



encounter

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- corrosion

Cover photo: Shaniel McKenzie © Dejan Stojkovic, SEC Teens Ministry.

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The purpose of **e@ncounter** 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:

Science and Faith



Irving Annan is a chartered materials engineer working in the offshore subsea oil and gas industry, with a BSc in Material Science and Engineering as well as an MSc in Advanced Engineering Materials. He is aiming to qualify as a health evangelist/medical missionary in the near future.

Youth Issues



Jaz Rodney-Sargeant is back with her third installment of 'Smart Pathways'. She is a careers and business Coach, and in this issue, she shares the impact of faith on our life and careers choices and the importance of effective planning as we set goals.

Pathfinders & Adventurers



The Pathfinder honours that we highlight in **e@ncounter** can be found on the General Conference website: www.gcyyouthministries.org – all the honours are detailed here as well as Adventurer awards and organisational information.

e@ncounter 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 **e@ncounter** 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 **e@ncounter** magazine. Fill in our online survey at www.adventistyouth.org.uk



Welcome to our summer edition of **e@ncounter** magazine. I have been enjoying the longer evenings that spring and summer provide, although I'm hopeful we will have a late, sunny, summer during August following a rather wet and windy spring. Especially for the BUC Camporee taking place next to eight miles of beach!

Inside this edition you'll find the last-minute adverts for the summer camps, inspiring articles, and a taste of future events to plan for. To be sure of getting the latest copy of **e@ncounter** join our Facebook page and find an electronic copy on our website: www.adventistyouth.org.uk

I had a discussion with someone recently and I found myself defining something by way of its limitations. This has got me thinking about how we define things according to their limitations. Notably, how do we define God, or why do we think we should? The first line of Genesis chapter 1 is a lesson to me in why I should not define God by way of my limitations. 'In the beginning' means God created time. 'Created the heavens' means God created space. 'And the earth' means God created matter. I will therefore always run into problems when I try to define God in terms of the things that He has made. I should not limit my definition of God by time, space, or matter. God transcends all three.

I hope that during the summer, no matter what the weather brings, you will experience – but not limit – God in time, space, and things around you.

Nathan





A mission story

◦ Tina Jeanette

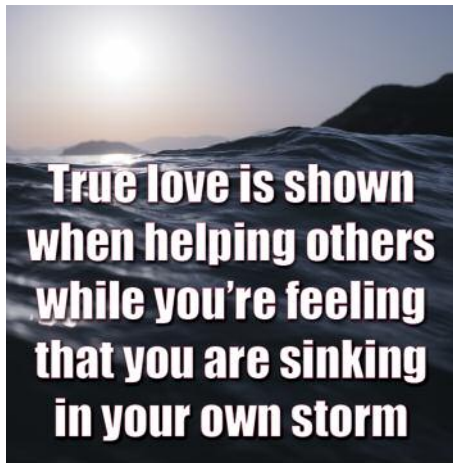
4 My name is Tina Jeanette, and I have 23 years of life experience on this planet. I'm from Norway, but these days I'm at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya. This school year I have been assisting as girl's dean here at MAA. It has been . . . wonderfully challenging in every aspect of my existence. This is for sure something I can put on my spiritual CV. The girls make me laugh and smile, they make me cry. I couldn't ask for more. When my friends and family at home ask me how I'm doing and what I've learned, I put on a goofy smile and tell them these two things:

1) No matter where you are in this world, teenagers will be teenagers. Period.

2) I'll NEVER get 47 girls. (It has never really been an alternative either, just sayin'.)

Now don't get me wrong. I love my job. God is using those kids to bring forth the worst and best in me, to show me what He needs to remove, and what has to grow in my life. Sometimes I have to smile at the thought of God bringing me here. He must have brought me here to work on my character, more than for the sake of the students.

One day I was scrolling down Facebook – this quote popped out from nowhere:



'Preach it, sister,' my Norwegian wanna-be-African brain thought. That has been my greatest challenge my entire life: to love when I feel I'm the one that needs to be loved and understood.

No matter where we are in this world, there are moments that we feel we are drowning. It can be school, work, homesickness, and relationship issues – there will always be something or someone that is making your life a bit more complicated, right?

Seventh-day Adventists are called by God's love to serve, to love, and to help those around us to realise what it means that God is love, what love means. That's our mission. Sometimes it feels like I'm not able to love as fully and deeply, because I'm going through a hard time. There are moments that without realising it I think that I have a greater need and reason for being loved than my girls do. I wish they



could be understanding enough to humble themselves and show the respect I want. I'm praying daily to be a blessing to them. I ask God to give me a loving and forgiving spirit. I do what I can to find the balance between mercy and justice. I strive to show them that Jesus loves them. But sometimes they don't feel loved. I can't even imagine how painful it must be for God to pour out His entire life for us, yet still we accuse him of not caring for us or loving us. Ellen White was for sure inspired by God when she said that love is a holy principle, not a feeling. Sometimes I try to love my students and co-workers in my own power. Then I'm doomed to fail.

At some point I had some serious communication problems with a close friend of mine, across the sea. I was homesick, and I was fed up with being away from my loved ones and my own culture.

It broke my heart to feel that I was letting down people on all sides. I felt that I didn't have anything to give, I was facing a burn out. I still tried to be a good dean, but I felt I never managed to give 100%. There will always be misunderstandings and conflicts, no matter who you are talking to. I've learned that conflict is not an enemy: it is simply a result of intimacy. Conflicts will either draw you closer or push you further apart. It's a choice.

We have to learn to stop excusing our sins by saying: '(S)he has the greater blame, I just. . .'. It doesn't matter. We have to make things right with God and our fellow men; whether the others choose to do the same is between them and God.

