



encounter



**Smart
Pathways**

- the road ahead

**Pathfinder
Camporee
2016 report**

**Spotlight on
- Adam Ramdin**



Cover photo: Fikayo Bright, Stanborough Pathfinder Club. Photo credit: © Joshua Roberts.

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This issue's contributors:

Meet the Director



Adam Ramdin is the NEC Youth Director and is interviewed in this issue's edition of Meet the Director. Seeing many of his peers leave church when he was in his teens urged him to want to do something, and he believes there's a lot of wasted talent in the youth of the church, just waiting to be tapped into!

Science and Faith



Emmanuella Aryee is a second-year pharmacy student at the University of Hertfordshire. She loves spending time with her family, doing voluntary mission work, listening to good music and developing her relationship with God further. In her article on page 20 she draws a parallel between God's gift of salvation and the dispensing of specific medicines to aid patients.

ADRA-UK



Nicholas Pyne was on a work experience placement with ADRA-UK between 13 and 17 June 2016, and wanted to write an article about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for his peers so everyone can read and understand these important worldwide goals. Check out his article on pages 5-6.

@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 **@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

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Jesus said that we should remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:32). But what is so important that we should remember this barely mentioned woman?

In remembering Lot's wife, we would do well to remember her behaviour: behaviour learnt from her husband. In Genesis 19 we have the story of Lot and his family fleeing from Sodom. And, with the commendation to remember Lot's wife, we reference the account that she looked back and became a pillar of salt.

In fact, none of the family members did very well in the story. Later, Lot's daughters got Lot drunk, twice, and manage to get pregnant by their father while he was drunk. But, sadly, Lot had not previously exemplified, or even represented, trust in God. To cut a long story short, Lot departs from Abram on mutual agreement, Lot settles in a city where he tolerates sinful behaviour, and so weak has been his witness that when he does speak up about God his sons-in-law 'thought he was joking'.

On leaving the city Lot hesitated again in order to strike a deal. Lot wants to go to a small city instead of run to the mountains as the messengers had told him to do. It does make me wonder why any of us should live in towns and cities, but for the opportunity of speaking up for God so that everyone knows we're not joking. Mission to the Cities is a lifestyle, not a programme.

It was Lot's hesitation, showing lack of trust in God, that influenced his wife's looking back and his daughters' schemes. But before we point too many fingers at this family, let us remember how easy it is to be distracted by the things of this world and thus hesitate to respond to God's call. When God says, 'Go!' it's time to leave the bad behind and follow after God.

Lot's wife looked back at personal wealth and acquisitions gathered over many years and wished for them, instead of realising the greater value of the salvation God was offering her. (For more reflections on this story, read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 161.)

So remember Lot's wife, and remember Lot's hesitation, but remember that God wants to give you more than you could possibly hope to achieve yourself. It's time for me to go.

Nathan





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ADRA, the MDGs and the SDGs

◦ Nicholas Pyne
Quintin Kynaston Academy



Encounter 5

The MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) were a set of 8 goals that all governments across the world had to work to achieve by 2015 in order to reduce poverty and address challenges in the areas such as education and health. However, due to many reasons, not all governments were able to meet all of their 8 goals. This led to the birth of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). The new set of 17 goals builds on the MDGs, and within a 15-year timeline governments must continue to tackle poverty and other related challenges.

How can ADRA help achieve these?

ADRA-UK has contributed to helping governments achieve the MDGs and will continue to contribute to helping governments achieve the SDGs through the various projects being carried out.

Maternal health in Zimbabwe

This project is situated in Gokwe North and supports pregnant women, women with children, and women of reproductive age (15-49 years). ADRA supports the Ministry of Health and Child Health to tackle the high percentage of women and children dying during childbirth. ADRA works with 4 care facilities to improve its facilities and services to encourage more women to give birth at the clinics and reduce the number of women dying during birth. ADRA's work in Gokwe North contributes towards SDG 3 (good health and well-being). This is an important goal to strive towards because in this situation ADRA is directly helping to save lives and prevent the death of others.



Control of water-borne diseases in Cameroon

This project has been based in the Nyong and Mfoumou, Dja and Lobo divisions. ADRA rehabilitated 10 water points and trained 10 water boards so they could be maintained in the community. The project contributes towards SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4



(quality education) and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation). This project was much needed and has helped prevent people from becoming sick because the water is now clean and sanitised. Also, kids no longer need to miss school because of illness or because they are travelling to collect water. This is yet another important goal ADRA has supported, not only contributing towards the SDGs but also giving children their right to education.

Why is it important for ADRA to support the SDGs?

I think it is important for ADRA to support SDGs because these goals act as a guideline for governments, regarding what would make the world a better place. If all countries set out to achieve some of these SDGs, then gradually

the goals would be met and more people would be inspired to invest time and money into ensuring the survival and well-being of all the people that inhabit this earth.

Why should I care?

