Youth Department, but by a dedicated camp site manager, who keeps the place running smoothly as it is used on a weekly basis by churches and other groups. The summer camps, including Special Needs, Family, Junior, Earliteen, Youth and Midlands, run each year and provide a service to the members of the church.

Throughout the weekend we enjoyed worshipping together, singing around the campfire, walking on Sabbath afternoon to Anelog or Pen-y-Cil, and an evening banquet, as well as an auction of old Aberdaron artefacts, with one person even paying £10 for an old aluminium jug!

It is important to look back and remember where the Lord has brought us, to remember the dedication, sacrifice, commitment and perseverance that those in the past gave so that we could be blessed today. It was a great weekend, both to look back and to look forwards, to see where we have come from but also where we can go. May Aberdaron continue to be used as a means to minister to and bless the Church here in the UK.



[www.aberdaroncamp.com](http://www.aberdaroncamp.com)







## Chapel Porth 30th Anniversary

o Nathan Stickland  
BUC Youth Ministries Director

This year is the 30th anniversary of summer camps at the South England Conference Youth Camp Site in Chapel Porth, Cornwall. While the site was bought at the end of the season of 1983, the first camps started to take place from Easter time of 1984. This included an opening ceremony, at what previously had been a commercially run caravan park.

On that first year, during a family camp, a young man lost his life. A tragic event, but the site has since seen many years of happy camps, with decisions to follow Jesus being made, and baptisms performed at the beach. For some, Chapel Porth is a most wonderful location to spend time in fellowship with and service for others, and to experience God in the surrounding beauty of nature.

Over the years buildings and sheds have been knocked down and rebuilt, large static caravans have been periodically replaced, and additions like a basketball court have been built. I believe there might be plans for further developments on site too.

Nostalgia and memories are not so much dependent on a location as they are provided for by the opportunity. Wherever your youthful days of summer camp might have been or will be held, you might consider Chapel Porth in the future. As a venue to attend a conference camp, or to hire the site for your church camp, Cornwall's scenic views await your viewing.

For more information or to book, please contact [secyouth.org.uk](http://secyouth.org.uk)



St. Agnes beach is our second nearest, while the village offers the opportunity of buying gifts and souvenirs.



The Cornish authorities provide a very good life-guard and sea rescue service, which we will augment with our own qualified staff. If you have qualifications in this field, we would like to hear from you.



In October 1983, the SEC acquired the Chapelport Camping and Caravan Park, near St. Agnes, north Cornwall, for its Youth as a small introduction to the site, and will alike, to come and experience the beauties first hand. Much of the programme will still be under canvas, but the static caravans will expand the potential of the site, which we would like to keep busy from April to October. For full details of the Chapelport 1984 plans, or for enquiries to serve on staff, please contact Pastor Mike Stickland, Conference Youth director, 25 St. John's Road, Watford, Herts., WD1 1PY, or ring Watford 32728.

Porthtowan beach offers acres of sand at low tide, plus caves and rock pools to explore, and is the reward for a twenty-minute cliff walk from our site.

The north Cornish coast is ruggedly beautiful, providing miles of exhilarating walks, and some fascinating natural and ancient history, and industrial archaeology.

### INTRODUCING CHAPELPORTH

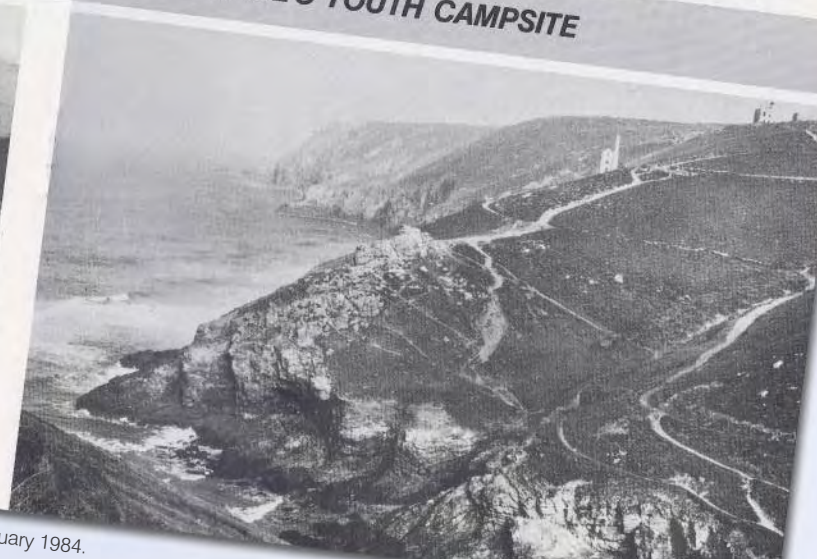
### THE NEW SEC YOUTH CAMPSITE



The site is set about half a mile from the sea, on the north Cornish coast, and even boasts a few palm trees. On a clear day, if you look hard, you might almost see the Caribbean!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE STICKLAND

The open door on this, one of the newest of the sixteen caravans on site, extends to you, families and youth alike, a warm welcome to enjoy Chapelport.



Excerpt from *Encounter*, January 1984.