I guess the summary of being a student missionary is: Romans 8:28 is still active, simply because God is active, as He always has been. He is the greatest missionary in the universe. I have a lot to learn from Him. I praise God for Adventist Volunteer Service, and their passion to inspire young and old to be missionaries both at home and abroad.

For more information about volunteering at home or abroad:
www.tedadventistvolunteers.com

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NECYouth

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IN AID OF
SAMANTHA
PHILPOTT

II
September
2016

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£25 per person (or £40 per couple)

All proceeds from the banquet will go towards Samantha Philpott's treatment. For more information regarding Samantha, visit gotfundme.com/helpsamtoday.

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Youth Issues

Smart pathways – part 3

Sharon Platt-McDonald
& Jaz Rodney-Sargeant

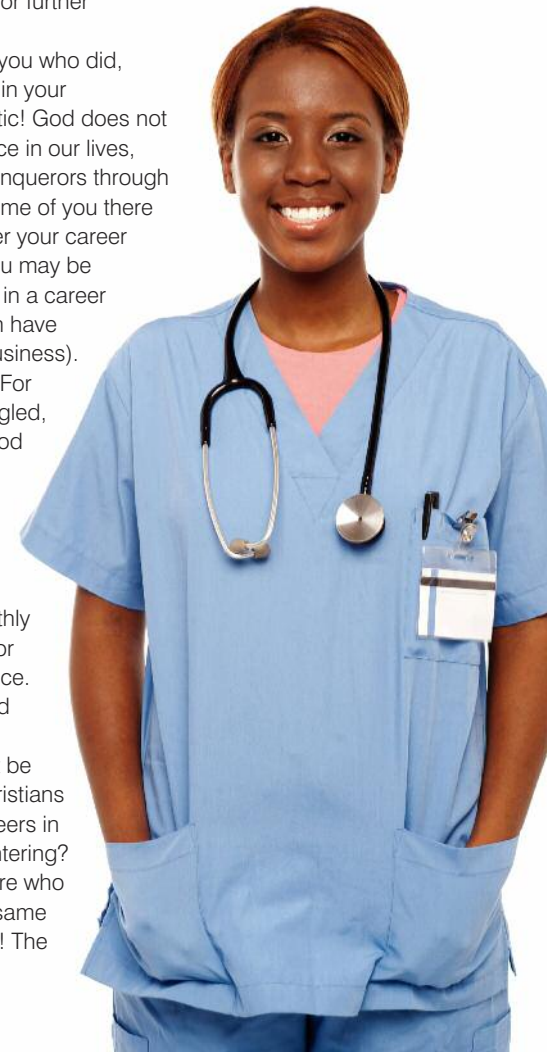


encounter 6

Welcome back to our penultimate issue of Smart Pathways. We hope you have been enjoying the journey as much as we have! Now, you will recall from our previous issue that we served up an offering of somewhat challenging questions for you to explore as the key to 'smart' decision-making. We also talked about looking at the potential answers to some of those questions, as well as taking the opportunity to pose further questions for further exploration. So let's get started!

Did you do the 'spiritual' check? For those of you who did, great! Remember the question: 'Is God involved in your ambitions?' If your answer was yes, that's fantastic! God does not want us to exclude Him from anything taking place in our lives, and indeed in doing so we are '... more than conquerors through him who loves us' Romans 8:37. However, for some of you there may be a niggling element of doubt as to whether your career path and spiritual path are mutually exclusive. You may be wondering how, for example, your faith can work in a career involving sports or performing arts (both of which have association with the leisure and entertainment business). Or careers such as music, fashion or modelling. For this reason, you may be struggling or have struggled, like so many, with the question of 'where does God want me to be in all of this?' And indeed, what ultimately is my purpose in life?

The answer to this is far from complicated, as God is not a God of confusion. Our purpose is almost always bound up in our 'spiritual gifts' (Matthew 5:3-10), which don't differ from our earthly gifts, as you can see from the text. Take just one or two of these, for example, gentleness and patience. They are easily applicable to the questions posed above, which are essentially saying: are my life choices in sync with God? Consider this: could it be possible that there are countless numbers of Christians currently experiencing active and successful careers in the very profession you may be worried about entering? Surely, there must be at least one person out there who has a story to tell about how they navigated the same pathway you may consider to be off-limits to you! The



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apostle Paul calls for us to be 'light bearers' ' . . . that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world' (Phil 2:15, NKJV). Let's face it – our gifts and abilities are God-given, not things you struggle to learn or get passionate about.

Therefore – for me – the question as to whether or not God wants me to be doing something is somewhat moot. God invites us to ' "Let your light so shine . . . that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" ' (Matt 5:16, NKJV). Do you remember the young footballer – Fabrice Muamba – who in 2012 collapsed with a heart attack on the pitch in front of fellow team members and hundreds of supporters? His heart stopped for 78 minutes and he was effectively pronounced dead at the scene. Through social media, banners, flags and their shirts at the next game, the team called on the world to pray for his recovery, and recover he did! Dr Andrew Deaner, the cardiologist and Tottenham fan who leapt from his seat in the crowd and rushed on to the pitch to help Muamba, said his recovery could be described as 'miraculous'.

Had his faith not been evident as a professional footballer, and but for the faith of those Christian team members, this would have been the last thing they would have considered doing.

So many young people report feeling 'conflicted' about their career choice in areas of leisure and

entertainment, and less so in what might be considered 'regular' career areas such as health/medicine, engineering or finance. But why? Is it because these are far more 'acceptable' areas for Christians to be 'un-conflicted'? I would argue that those careers allow for far more 'hiding' of one's faith, than perhaps the leisure and entertainment industries, where events frequently take place on a Saturday (the Sabbath), calling for a declaration of faith from the beginning.