It's true that a lot of you reading this article will be reading on in boredom or will have stopped reading after the title. However, as the new, upcoming generation, we all have a duty to take care of what we have. Even if it's just a little help, like trying to cut down on our littering or volunteering at a charity event: a little goes a long way and will amass into a huge force if everyone puts in a tiny bit of effort. If all of this does not suit you, at least be mindful of the different circumstances people face, even if they have nothing to do with you!

The 8 Millennium Development Goals

1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2	Achieve universal primary education
3	Promote gender equality and empower women
4	Reduce child mortality
5	Improve maternal health
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7	Ensure environmental sustainability
8	Develop a global partnership for development

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1	No poverty
2	Zero hunger
3	Good health and well-being
4	Quality education
5	Gender equality
6	Clean water and sanitation
7	Affordable and clean energy
8	Decent work and economic growth
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10	Reduced inequalities
11	Sustainable cities and communities
12	Responsible consumption and production
13	Climate action
14	Life below water
15	Life on land
16	Peace, justice and strong institutions
17	Partnerships for the goals

Sources: www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/mdg_goals.html
www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda



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The road ahead . . .

o Jaz Rodney-Sargeant



This is our fourth and final edition of the 'Smart Pathways' 12-month foray in [@ncounter](#), and what a journey it has been. When I was first asked to contribute to this magazine, I was very nervous about what I would write, and indeed asked, 'Who would be bothered to read it?' I was perturbed by the invisible readership, not least as I had been an invisible reader myself, and now could feel what other writers potentially might be feeling every time the impending copy deadline for the magazine looms. The truth is, the journey has been an eventful one, and I'm really grateful that there has been a blessing implicit to this commission.

So how did we do? Let's take a brief look back. If you recall, in issue 1, we set out to 'move forward' in our lives, under the clear guidance and instruction of God. I was so pleased to be interviewed in this issue by Sharon Platt-McDonald, who so kindly gave me the opportunity to tell a little of my story and to provide the appropriate opening for the series to follow. I have really enjoyed being part of this, no more so than when visiting or preaching across the SEC churches. Inevitably someone approaches and asks if I am the author in [@ncounter](#) magazines. To which I humbly reply, 'That would be me.'

Young people in particular have blessed me with their wonderful feedback and genuine interest in the subject of career decision-making, many of whom have shared some real success stories of how the Lord has blessed them on their career journey. This is an inexhaustible subject, not least due to the fact that it is so personal. Of all the things I do, supporting young people in career decision-making is by far the most fulfilling: so issue 1 was all about introducing Smart Pathways, a concept created by myself, but with a profound influence from very many sources.



In issue 2 we talked about planning, and most importantly the 'spiritual health check', and started getting into the detail of the planning process. For example, 'Is God involved in our ambitions?' When we go to choose courses, jobs or training how often do we say, 'Lord, is this what You want for my life?' or do we check in with the course tutor, careers advisor and parents first? Is the plan rigid or flexible? Do we allow ourselves enough room for change? Or is it do or die (metaphorically speaking, of course)? In conversation with my 17-year-old niece just two days ago, she told me that she felt somewhat 'lost' as her older sister at her age knew exactly what she wanted to do! She expressed real signs of anxiety going into a college course that will essentially fill a two-year gap while she tries to work out if that is what she really wants. I have heard so many family members, one after the other, ask her, 'So where is that going to lead?' to which she quietly and clearly painfully replies, 'I don't know.'

Then, in issue 3, we tried to pick up the essence of this type of anxiety felt by so many young people – struggling with the sometimes brutal question, 'What am I going to do next? Where is it going to lead? I think I like xxxx, or I'm good at xxxx, or my teachers, parents, friends or family think I would be really good at xxxx, but what is *my* purpose? Where am I going? And why does it feel so confusing?' If you recall, in our penultimate issue, we talked about the fact that God is not a God of confusion. Our purpose is almost always bound up in our spiritual gifts. Matthew 5:3-10 reminds us of this, which may indicate that the Bible was way ahead of its time in recognising that we too would be challenged by what our true and meaningful

calling is. Now, when we use the term 'calling', it is possible that the first thing that comes to mind is a career built on faith or ministry. Not so – the fact is, everyone receives a call in one way or another! This is a reference not just to ministerial or altruistic work, but to anything where we allow God to be at the heart of what we do.

I was so delighted to see recent Olympians giving glory to God on receiving medals and achieving their dream to be great sportsmen and women: for example, Simone Biles, the world-champion gymnast whose rags-to-riches story was saturated with the blessings bestowed upon her by her God-fearing grandparents. There she was, proclaiming her faith for all the world to see! Likewise, we were able to discover that fellow great Olympian, Usain Bolt, was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home, and, while it would have been great if he had referred to the impact of such an upbringing, for those of us raised in this environment there can be little doubt as to the influence God must have had on his life. How timely that the Games came during the final



phase of the Smart Pathways mission, when we had explored the challenges of entering leisure industry careers in our previous issue. As noted previously, the apostle Paul calls for us to be 'light bearers': 'that you may become blameless and harmless . . . without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation' (Phil. 2:15, NKJV).