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## Evolution and creation

◦ Dr Mart de Groot



Dr Mart de Groot obtained his doctor's degree in astronomy at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. He has worked at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, and at the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland: 18 years as its director, and another 6 years as a senior research associate. After early retirement, he entered the ministry and has pastored several churches in the Irish Mission for 16 years. Now, retired, he enjoys sharing what he has learned about the universe and its Creator.

If you have any questions or comments about any issues raised in this article, you can contact Dr de Groot at: [mart.degroot@gmail.com](mailto:mart.degroot@gmail.com)

As a university student I faced a struggle to find a balance between the evolutionary teachings of science and the Word of God. Today, youth face a more intense struggle because evolutionary ideas are much more widely accepted than 55 years ago.

Scientists observe nature and try to find out how nature came to be as it is today, how it works, and what we can deduce about the future. Interpreting what we observe around us requires a worldview, a set of answers to basic questions that define who we are. This is very important: a faulty worldview will lead to faulty conclusions about the world and life.

A Christian worldview would likely contain such notions as 'God exists and is the Creator of all there is', 'God loves His creation and creatures', 'sin has separated us from God', and 'God has a plan to bring us back to Himself through Jesus Christ'.

The common worldview of materialistic natural science says that 'all the universe is made of are things like mass, time, energy, and motion', and 'there is no influence from outside the universe in what

happens under the sun'. This worldview excludes all action by God – if He happens to exist at all. But, surely, our God does interfere with His creation, even for our good. Sure, science has shown us many interesting facts about the composition of matter and about the universe. Everything that exists is made up out of a collection of just thirty fundamental particles such as electrons, quarks, neutrinos, and others. However, on the basis of its worldview, science has come to the conclusion that the origin of life is not well understood; life is short, and the future unattractive.

Fortunately, there is more to the universe than science claims. Astronomy teaches us that the conditions on planet Earth are not only such that human life can thrive here (of course, if this were not so I would not be here to write about it), but they are also unique. Life is a finely-balanced commodity that requires about one hundred conditions to be quite precisely fulfilled within very narrow limits. We call this fine-tuning. Go beyond those limits and life cannot exist.

The conditions for the production of life involve, among others, the values of physical quantities like the gravitational constant and the charge of the electron, and the strength of most physical forces such as the strong and weak nuclear forces, and the electromagnetic force. And, since most physical and biochemical processes require energy, a good constant source of energy is crucial.

It is certainly not obvious, but the rate of expansion of the universe is a very important quantity that requires fine-tuning with a precision of 1 in  $10^{60}$  (that is a 1 followed by 60 zeros – long odds, for sure!). If the universe expands too rapidly, it becomes impossible to form stars. If it expands too slowly, the universe would have collapsed on itself a long time ago. In both cases there would be no stars, that is, there would be no sun and, thus, no energy to support life.

Since more than half of our body is water, the presence of water in all its phases is essential for life. Therefore, Earth's distance from the sun – our energy source – must be just right: too close and too much water turns into vapour, too far away and too much water turns into ice.

Here is one more example: the atoms in a molecule are held together by the electromagnetic force and bond with other atoms through the exchange of electrons. If the electromagnetic force is too strong, the atoms hold on to their electrons and no bonds are made. If this force is too weak, the electrons are not bound to any atom and complex molecules like DNA will not be possible. No DNA, no life.

How can a mechanical universe governed only by natural law have the foresight to produce a planet like Earth where these delicate

requirements for life are fulfilled? Can we ascribe to the fundamental particles that constitute the universe the intelligence that foresight requires? This argument and all the fine-tunings are strong arguments for the existence of an intelligent Being, God.

Another result from the study of astronomy is that Earth's location in the universe is just about the very best for exploring what the universe is like. Earth's location in the Milky Way, far from its centre and just on the inside of a spiral arm, allows us the best possible view of the rest of the universe with its many galaxies and other interesting objects that give us some idea of the greatness and omnipotence of God. The care wherewith Earth and life are protected declare God's love.

It looks as if the Creator invites us to study His handiwork so that we may know Him better. The heavens declare the glory of a loving God who has promised that this sin-affected universe will one day soon be replaced by new heavens and a new earth where love, joy, and peace will last forever!



 **NEC Youth events 2015**

- 30 January-8 February  
**Winter Holiday**, France
- 13-15 February  
**Relationship Weekend**
- 1-4 May  
**Prayer Warriors**, Alton Castle
- 15-21 June  
**NEC Camp Meeting**
- 28 June  
**Big Six**
- 26 July  
**Athletics Day**
- 2-9 August  
**Junior Camp**, Aberdaron, Wales
- 9-16 August  
**Earliteen Camp**, Aberdaron, Wales
- 16-23 August  
**Youth Camp**, Aberdaron, Wales
- 11-13 September  
**NEC Youth Weekend**, Isle of Man
- 2-24 October  
**Youth Campaigns**
- 29 November  
**Go Kart Sunday**
- 11-13 December  
**Youth Leader Level 1 Training**

For further information please visit [www.necyouth.org.uk](http://www.necyouth.org.uk)



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For further information please contact the Pathfinder Department on 0115 0960 6312





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John 3:3 (NLT)

For more information: [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk)