But if it is only the 'Sabbath' where the conflict lies, then this is far more easily overcome than one might think. Take for instance Olympic medallist Jonathan Edwards OBE. In 1991 he made history by refusing to compete or train on his Sabbath (a Sunday) and through the power of his conviction, went on to become one of Britain's most successful athletes. He once said, 'My relationship with Jesus and God is fundamental to everything I do. I have made a commitment and dedication in that relationship to serve God in every area of my life.'



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Well known basketball player Magic Johnson also managed a successful career in sport as a Seventh-day Adventist; as does Jaci Velasquez (a Christian contemporary singer who appeared in the movie *Aye Papi*) in music. There are almost definitely many more. . . .

So, your 'homework', for next time is to do some research and see how many Seventh-day Adventists you can find in the leisure and entertainment industry (or even your own career area); look at their story (as they will have one) and see if you can find out how they have managed the challenges of being a Christian within that career area. I invite you to write to us here at [encounter](mailto:jaz@smartpathways.co.uk) and tell us what you found out – there will be a prize for the most compelling story (jaz@smartpathways.co.uk)! My 'homework' for the next issue is to take the time to do the same, and I will be sharing that story with you – don't miss it!

OK, so we've tackled Question 1. Let's take a look at Question 2. Do you have a plan? Is it rigid or flexible? Do you have a backup? Have you done enough research, investigated this idea enough – have you prayed enough, and if so, did you get the answer you were looking for, or something you really did not expect from God?

In my many years as a school and college Careers Adviser, I would always advise young people to have a 'well informed plan'. Simply put, this follows the old but worthy adage – 'fail to plan, is to plan to fail'. Nevertheless, the frequent response I hear from young people is 'I have no idea how to do this!' Not that, as some parents or teachers might fear, you are just too lazy to do this, but many genuinely don't know how! And I believe this to be true of many. So here is a very simple starting point: take a blank sheet of A4 paper. Write at the top

of the page: Career ideas. 5 bullet points – What? Where? Why? When? Who? And most importantly, How? Now let's get going! Following on from previous questions, now consider these:

What are my top 3 areas of interest (more if you have them). These should be broad areas, not too much detail at this point.

Why do these areas interest me? It could be, I'm really good at this. Or I love the idea of being able to.... Or I've observed a specific person(s) doing this, and really been inspired by...

How can I find out more? Who do I need to talk to who can help me make this happen? In fact, who in addition to God?

Where do I need to go for more information or areas of research – Google, books, teachers, people in the profession, etc.?

By when do I need to make a decision?

OK, so you've completed your planning – now for the next step. The fuel in this particular engine is the ability to bring your ideas to life and really achieve those goals. In our final issue we tackle detailed questions of setting SMART objectives and how to see them through. For now, remember Proverbs 19:21 (NIV), '**Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.**' Timothy sets us the challenge in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV): '**Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**'

Crux of the matter

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



Dear Pastor,

I have always been taught, from childhood, that it is important to pray. I have, however, found in my older years that I do very little in the way of praying these days. I have found that nothing seems to be gained by praying. God does not answer my prayers. I remember praying for a friend who was very sick to be healed and, instead of being healed, they died. Praying was a waste of time, Pastor.

I can appreciate your feelings of disappointment in prayer. Maybe it would help to have a greater understanding of what exactly prayer is. I am reminded of Genesis 3:8, when God came walking in the cool of the evening, looking for Adam and Eve, as His custom was. Being an all knowing, all-present, all-powerful God, He still came looking for our first parents, knowing what they had done. This beautiful scene shows me a very important point: that God loves me and wants to communicate with me. For any human relationship to grow and develop, constant communication must take place. And so it is with the most important relationship that you and I could ever have... a relationship with Jesus. Prayer is simply talking with God. When we communicate with our friends, our conversations do not simply consist of our asking for things. It would eventually be a big turnoff for our friends. Likewise, our prayers with God should not be solely asking for things. Our prayers should consist of thanks, praise, adoration, asking forgiveness, repentance, for guidance, protection, wisdom and knowledge, not only for ourselves but, unselfishly, also for others.

But why does it seem that God does not seem to answer our prayers? I remember as a youngster being told by my mother to pray for my father who had stopped going to church and adopted the lifestyle of one not following Jesus. This made it very hard for my mother to bring up a teenager and two toddlers in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I remember praying for almost a decade for my

father and on numerous occasions it seemed as if God was not hearing me or listening to me. My prayers seem to be just bouncing off the ceiling. Then, after all those years of prayers, my father just gave up his job which required him to work on Sabbaths, gave up the lifestyle he was living and returned to Jesus and the fellowship he had previously experienced in church. I often asked my Lord in prayer why it had taken so long to answer my prayers? It was the words of the Psalmist that had kept me going, 'Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!' (Ps. 27:14, NKJV.) I am mindful of Elisha who performed many miracles of healing in the name of the Lord, but who was not healed of the disease that would later take his own life. Likewise, Paul prayed for healing from a physical affliction, but was not healed from it. Both men accepted and understood that God had a plan for them in their lives. They believed what Revelation 21:4 expresses – the healing may not come in this life, but will come in the next life.

Two important things that we should remember is that: a) God always answers prayer. He may not, however, always answer when we think He should or according to our understanding of what is best. b) Some things we will not understand until we get to heaven, but one thing is certain: God loves us and wants to do only what is best for us. So please do not give up on your prayer life. Don't give up on your daily talk with Him. Don't let your relationship with Him die due to lack of communication.