So as we pause on the Smart Pathways journey – whether you’re starting new courses or jobs, or continuing existing courses or jobs – I leave you with a brief overview of a simple Smart Journey planner.

1 Wherever you are **RIGHT NOW**, make time each day to stop, look and listen for evidence of God’s hand and His voice present in all that you do.

2 Even when it seems like the perfect opportunity has landed on your doorstep or inbox, before making any decisions, **PUSH** for a message or evidence from God – so that He is at the helm of everything you do.
Pray
Until
Something
Happens



Remember the Smart Pathways methodology of the Pathway to Life by ‘Putting All Things His Way to Lead, Innovate, Facilitate and Exemplify’!

Putting
All
Things
His
WAY TO
Lead
Innovate
Facilitate
Exemplify

Remember that a life without purpose is a life half-lived. If you dream it, you can achieve it! Start each journey with the end in sight. It doesn’t have to be a grand ambition (although many would say, ‘Think Big’). Whatever it is, no matter how small a kernel of an idea, start with what the successful achievement of that would look like. Visualise,

investigate, research, talk to people . . . you can never, ever know enough about any chosen field. As mentioned right at the beginning, never believe that you know everything there is to know. Even some of our greatest scholars and professionals frequently admit to a constant process of learning. Don’t be afraid to utilise the people around you; you will be surprised by the huge untapped knowledge pool that is at your disposal and rarely made use of.

The greatest way to know if you are on the right path is to test your theory on someone who is already there. I remember so well when I was leaving school and had no idea what I wanted to do. I found myself still at a loss as an undergraduate, and after many career discussions with the careers advisor I tentatively asked, ‘How do I get into the career you have?’ I actually had no idea that was the path for me, but I liked what she did and simply thought maybe I could do that!

So, as expressed so often throughout this series, be sure not to limit yourself to the career options ‘on the shelf’, as it were. You know, those usual suspects of accountancy and finance or law/medicine – not that there is

anything at all wrong with these choices. They are simply not accessible for all, and we can limit our opportunities by measuring future opportunities to a fixed set of ‘ideals’. Think creatively. As I have said to more than one young person recently, the wonderful thing about youth is that you have nothing but time! So use it wisely, and, if you come away from this series having missed much of the detail, I hope you will keep this in your hearts.

Jesus came that we would have a most abundant life: John 10:10 (NKJV) says, ‘I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.’ He comes to give, not to get. He comes that we may have life in Him that is purposeful, joyful and eternal. We receive this abundant, purposeful life the moment we accept Him as our Saviour. In Eph. 3:20 we learn that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, and He does it by His power, a power that is at work within us if we belong to Him. So if we claim these promises and so many more, what have we to fear?

Be smart on your Smart Pathway journey. God bless you!



Thanks to Jaz for her insightful, engaging and inspirational articles. Hope you were able to implement her SMART Pathway tips and will share with us the results!
Sharon Platt-McDonald

Cheap foods on a student budget The bean/pulse

◦ Angelette Müller



Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! *Ecclesiastes 10:17, KJV*

Beans come in many varieties. You can buy them in a tin, frozen, in a pouch or dried. If you learn how to cook beans from scratch you have the cheapest form of protein on the planet. Not only that but you have a food that assists your body to balance its blood sugars (after a late night of studying* or the stress of an exam). They are filled with fibre to help with healthy bowel movement.

I'll introduce you to some of the easier forms of pulses to cook, and we'll show you how to make easy recipes that are also good for the budget.

Lentils

Lentils come in different colours. Whole lentils come in brown and green, and split lentils come in orange, yellow and white. The red lentil is commonly found in supermarkets in the dried form, and it is this quick and cheap form of lentil that we can use for one of the easiest recipes ever, Tarka Dhal.

Chickpeas

Tinned chickpeas are one of the easiest go-to pulses that you can have in your cupboard. Making hummus from these can be super simple. Most people think you have to use tahini, a sesame paste, but you can use whatever you have on hand – granted, it will change the flavour a little. The staple ingredients of a good hummus are the chickpeas, lemon, garlic and salt. If you add a little cumin, it will give that Middle-Eastern feel. You can then add tahini (1 tbsp) or any nut butter, or even nuts in the cupboard or an avocado. But if you want to be more authentic start by making hummus with tahini and then experiment.