Eat to live Summer salads

o Angelette Müller

Summer is here. It's the season for salads. Salads are healthy due to a variety of fresh raw vegetables, and tasty because of healthy salad dressings. Putting a salad together can be as easy as washing a bowl of mixed lettuce leaves, adding some chopped cucumber and sliced tomato. Salads can work as a side dish to add vegetables to a meal, or can be used as a main dish. There are several different bases you can use for a salad, such as greens, grains or beans. Here are three basic formulas for making salad as a main dish, for pot luck or for a picnic.

Salad building • Salad as a main dish

Choose something green

lettuce – cos, romaine, iceberg, english salad, curly leaf, oak leaf, lambs lettuce, etc. spinach
broccoli (tiny florets raw or bigger florets steamed)
kale (steamed)
cabbage (steamed)
swiss chard
watercress
mustard cress

Choose something colourful

tomatoes
radishes
avocado
butternut squash
sweet potato (cubes)
carrots
sweet peppers
beetroot
sweet corn

Choose some protein

plant protein - mange tout, green/french beans
edamame, kidney beans, chickpeas, puy lentils
any variety of beans or raw nuts/seeds (i.e. walnuts), dairy or eggs – organic eggs boiled, feta cheese, ricotta, cottage cheese (preferable to avoid hard cheese)

Choose something tasty

onions – spring onions, red onions, shallots
olives
artichokes
sundried tomatoes
lightly grilled peppers
herbs – basil, dill, thyme, marjoram, mint, coriander, parsley, etc.



Grain-based

A grain-based salad is made predominantly from grains or grain-like foods such as millet.

The good thing about these salads is that they can be made up in advance and stored in the fridge for a quick and easy lunch.

Grains made into pasta can also be used as a base for a salad. But this is a more processed option than the wholegrain itself.

Added ingredients

Add vegetables or herbs
An example of a herb-based grain salad is Tabbouleh.

Add protein

- green beans
- green, brown or black lentils
- pinto beans
- cannellini beans
- butter beans
- sunflower seeds
- pumpkin seeds
 - pine nuts
 - cashew nuts
 - almonds
 - walnuts
- pecan nuts

Bean-based

Bean salads are amazing at helping to balance blood sugars. They are packed full of protein and can help you feel fuller for longer.

Ensure you soak the beans before cooking. Add some ginger, kombu or asafoetida while cooking to aid digestion.

You can eat too many beans in one sitting. If you do, you may experience bloating, indigestion or flatulence. Chew your beans well to help the digestive process.

Some bean salads are bean-heavy and others have more vegetables.

Added ingredients

Add vegetables or herbs

Also consider adding something tasty:

- sun-dried tomatoes
 - olives
 - onions
 - garlic
- tamari (gluten-free soya sauce)
 - miso

Variety of beans that can be used.

Green beans

- french bean
- broad bean
 - peas
- mange tout
- sugar snap

Pulses

• lentils (lentils with their skins rather than red lentils or split peas) tend to make better bean salads.

- chickpeas.

Beans

- black-eyed beans
- edamame beans (soy)
 - pinto beans
 - black beans
 - kidney beans



Salad dressings can really make the salad so much more enjoyable. It gives you an opportunity to use some of those oils that are not for use in cooking, like flaxseed oil, and to add a little fat to the salad so all those fat-soluble nutrients are better absorbed.

We look at two salad dressings:

- creamy salad dressing
- vinaigrette

I like Jamie Oliver's idea of making salad dressings in a jam jar. You add the ingredients such as lemon juice, olive oil and salt, and shake.

Here are some formulas:

Ratio: The vinaigrette is based on a ratio of 3 parts oil and 1 part lemon juice. Not all oils taste the same, so you will want to give it a taste before serving. But there are many variations, and no fixed rules, so give it a go!

Vinaigrette

Mix together 1 cup of extra virgin olive oil, ½ cup of lemon juice, and ½ teaspoon of sea salt.

Super-low fat • blended

Take ½ cup of extra virgin olive oil, 1 tbsp of lemon juice, blend together with 1 cup of sweet pepper, and 1 teaspoon of minced garlic.

Creamy • basic

Take ½ cup of olive oil, 3 tbsp of lemon juice, blend together with 1 cup of cashews, ½ cup of water, 1 clove of garlic, ½ tsp of sea salt, and ½ tsp of garlic powder

Creamy • blended

Take ½ cup of olive oil, 3 tbsp of lemon juice, blend together with 1 cup of cashews, ½ cup of water, 1 clove of garlic, ½ tsp of sea salt, and ½ tsp of garlic powder.

Add 1 teaspoon of fresh chopped dill, and ½ cup of fresh chopped basil after blending.



- 1-3 MG Training Weekend 3 NEC
- 2 Day of Fasting & Prayer BUC
- 3-10 Special Needs Camp in Aberdaron BUC
- 5 PEACE 4-month programme begins NEC
- 9 World Mission Promotion GC
- 10 Athletics Day NEC
- 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 Student Day of Fellowship BUC
- 14-17 Youth Retreat incl. Youth Day of Fellowship (17th) SM
- 16 Welsh Mission Session WM
- 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
- 11 Fund-raising Banquet NEC
- 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
- 30-2 Oct Welsh Mission Camp WM



- 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 Pathfinder Banquet SEC
- 31 End-of-year Programme (tbc) SEC



Jerusalem: looking for living witnesses of Jesus' sufferings?

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Jerusalem is a city full of wonder and surprises, with ancient streets that have witnessed many joyful – and tragic – events. When you walk, you can see the scars on the walls and pavement, silent reminders of scenes that made a deep impression on the inhabitants of the city. If you allow your imagination to run loose, you can go back centuries and recall biblical, Jewish, Christian and Muslim stories. Nevertheless, we want to dwell on the last days of the life of Jesus.