TARKA DHAL

Ingredients

400g of red lentils
2 teaspoons of cumin
2 cloves of garlic (sliced)
1 thumb of ginger (peeled and chopped)
Bunch of fresh coriander (chopped)
2 tablespoons of olive oil

2 teaspoons of turmeric
1 small onion (chopped or sliced)

Method

1. Add lentils to a saucepan and cover with about 4cm of water; cook for 40 minutes until mushy. As long as this is on a low heat it will simmer away, but put a timer on if you need to remind yourself.
2. In a frying pan, add olive oil and add onions. Cook on a low heat until softened. Add in garlic and cook for a further minute. Add in the ginger.
3. Add in the turmeric and cumin.
4. Leave to cook for a further 10 minutes. Add in the cooked lentils and stir.
5. Add freshly chopped coriander.

BEAN SOUP

Beans whole or puréed are a soup's best friend. They add a creaminess when blended, and a plump texture when whole, which makes an essential addition. Soup is very easy. Essentially we are talking tomato purée, some olive oil, and a few seasonings and then a can of beans (not baked beans).

TUSCAN-STYLE BEAN SOUP

Ingredients

1 medium-sized onion (chopped)
1 tbsp of olive oil
1 chopped courgette
1 stock cube
White beans (drained and rinsed)

1 garlic clove
1 chopped carrot
1 tube of tomato purée
500ml of water
Fresh or dried basil

Method

1. Sauté (fancy name for cooking onions and things at a low temperature in less oil) a chopped onion for 4-5 minutes. Then add in a clove of chopped garlic and cook for a further minute. Add in chopped carrots and courgettes (or any other vegetables that you have to hand) and sauté for another 5 minutes, covering the pan so the carrot can steam-cook.
2. Add in a tube of tomato purée and 500ml of boiling water (dissolve stock cube inside: I recommend the Kallo brand).
3. Add in the drained beans. Cook for a further 10 minutes.
4. Add in a bunch of freshly chopped basil or any other herb that you have to hand.

TIP: Beans are well known for causing flatulence (excess wind)! Some people find that the use of ginger and a spice known as asafoetida can work at helping with the bloating and wind. Of course, not eating large volumes of beans in one sitting also helps. So why not add lots of veggies to any of the dishes you make? Blending beans, as in hummus recipes, increases the digestibility of beans.

HUMMUS

Ingredients

1 can of chickpeas
Juice of ½-1 lemon
1 tbsp of olive oil
Pinch of salt
1 tablespoon of tahini
4 tbsp of water
Pinch of cumin
1 clove of garlic

Method

1. Add all ingredients to a blender and blend until smooth.

TIP: By the way, a blender is a worthwhile investment, just because you can also make green smoothies and other easy and nutritious food.

***The best learning and memory consolidation comes from a good night's sleep. So a good couple of hours before midnight and an early rise is better (although not easier) for the brain and learning experience than a late night and late rise.**



- 1 Day of Fasting & Prayer BUC
- 2 Irish Mission Session IM
- 8 Pastor Appreciation Day BUC
- 8 Student Day of Fellowship BUC
- 15 Adventist Heritage & Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath GC
- 15 Campus Ministries Day in Dundee SM
- 16 Welsh Mission Session WM
- 22 Creation Sabbath GC
- 24-28 Prayer & Faith Conference SEC
- 27-30 Drill & Drum Camp SEC
- 28-30 Youth Weekend IM
- 28-30 Youth Spiritual Retreat SM
- 29-5 Nov Week of Prayer GC



- 2 Spiritual Commitment Sabbath BUC
- 7 Health Ministries Day GC
- 7-16 Ten Days of Prayer GC
- 21 Religious Liberty Day GC
- 28 Youth Day of Fellowship SEC



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



- 4 Tell the World: Personal Outreach GC
- 4 Newbold College Offering TED
- 4-11 Christian Home and Marriage Week GC
- 18 Missionary Health and Temperance Literature GC



- 3 World Stewardship Day GC
- 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 Fundraising Banquet NEC



- 4 Women's Day of Prayer GC
- 11 AWR Offering GC
- 11-18 Youth Week of Prayer GC
- 18 Global Youth Day GC
- 25 Christian Education GC
- 25-9 April ADRA-UK Annual Appeal, provinces BUC
- 25-16 April ADRA-UK Annual Appeal, metropolitan BUC



Proving the Exodus? Really?

16

'Dad, have you seen the pictures of the chariot wheels that have been found at the bottom of the Red Sea?' Hadassah excitedly asks me. After a long pause, I asked: 'Where did you see that?'

'On Facebook!'

'Ok . . .' I mutter. Come, sit next to me, and let's talk a little more about proving the Exodus.

'Sweetie, let me remind you that there are dozens of biblical characters that have been illuminated by the discipline of archaeology. Archaeology is very useful to study the Bible and confirm the historicity of events, people and scenes described in the Scriptures. Nevertheless, there are some claims that have not provided enough evidence to certify them as truthful or correct.

'Since, unlike your brothers, you have never been in the Near East with me, I will have to give you more information about my work as an archaeologist. Let me confess to you that the origins of "biblical archaeology" are not necessarily the most flattering. A mixture of greed and devotion has always surrounded the recovery of the biblical past. Since the first centuries of Christianity there has been the search for relics and "holy" places for the devotion of many believers.

'Sincere people have sought to show evidence of the events described in the Bible

and recovered many sites and artefacts. Scholars have studied history and the past from the Christian or Jewish perspective for almost two thousand years. However, some people then engaged in marketing places or selling artefacts related to the biblical story, which then became very popular in the Near East and Europe.

'The search for the past became more complex when it became "cool" or popular to deny the Bible or parts of the Bible. Christians from the East against Christians from the West, Jews, Muslims and atheists have all tried to use archaeology for their own agendas. The story of the Exodus has been one of the most popular to defend or attack as some attach political nuances to that historical event.'

'Dad, that sounds complicated' – Hadassah looks at me, puzzled. 'Just tell me if you can prove the Exodus or not!'

'Well . . . yes and no.

'Archaeology cannot prove the biblical accounts, since the supernatural elements escape the spade of the archaeologist. Second, faith comes from Above, to those who accept it. Jesus described the work of the Spirit as the wind: indomitable, no way to control it. You decide whether to accept or believe in the biblical account or any other supernatural story.

'In my case, I have decided to believe in the transformative experience that I have lived in Jesus and accept the Bible as divine revelation. I do not intend to impose it, or convince others, nor even try. If I present the evidence of what I studied as an archaeologist and sincerely think as real, then this is because I feel I have a responsibility to share it. Archaeology should be used to illuminate, for those who experience the life of faith and talk openly with those who have decided not to believe.

'Once you are clear on that, there are two distinct steps a serious researcher should take. Evaluate the source of information: "news" coming from the "margins" which can only be verified in websites is problematic. I have tried to locate those "chariot wheels" and nobody has them. I have visited museums in several continents, I have done my diving on the alleged site and interviewed researchers, and nothing has been corroborated.'

'So, when are we going to Egypt?'

Hadassah asks, excited.

'We will have to plan something soon. You will see that the pillars from that online video originated from the Roman period and not the

◦ Pastor Efraín Velázquez
President of the IAD Adventist Theological Seminary

Solomonic era; that the chariots of the time of the Exodus were different; that the cliff that the Israelites would have had to climb to Saudi Arabia is enormous; that the proposed route contradicts the biblical itinerary, and more.

'On the other hand, there is evidence of Semites in Egypt; there are historical parallels with the princess who rescued Moses and Queen "Hot-chicken-soup", better known as Hatshepsut; there is circumstantial evidence to identify the Pharaoh of the Exodus with Tutmoses III and other exciting evidence related to the Exodus.

'Ok, it would be boring if I don't get you to Egypt. I will. But even if you do not go, there is enough evidence to believe that the Exodus took place. The evidence is not precisely what you find on the internet, what you have seen in the cartoons and movies, or hear from some people around, but there is support for biblical history.


'I experienced my own Exodus when I allowed the Lord to guide my reason and my heart, the Wind opened up the Sea of Doubt and I crossed to the Promised Land. Are you coming with me?'



Spotlight on: Adam Ramdin



18



Name: Adam Ramdin

Age: 38

Place of birth: Abingdon, England

Living in: Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire

Married: Yes, to Aiko

Children: No

Job title: NEC Youth Director

Hobbies: Snowboarding, jogging, cycling, kayaking and visiting places of historic interest

Pets: None

Most inspiring Bible text: Proverbs 16:7

'When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.' (NKJV)

What was your life like growing up?

I grew up in an Adventist home in a fairly large family with 3 sisters and 1 brother. My mother is from Iceland and my father is from Mauritius, so in our house there was a blend of cultures and nationalities and that blend forms a part of who I am today. We would go to church every week and were actively involved in the life of the church. My parents held a wide variety of roles in the church and church life was enjoyable. In my teen years a church plant grew out of the church I went to and nearly all my friends went across there, and so there was a big change and challenge.

Favourite memory as a youth?

My favourite church memory would be growing up in a church that had a good number of children/youth my age and that had a varied programme throughout the year. Some highlights included the summer times when we would go to a different church member's home each week for a walk and then supper and vespers. I think experiencing the church family life in people's homes outside of a church setting was what made those times particularly memorable. I also have particularly good

memories of going to summer camps at Aberdaron – both family camp and then junior camp. It's a special place and the summers spent there were always good.

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

I have studied in a variety of places and learned a lot in each place. When I was 19, after completing my A Levels, I went over to the USA to study at a school called George King Institute (GKI). I spent a semester there before transferring to Hartland College, where I completed a BA in Pastoral Ministry. I felt a calling to the ministry and so I changed to this major. Two years after graduating from Hartland College I went to the Amazing Facts Centre of Evangelism (AFCOE) and completed their 4-month course as I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of evangelism. Most

recently I have completed my MA in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University.

Why be a pastor/work in youth ministry?