Since I love to visit the city with my adventurous children, many people ask me where is my favourite spot in Jerusalem. Some suggest that it is perhaps the area where Solomon's exquisite Temple once stood, and later it was Herod's majestic Temple that crowned Mount Moriah. The same area of land where Isaac was almost sacrificed, or not far from there: the Golden Gate, where Jesus entered riding on a donkey. Others, who know my drive for adrenaline, suggest the exciting tunnel of Hezekiah, with rushing water to the waist, crossing in the dark under the Old City of David. Or perhaps some will think it is the sober 'burnt house', full of memories of Jerusalem's destruction some decades after Jesus' death. Even though those are very special places – and there are others close to my heart, like the living room of my friend Khader and his sons – I have a preferred place just outside the city walls.

My much-loved place has a living environment, almost the same as during the night when Jesus chose to give his life for us. Come with me to the Garden of Gethsemane!

The Garden

This wonderful garden is just east of the city walls, at the foot of the Mount of Olives. However, I will not ask you to come with me to the top of the hill, even though is not a long hike,

and has a spectacular view of Jerusalem. I want you to stay on the lower part of the mount. There you can see the olive trees, like the ones that witnessed Jesus' agony the night before his crucifixion.

You are able to see olive trees sprouting out of ancient trunks that look as if they have been there for millennia. I hope you do not simply go to the church to stare at the gold and decorations, not seeing even the older trees around. Let's see the trees at the other side of the street, in a small garden. There are olive trees that are younger, with no shrines or distractions so you can read *The Desire of Ages* in the peacefulness of a garden.

Some locals will tell you that the trees next to the Church of All Nations are

living witnesses of Jesus' betrayal by the hand of Judas. They claim that radiocarbon dating or tree-ring dating has determined that they date back to the time of Jesus. However, the evidence has not proven that popular tradition. This is the right garden, but the trees . . .

The Olive Trees

Olive trees are a commodity. In times of siege the enemy will make sure they break the economic back of the besieged city. That is why they tore down terraces, which was the main way of doing agriculture in the hill country, and also cut down the trees. Plus, armies built siege ramps and catapults and needed wood for fires. That means that it is very unlikely that trees which were living in the time of Jesus could have survived the last two thousand

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

years of wars in the city of peace.

The Romans planted a forest of crosses during the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70, as did Hadrian in AD135. Some centuries later, Persians invaded Jerusalem, then Sunni Muslims, then Christians, then Shia Muslims, then Christians again . . . then Ottomans, and so on. However, the trees that are there today are at least 900 years old!

Most likely, the most ancient surviving trees come from the time of the Crusades, when Jerusalem was under the Crusaders' influence. Christians began to venerate the trees as they celebrated Jesus' sacrifice. Muslims did not destroy them since it would be dishonourable to cut them down, and they were not invaders who planned to leave; they wanted to stay in Jerusalem. The preservation of the olive trees by Muslims and Christians are a symbol of peace and tolerance. After centuries of the annihilation of trees, they represent a hope of coexistence.

Jesus at Gethsemane

I love the Garden of Gethsemane, because it's more than a church built over a traditional place, or ruins of an ancient construction, and more than an approximate place. I am certain that around here is where Jesus wept and interceded for my sins. He was crushed, as is implied in the word 'gethsemane'. * As olives are squeezed for oil, my Saviour was pressed and crushed to the extreme. These living creations remind me of the One who undertook the most dramatic sacrifice, and they remain as a symbol of peace and love.

* **Editor's note:**
Gethsemane (Greek: Γεθσημανή, *Gethsemane*; Hebrew: גתשמן, *Gat Shmanim*) 'The name derives from the Hebrew gath schmanim ("oil presses")'. Avraham Negev, *The Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land* (New York: Prentice Hall Press, 1990).



Going into the Garden

Reading *The Desire of Ages* in Gethsemane

Ezekiel before the Church of All Nations



Ezekiel before an olive tree (almost a thousand years old)

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Name: Nathan Stickland

Age: 47

Place of birth: Near Newbold College, Royal Berkshire

Currently living: Yes, I am currently living, which is better than the other option

Children: Three, and two grandchildren!

Job title: Youth Ministries Director, BUC

Hobbies: I have recently taken up wood turning

Pets: None now, but I have had fish, birds, dogs, gerbils, rats, stick insects

Most inspiring Bible text: Jeremiah 29:13

'If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.' (NLT)

What was your life like growing up?

I grew up as the pastor's kid. Throughout my primary school years we moved house at least once every year. This normally meant moving every year. Moving around so often was a challenge to my education. It's probably one of the reasons why I resolved in my mind that I would never go to Newbold College and I would never go into pastoral ministry.

It's only been in recent years, when I was writing a paper for my masters degree in outdoor education, that I have come to appreciate the experience of many locations, both suburban and rural, that I would not have been exposed to if we had stayed in one place in an urban environment.

My dad went on from pastoral ministry to work in youth ministries, and for a three year period in between worked with my mum in the Stanborough boarding school. My garden then became playing fields and woodland, and this probably inspired my curiosity and love for the outdoors.

One benefit from having busy parents working in youth ministries was that I got to attend all the summer camps my dad was running – six weeks of new friends, crafts and other activities, worship, and being outdoors, often along the coastline.

Favourite memory as a youth?

For me the reference to youth means teenager. I can't say that I have one that stands out above many others, but most of what I can think of relates to camping, other youth events, and generally mucking around with friends.

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

When I left school I studied furniture craft. Demand and opportunity let me out of a workshop making furniture and onto building sites doing carpentry work. Some years later I got my truck licence, and taking on agency driving work helped pay my way through Newbold College. You should remember that there were two things I never wanted to do:

go to Newbold College and go into pastoral ministry.