Two passions of mine in ministry are working with young people and evangelism, passions that I believe stem from seeing many of my peers when I was in my teens leave church, making me want to do something to help. I believe that youth ministry offers great opportunities and that the talent in our youth lies latent in many churches.

Worst/funniest experience in youth/pastoral ministry?

I was due to preach at a youth day in Wolverhampton a couple of years ago, and the night before I was eating dinner and my front right tooth fell out. It was a crowned tooth from an accident back when I was in my teens and had been fine since then, but now I was toothless! I called the youth leader at the church and told her and she said: 'Just come anyway.' It was Friday night and there was no time to go to the dentist to fix it, aside from the ethical dilemma of paying to see a dentist on the Sabbath so that I could look good preaching on the Sabbath. . . . On the way to church I managed to push the tooth back in and when I arrived at the church all seemed OK. During the preliminaries it fell out again and I pushed it back in, and so as I stood up to preach I told the church the story and asked if I should take the tooth out now or wait and see if it held all sermon. They said leave it, and so I started preaching, but after about 5 minutes my tooth fell out and landed on the pulpit! I paused, said a

prayer and then continued preaching, albeit now with a newly acquired lisp. As I looked over to my wife sitting on the side she was in stitches, finding the whole episode highly amusing. At the end of the sermon people said that they were blessed, but most of them did not look at me as they shook my hand at the door – probably holding back the laughter!

Your vision for youth ministries in the NEC:

I believe that the youth need to be given ownership of the church, not just tokenism. Too often we say that we involve our youth, but all we do is ask them to read the Scripture reading on Sabbath morning. Increasingly we have highly educated youth in our church who in their academic spheres and work environment are challenged with some serious tasks and use their intellect accordingly. Yet in church we too often expect too little from them. I also believe that there is an increasing disparity between how educated our youth are academically and how little they know of reasons for their spiritual beliefs, and so the importance of being biblically literate and understanding the prophetic identity of our church is very important. Understanding one's identity is key to being motivated for mission and service.

Your most stand-out moment in youth ministries:

My time in youth ministries so far has included many highlights. Taking 18 youth to Mexico to preach their first full evangelistic series was powerful. Each year seeing the juniors, teens and youth come to Aberdaron summer camp is always a highlight. Youth Congress, Teens Congress, iPreach, Big Six, Ski Trip, School of the Prophets – all of these and many more are all enjoyable and rewarding for various reasons. Seeing the campus ministries in the NEC (ASC) grow in recent years has also been a particularly ongoing stand-out moment. But I guess the biggest thing that I enjoy, through all of these events and training, is to see youth take ownership of their church and to grow as leaders.





◦ Emmanuella Aryee

Extemporaneous dispensing and the free gift of (personal) salvation

20

Encounter 21



The scientific community regards licensed medicines as highly effective in the treatment and prevention of disease in the population at large. Not all medicines scientifically proven to treat a particular disease may be suitable for a specific patient. Likewise, a suitable medicinal treatment may not yet be available for the patient. Extemporaneous dispensing involves producing unlicensed medicine specific to the clinical needs and condition of the patient. Ingredients scientifically proven to provide healing are mixed together in certain amounts to form these special preparations. These medicinal products are produced by staff in the pharmacy for individual patients and not made on a large scale, i.e. in a factory.

Extemporaneous dispensing was one means by which Jesus brought healing to the sick. The Bible records that on three separate occasions Jesus made special medicines for individuals He met. In Mark 7 Jesus uses His own saliva to cause a deaf man with difficulty in talking plainly to both hear and speak clearly. The Book of Mark outlines in the following chapter how Jesus caused a blind man to see, simply through spitting on and then covering the man's eyes. Recorded in John 9 is remarkable evidence of how Jesus used a special preparation to bring healing and salvation to a man born blind. It was important for the Great Physician to consider

the blind patient and his needs, before developing a course of treatment. Jesus had compassion on the man and went so far as to experience His patient's situation from his perspective.

Picture this – waking up each morning unable to see the golden sunbeams caress the plains of Judah, the expressions on the faces of playful children as they commute to school, the powerful stance of the Baladi bull as he drinks from a shallow brook, the majestic craftsmanship of the temple and the jewel-encrusted elaborate robes of its officiating priests, the brightly coloured fabric-adorned market stalls brought to life in the Mediterranean sun – all hidden from view! Hushed whispers exchanged between onlookers suggest that your blindness is due to your parents', or perhaps your own, sin. For as long as you can remember, your thoughts, with respect to your disability, have been demented and lacking hope. This broken-record, misery-tainted symphony of a life serves as cold comfort – until the tempo changes in line with the melodious, hope-filled words of Jesus.

'Jesus answered, "... This man was born blind so that God's power could be shown in Him." ... After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it and put the mud on the man's eyes. Then He told the man, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam."

... So the man went, washed, and came back seeing.' (John 9:3, 6, 7.)

To the modern-day pharmacist, it seems both unhygienic and offensive for Jesus to spit on the ground and place this mud paste on the delicate eye area of a man born blind! At the time, however, healthcare providers believed saliva had healing properties and was able to cure blindness. By spitting, Jesus made it clear that He wanted to heal, and not insult his patient.

As the active ingredient in the pharmaceutical paste Jesus prepared for this man, soil enabled Jesus, as Creator, to 'reconstruct' the man's eyes and give him new sight. The Word of God states that on the penultimate day of the creation week:

'Then the LORD God took dust from the ground and formed a man from it' (Genesis 2:7).

Jesus could simply have spoken and the man would have been able to see, but chose to be actively involved in giving the man new sight. As his Father and Creator, Jesus knew this blind man intimately and it is clear the mud mixture was made specifically for him.

Isn't it amazing how the Greatest Pharmacist known to man was willing to get His hands dirty, in order to demonstrate His healing power and agape love for His patients? Wow!

You see, the healing ministry Jesus

provided was completely different to others offered by the doctors of His age. This radical ministry encouraged total health and treated both the physical and spiritual needs of His patients; hence, in addition to opening his physical eyes, Jesus addressed the spiritual blindness and depression this blind man had.

Just as with this man born blind, God desires to *completely* heal His last-day patients. His aim is to nurse us back to full health, through an intimate relationship with Him. He understands well the complex nature of our emotional, spiritual and physical pains and is *confident* that the salvation He has specially prepared *will* heal our brokenness. This salvation is *not* 'one-size-fits-all', but personal and *guaranteed* to save *you* from *your* sin.

'But he was wounded for the wrong we did;

he was crushed for the evil we did.

The punishment, which made *us* well, was given to him,

and we are healed because of *his* wounds.' (Isaiah 53:5.)

Dispensed at no extra cost to you, this service is made possible by the personalised blood transfusion Jesus gave on the cross, for you! Will your heart reject this specialised treatment?

Bible quotations in this article are taken from the New Century Version (NCV), emphasis supplied.

BUC Pathfinder Camporee: Anchored 2016

◦ **Natalie Davison**
BUC Youth Ministries secretary

Over 800 Pathfinders arrived on 31 July for a week's camping at Pembrey Country Park in West Wales. The camp was an eventful one, with weather fronts sent to test everyone's weatherproof clothing and tent skills, but, despite some challenges, everyone survived, clothing was dried, tents were rescued or shared, and a blessing was had by all.

There were numerous activities to participate in each day – from music, drumming, horse husbandry, sanctuary honour and the newly introduced Adinkra, to more physical activities such as Frisbee golf, skateboarding, dry slope skiing, and cycling. The cyclists culminated their honour with a 50-mile cycle around the nearby coastal countryside and came back exhausted but with a great sense of achievement. The cycling honour and Adventurer award are highlighted on page 26 of this magazine for those of you who want to try this one in your clubs.

The worships were meaningful and touched many, resulting in a huge response to the appeals. And the Pathfinders were very generous too – the Sabbath offering was split between a nearby horse riding club which especially caters for disabled children, and a local food bank, for which wheelbarrow loads of food were collected at the end of the camp. The letter of thanks from the food bank is below.

Above right is the letter we received via the website – someone who had been impressed to write after encountering the numerous Pathfinders on the day trip out to the Dan Yr Ogof showcaves. Well done, Pathfinders, you were great ambassadors for Jesus to this particular family and probably many others!

The club leaders worked hard to make it a memorable camp for their clubs, as did the dedicated camporee staff. It was a fitting farewell for outgoing BUC Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Nathan Stickland.



Thank you so much for the very kind gift of £188 from the morning service at Pembrey. Your Pathfinders and colleagues are very generous and it was a privilege to be with you that morning. A really passionate group of young people and clearly dedicated workers. The funds will be put to good use in stocking the food bank and we are so pleased to be able to work with you in this way to care for those who are struggling.

Kind regards and many blessings on you all,
Deb Chapman
The Antioch Centre, Llanelli



Keep checking www.adventistyouth.org.uk for details of the next major camporees and all other news.

Dear Seventh-day Adventists/Pathfinders,

I wanted to send a quick email as we (my family and my brother's family) were at the show caves in Wales with your youth annual conference last week.

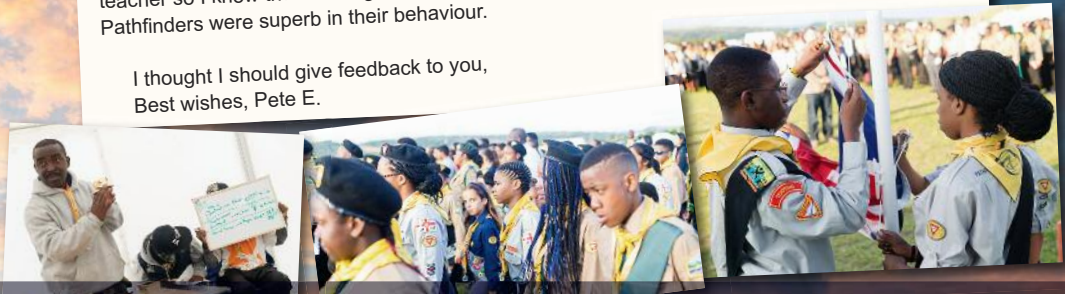
As there were a good number of your group in a small location we had the opportunity to interact and chat with various groups during the day.