Even while studying for my undergraduate degree in Biblical and Pastoral Studies I was searching for other things to do with this degree. I came to learn that if this is what God wants me to do then I need to stay at Newbold, finish my postgraduate degree in pastoral ministry, and take up employment as a pastor. I did not choose these subjects, God chose them for me. I have subsequently completed a Master's degree in Outdoor Teacher Education.

Why be a pastor/work in youth ministry?

I have said that I did not choose to be a pastor, but I have learnt to accept that this is where God wants me to be. It has been easy for me to gravitate towards youth ministry because I would like young people to have some of the experiences I had when I was young. This includes Pathfinders and its outdoor activities, summer camps with the opportunity of meeting and making friends, and working with young people to help them realise that they are capable and lovable, especially in the eyes of God.

Worst/funniest experience in youth/pastoral ministry?

My worst moments in youth ministry tend to relate to dealing with adults that should know better. I will always do what I can to deflect the attitude and behaviour of these foolish grown-ups so they do not negatively influence young people's experience of the church or their encounters with God.

My funniest moments in youth ministry probably involve me getting up to mischief, so for fear of getting myself into more trouble or giving other people ideas, I'm going to leave this answer in the back of my mind.

Your vision for youth ministries in the BUC:

For a fuller picture of what I dream for in youth ministries within the BUC you can read some of my other articles in previous editions of [Encounter](#). In brief, we need to take our young people from when they are teenagers, through their teenage years, and into young adulthood, affording them the opportunity to serve in the local church, engage in service activities in their community, and promote a lifestyle of faith sharing – all with the perspective that life is not about the here and now; it is about the happily-ever-after.

If Christ is truly the centre of my life, and if the only thing I can take to Heaven is people, then education, accommodation, vocation, vacation, and transportation are important, but secondary to the life that Jesus calls us to live.

Your most standout moment in youth ministries:

I cannot think of one particular standout moment in my experience of youth ministries, but the highlights seem to relate to young people wanting to give their lives to Christ and following through with baptism. It is a privilege to baptise anyone, as it was to baptise my son and nephew last year. A standout baptism, for me, happened in Serbia at the European Youth Congress, 2013. I got a phone call from a pastor friend of mine who said he had someone with him who wanted to be baptised right then. And she wanted me to baptise her. She was certainly ready to be baptised, but had never made the choice. On a hot evening there were plenty of reasons why I was happy to empty my pockets, pray with her, and get into the pool to baptise her. I'd do it again, for anyone, even on a freezing cold day.



Corrosion

24

All metals come from 'dust' or ores. They exist as dust in their natural state and need to be mined, extracted and refined. An ore may be defined as a piece of rock which contains important elements, including metals. For engineering purposes, the elements obtained from these ores may then be combined to form an alloy. An alloy is just a mixture of two elements, one of which is a metal. The most widespread engineering alloy is carbon steel. Steel is primarily an alloy of the elements Iron and Carbon, with some additional elements depending on the type of steel. Steels are widely used sub-sea for crude oil and/or natural gas transport infrastructure. Carbon steels, however, suffer from a phenomenon known as corrosion or 'rusting'. Physically, corrosion is a return of an alloy or metal to the original ore or 'dust' state. To paraphrase the concluding part of Genesis 3:19, metals/alloys 'were made from dust and unto dust they do return'. Corrosion is especially severe when carbon steels are exposed to the corrosive environment under the sea; and one of my responsibilities as a subsea materials and corrosion engineering specialist is to prevent or mitigate this corrosion process.

Generally, a combination of two methods is employed under the sea to prevent corrosion of carbon steels. The primary method is by physically isolating the alloy surface from the corrosive environment. Commonly, this is done by coating the steel with an organic polymer. One of the main organic polymer coatings is a three-layer system, known as three-layer polyethylene or three-layer polypropylene (3LPE/PP). For these coating systems to be effective, all three-layers must perform their different roles perfectly. The three-layers, with different roles, make a single protective coating. This helps me understand the Godhead as three distinct persons with different roles working perfectly

◦ Irving Annan

together as a harmonious unit for the benefit of creation, and especially for the salvation of man. The three are One. The functions of this coating system help me to understand that, in the beginning, God's plan was to isolate us from sin and therefore protect us from corrosion or death. It was never His intention to expose us to the 'knowledge of evil' and all its accompanying problems (Genesis 2:16-17 and Genesis 3:16-19).

On a different note, the middle layer of the three-layer coating system is an adhesive which possesses certain properties of the first and third layers. The first and third layers cannot directly bond to each other without the adhesive middle layer. And when I specify this coating system for external corrosion protection, I am reminded that, due to sin, a great gulf exists between God and humanity. God and humanity cannot bond directly, and an adhesive with certain properties of God and humanity is required to achieve this union. An adhesive who is both the Son of