I have to say, I thought every young person and leader I encountered was super considerate, thoughtful and proved to be a really decent set of groups from across the country. Their behaviour was exemplary – they were a credit to your organisation and your church.

I am not at all religious but the sound of some of your groups singing in the caves was a highlight of our holiday. It was beautiful.

If you can pass this message on to your groups that would be excellent. I am a school teacher so I know that working with large groups on trips can be tough, but as I said, the Pathfinders were superb in their behaviour.

I thought I should give feedback to you,
Best wishes, Pete E.



YOUTH AND Pathfinders TRAINING

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BUC Camporee experiences: Real Pathfinders, real stories.

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Holloway

Joshua

BUC was a fun event because we got to have a lot of good devotions and the song service was something you could only find at a teens ministry event. The activity I enjoyed the most was cycling because it allowed me to ride 50 miles, which I did not think I could do. Another good thing about BUC camp is that I met a lot of new people and now have a lot of new friends in both the SEC and NEC. Overall the BUC camp has allowed me to improve on my fitness and has taught me various survival skills, which will help me in the future.

Sarah-Jane

BUC Camporee 2016 was an amazing experience for me because I learnt new skills from the different honours. What I loved about BUC was how I was able to socialise and make new friends, the song services in the morning and evening and the speakers with their powerful messages. I liked making new friends because I now have a lot of new friends in the NEC and SEC. I liked the song services because in the morning it would get me ready to start the day, and the sermons were AMAZING. I loved taking part in the different activities; my favourite was dry ski slope because it was tiring and hard at times, but I put my mind to it and was able to do it – that reminded me of Philippians 4:13 (NIV): 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' As my first BUC camp experience I really enjoyed it and I definitely want to come to the next one!



Stanborough Park

Andrew Moyo

The BUC Camporee was a very enticing camporee because we had very powerful pastors and we made lots of friends. It was a very good experience in meeting with lots of Pathfinders from around the Union. I especially enjoyed kayaking and all the sports activities. I will be going to the next one.

Kimberly Martins

For me the BUC Camporee was an enriching experience. I had a lot of fun and made new friends. Learning many new things while doing God's work was a blessing.

Najuah Brumant

At first I did not want to attend BUC Camporee, but it turned out to be an enriching experience, spiritually and physically. I was able to participate in a lot of fun activities and meet lots of new people.

Anthony Moyo

BUC Camporee was very enriching; I learned a lot of new things and made lots of new friends. One thing I enjoyed doing was learning the beats for SEC drum corps. The pastors that came were able to relate to us as youth and I was blessed because of that: meaning that I could understand the sermons and hear God speak to me.

Marlon Ackie

I enjoyed the activities that I did, kayaking, dry slope skiing, felt craft and Frisbee golf. I also enjoyed being with my friends from my club and also making new ones from the other clubs. It was a fun experience; although I do not like camping that much it was not all that bad. BUC Camporee was not all that bad.

Mazvita Mvura

I really enjoyed camporee. I made lots of friends and I was also able to learn how to groom and ride a horse. I really liked it. It was my first time at camporee so I was able to learn a lot about camping and also what it is like being a Pathfinder. I am looking forward to the next camporee.



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Pathfinders & Adventurers



Encounter 27

Cycling was one of the more popular activities at the BUC Camporee, with several Pathfinders completing their honour with a 50-mile bike ride at the end of the week – why not have a go yourselves!

Cycling Honour • Level 1

Recreation

Requirements:

1. Know by name and explain the purpose of the various parts of a bicycle.
2. Repair a punctured bicycle tyre.
3. Take apart and clean a bicycle and put it together again properly.
4. Adjust the brakes and front and rear derailleur properly.
5. Know and practise courtesy and safety rules in bicycling.
6. What are the advantages of wearing a cycling helmet?
7. Ride a bicycle 50 consecutive miles (80 kilometres) in ten hours or less.
8. Know how to read a road map by routing out your 50-mile course and following it accurately on the ride.

Cycling Award Recreation

Requirements:

1. Earn the Road Safety Award.
2. Demonstrate:
 - a. How to keep the bike clean
 - b. How to safely ride the bike
 - c. Use turn signals while riding
 - d. How to take care of the bike
3. Participate in a bike activity.
4. Do a five-mile bike ride.
5. Make a map of where you went.
6. With your family, use your map to retrace your route.



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