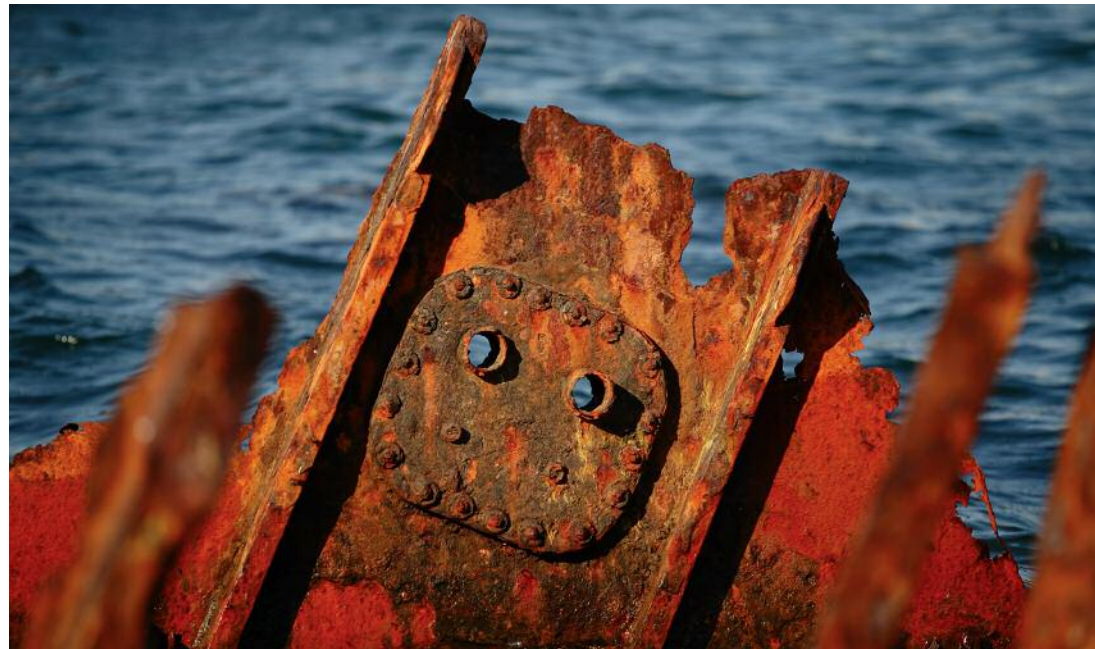
God and the Son of man. A ladder to breach the chasm between me and God, between earth and heaven (Genesis 28:12, John 1:51). I am reminded that I need Jesus Christ in order to be accepted or to bond with God. This bond with God, I understand to be salvation (John 17:3), i.e. an intimate relationship with God.

The secondary, and complementary, method of subsea protection of carbon steels from external corrosion is by sacrificial anode cathodic protection (SACP). The SACP system, although it is installed from the beginning, only activates when there is a breakdown/damage of the primary protection system (i.e. the coatings). This helps me understand that Jesus is indeed the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth (Revelations 13:8). Jesus was 'installed' from the beginning as our sacrifice. And the moment Adam sinned, his sacrifice was 'activated' to protect us from eternal death. In sacrificial anode cathodic protection, a metal with special properties (the sacrificial anode) is electrically connected to the steel pipeline. The sacrificial anode then corrodes or dies

preferentially to protect the steel from corrosion by donating electrons to cover the steel surface or the sites of coating damage. The main sacrificial anode used subsea is based on aluminum. Aluminium is special in that, under certain circumstances, it is highly resistant to corrosion. However, when electrically connected to steel, and mixed with some other elements, it corrodes sacrificially to protect the steel from corrosion. This helps me understand that Jesus Christ is God, and since God is life (Deut 30:20, John 14:6) it is 'impossible' for Him to die. However when 'mixed' with humanity, He died a sacrificial death to protect all those connected with Him from eternal death. Just like the sacrificial anodes in cathodic protection, Jesus protects us from eternal death by paying the penalty for our sins and by covering us with his perfect righteousness.

One day soon, God will again physically isolate us from this corrosive world of sin (and has actually promised that we would never lose that isolation a second time - Nahum 1:9). In fact He will make all things new (Rev. 21:5). In the meantime, He has preferentially died for us, so that anyone of us connected with Him would not have to suffer eternal death (John 3:16). The fact that God 'prefers' my eternal life so much that He gave up His own life to protect mine inspires me. It gives me confidence that I can trust Him. It enhances my faith in Him.

God has blessed me with a career in science which helps me to more clearly understand the science of salvation and my need for Jesus Christ. Indeed, 'For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead' (Romans 1:20).



Irving was born an Adventist in Ghana and moved to the UK after completing his BSc in Material Science and Engineering. He subsequently completed his MSc in Advanced Engineering Materials at Manchester and is presently a chartered materials engineer working in the offshore subsea oil and gas industry. He is aiming to qualify as a health evangelist/medical missionary in the near future. He enjoys reading, classical music and nature walks.

Growing out of youth ministry

26

In a previous article I read about the ageing of youth ministry, which suggested that there has been a shift in the age range the local church youth ministry caters for – which I see as largely involving teenagers – and the youth ministry at higher administrative levels, which might tend towards a young adult ministry. This may only be a UK and Ireland situation, but one I feel needs addressing. In this article I wish to consider ‘growing’ as a youth ministry verb. I will consider youth ‘growing’ into, through, and out of youth ministry provision; the growth stages of youth ministry leadership; and the combined benefits obvious for both the youth and the leader: growth for both.

Grow up and get out

I don’t want to beat on about when youth ministry starts and finishes, because that will be somewhat determined by the age range of young people within your local church context. What I would say is there is a need to have clear boundaries as to who can be involved in this ministry programming in your local church. It may be that Adventurers and Pathfinders provide the clearest example of age ranges within this programme ministry. If your youth group is for 13 to 17-year-olds then you need to be prepared to help people transition in and out of this ministry. It is the role of everyone involved in youth ministry to look at feeders to sustain and grow your youth group. At every opportunity you should consider the activities of your church and how you might invite new young people into your youth programme.

It is a wasted opportunity for your church to run child-based

activities, like holiday Bible schools, without intentionally providing them with something to follow on to. Tweenagers are 9 to 12-year-olds, and form the feeder group into a teenage-based youth ministry. In some churches Tweenagers may be included as part of your Youth ministry. My point here is simply for you to look for every opportunity to build a contact list of those who will become eligible to be part of your youth group. It is claimed that children and young people are beginning to make decisions for Christ and for the church at an increasingly younger age. You need to know who to contact and who to invite in order to feed your youth group with new recruits.

Guarding the edges of when a young person can join the youth group is balanced by letting young people know that it’s time to move on. From 18 years old these young people are young adults, and while it might be the same adult leaders who run youth and young adult ministries, a sense of progression needs to be established and maintained. Of course, it is always a problem when there is no one else of the same age as the oldest youth, who has just had his 19th (or 21st) birthday. Making this ‘old’ youth a young leader may not always be the best

option. Where possible, develop a sense progression with your work for young people, so they already know when it is time to move on.

If the young person has developed a high dependency on the youth group, then it is the leader’s responsibility to coax this young adult into more relevant Church life. It is a wonderful thing if you can develop your youth ministry to a point where young people can’t wait to join, and young adults wish they didn’t have to leave.

Youth leadership for the long haul

I read an article in Youthwork Magazine titled, ‘Youth work is for life’¹. The author, David Welch, suggested five stages in the life of a youth worker. Most church youth leaders may reach stage four. It is less about hierarchy and about a sequence, recognising longevity within this ministry.

A brief summary of the stages would be to say: stage one is when you get caught; stage two is when you first help; stage three is when you lead a part of your local church’s ministry; stage four is when you lead your whole group. You may have rocketed to stage four, maybe as a result of a nominating committee, but this is where most youth leaders find themselves spending their days. Stage five is to take on responsibility for several groups. This could be within your church or regionally. Stage six is likely to be within an employed role as a youth ministry advisor. Stage seven is probably an advanced stage six, in that this is someone who many people turn to for youth ministry advice: a sage of youth ministry.

◦ Nathan Stickland
BUC Youth Ministries Director

Coming back to Welch’s article, the subtitle is: ‘Youth work is for life: not just until you get ordained/bored/a better job.’ If signing up for youth ministry seems too daunting, at least aim for more than a one or two year stint. Pledge five years minimum, and see how things go.

Welch starts his article by referencing a conversation with a 22-year-old and his realisation that he had been in youth ministry for 22 years! I’ve had 17 years on the British Union Youth Advisory, and I tell stories of being shot at in Sarajevo while working for ADRA in 1994; the Balkan war now features in my kids’ school history books! Longevity is a quality in youth ministry, but don’t get stuck in a rut and pronounce, ‘We never used to do it this way.’

Growth for both

Through the work of youth ministry in your local church, young people and leaders alike have the opportunity of growing spiritually in a mutual collaboration of sharing and experiencing faith and Bible study. While the purpose of youth ministry in your local church is to develop and provide opportunities for your young people, never underestimate the powerful blessing that you will receive as you share your faith.

Growing your youth ministry is about numbers, so why not set an ambitious target of growing your youth group by 50% every year. Whatever you achieve numerically, remember that your ultimate aim is to reveal Jesus to your young people, to help them build their lives with Christ at the centre, and to develop habits of service as the motivation for every young person, because of what Jesus has done for them. The life of the young person in a youth group lasts for a season of a few years, but the life of a youth leader grows beyond a few years.

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¹ <https://www.premieryouthwork.com/Past-Issues/2014/November-2014/Youth-work-is-for-life>



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Heading to the beach this summer? Why not consider doing a dunes honour? Those attending the BUC Pathfinder Camporee at Pembrey Park, Camarthenshire, Wales will be able to complete this honour during the camp. With eight miles of golden beach next to beautiful sand dunes, there will be plenty of opportunity to explore this wonderful seaside location. Badges may be obtained through your usual sources.

Dunes • Level 2

Nature

Requirements:

1. What are dunes? What is the primary ingredient?
2. Name four items needed for dune formation.
3. Explain the following three ways that wind moves sand.
 - a. Surface Creep
 - b. Saltation
 - c. Suspension
4. Explain the following dune formations: barchans, star dunes, linear or longitudinal dunes, parabolic.
5. What is Ecological Succession? How is this demonstrated in dune communities?
6. What is Dune Blowout? How does it relate to Succession?
7. What are pioneer plants? What is their purpose in dune communities? Give two examples.
8. Give three examples of plants in dune environments. How are they adapted for survival?
9. Give five examples of animal species in dune environments. How are they unique for living in dune communities?
10. Discover an early pioneer of dunes management and conservation within your conference, union, or division. Share your discovery with an instructor or group.
11. Tell a story about sand and draw a spiritual lesson.
12. Do at least two of the following activities:
 - a. Visit an exhibit or conservatory of desert plants/dune plants. Look for how they are adapted to living in sand or poor soil, harsh temperatures and lack of water.
 - b. Visit a zoo where there are desert animals, especially ones that are adapted to living in sand. If possible, observe some of the ones you studied while learning about dunes.



- c. Watch a video about dunes or plants or animals that live in dunes.
- d. Construct an outdoor working demonstration of dune progression using sand, an object for obstruction, a fan to blow the sand. Observe how the sand blows over the obstruction and falls on the other side forming a dune.
- e. Draw or paint a picture of something you had fun learning about while studying dunes.
- f. Talk to your group, write about or make a short video about a real life dune conservation project. Explain why this specific habitat should be saved, i.e. endangered species of plants and/or animals living there.

Dunes Advanced • Level 3

Nature

Requirements:

1. Earn the Dunes Honor.
2. Arrange or participate in a service project benefiting the dunes community (clean up, trail making, helping others learn about this specific habitat). Write a report about the following things (including maps, photographs or drawings may help):
 - a. What dune did you visit?
 - b. When did you visit?
 - c. What did you do there?
 - d. New information you have learned about this type of habitat beyond what was learned in the basic honor.
 - e. Information about the specific dune you visited.
 - f. Describe the service project you did (be specific).
 - g. What did you learn about yourself while doing the service project?
 - h. What did you learn about this habitat while doing this service project?



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