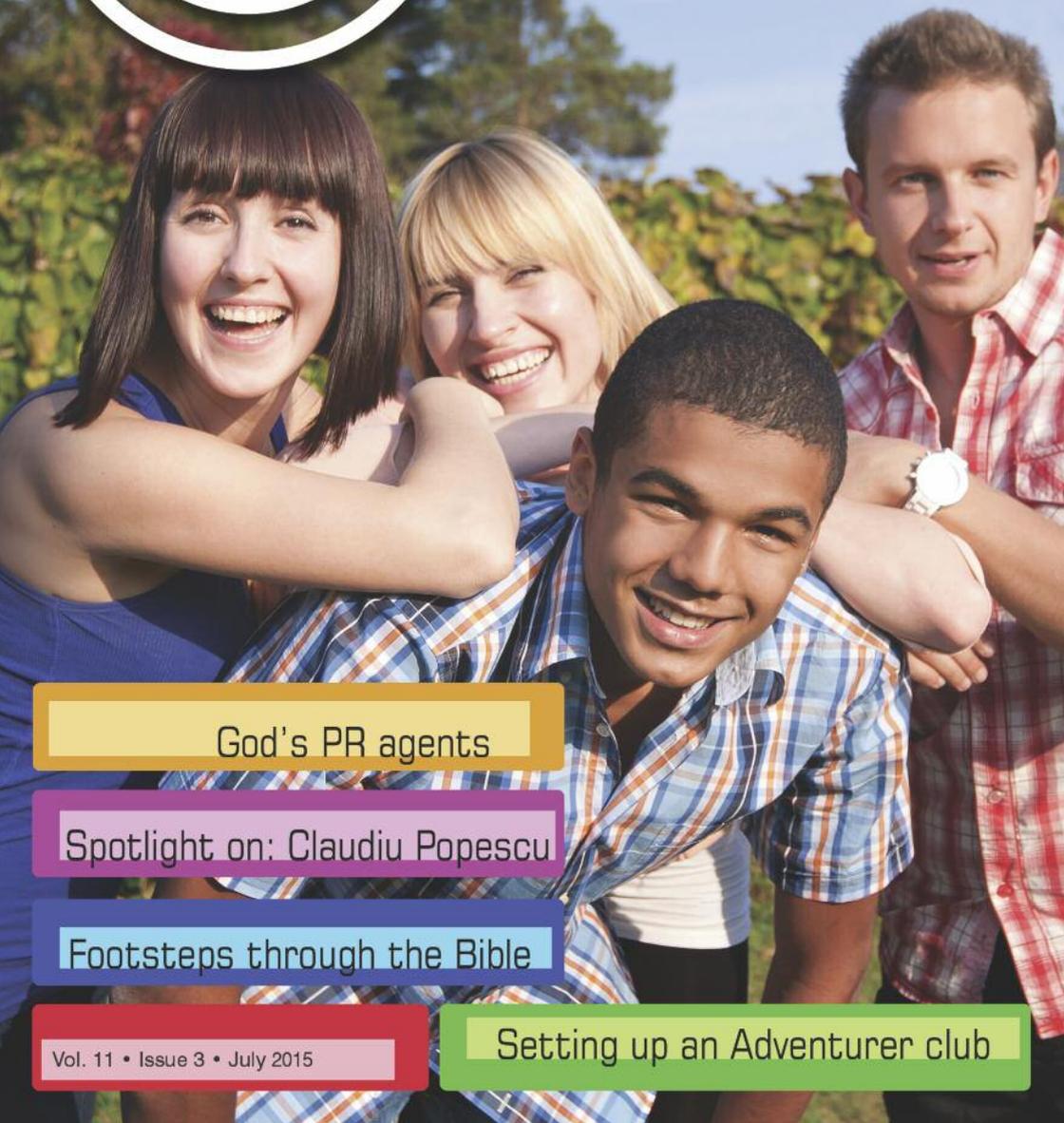




encounter



God's PR agents

Spotlight on: Claudiu Popescu

Footsteps through the Bible

Vol. 11 • Issue 3 • July 2015

Setting up an Adventurer club

Vol. 11 Issue 3 • July 2015
 Editor: Nathan Stickland • Co-editor: Natalie Davison
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 Design: Abigail Murphy

The purpose of **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:

Volunteering



Pastor Maximiliano Gimenez is volunteering as assistant pastor at the Hispanic church in North London and the Portuguese churches in Oxford and Swindon. He has been in London since coming from Uruguay in July 2013.

Community Services



Jovan Adamovic is a pastor in South West Wales and the Associate Youth Sponsor in the Welsh Mission. His passion is youth and community work.

Footsteps through the Bible



Efraín Velázquez is starting our new series, *Footsteps through the Bible*, which will bring Bible history to life! He has a PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology/Bible studies, and leads study tours in almost every Near Eastern country.

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

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



I'm proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and it has also been my pleasure and passion to work with and for young people for many years. Times have changed, fashions have come and gone, and technology has advanced, but our raison d'être stays the same. We are called to both keep and share our faith in today's fast-paced twenty-first-century society in which we live.

Where we have come from is important as it makes us what we are today. As the General Conference Youth Department website states:

'The story of the Adventist Youth Society, now titled Young Adults (YA), began over 125 years ago along a dusty country lane in Michigan with two young boys kneeling in prayer. Today that dusty lane has become a worldwide web of highways that links over 10 million Seventh-day Adventist young people in nearly every political entity on every continent of the globe. This story comes in every hue of the rainbow; it is filled with extremes of exhilaration and mountaintop experiences, as well as deep sadness and unfulfilled dreams. This is the story of God's leading a fascinating army down through the battles of the great over-arching conflict that is life as we know it now.'

So what is your experience and what are your hopes and dreams for the future? Some years ago we did an online Valuegenesis youth survey that asked a number of set questions, which gave much valuable information, but this time we start with a blank sheet of paper and would like to hear your individual responses. **ncounter** would love to hear from you with a view to making a feature of the life and times of the Seventh-day Adventist youth in the British Union. So please do let us know by contacting bucyouth@adventist.org.uk or find us on Facebook.



In this edition we are introducing a new feature called 'Footsteps through the Bible' and have invited Dr Efraín Velázquez from the Inter-American Theological Seminary, who is a well-respected archaeologist, to take us on a walk through the biblical stories through an archaeologist's eyes: we hope you will enjoy this. Plus, we also have our usual features: Youth Issues, Pathfinders & Adventurers, Science & Faith, Students, Community Services, and AVS, plus more adverts and interesting snippets.

One more thing. From this summer at the TED we are running a youth Relay Mission outreach programme in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 21 to 30 August, and we would love to have some mission-minded senior youth from Britain (18+) join the group. Please see below for further details. The good news is that we have extended the deadline until mid-July. So if you are interested please make immediate contact and I hope to see you there.

Blessings
Paul Tompkins
 TED Youth Director





Planning on learning a new language? Find out the 10 easiest written languages to master for native speakers of English. Apparently you could learn one with just a few days of study and practice! www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationadvice/11507109/Easiest-written-languages-for-English-speakers.html



Hangul is the written form of the Korean language, designed in the fifteenth century, and has been praised by linguists as the most logical writing system.



Bible translation has made the Scriptures accessible to more than five billion of the world's population. Today, there are 6,912 languages in the world. Of these, more than 4,400 still wait for even one book of the Bible. Visit www.biblesociety.org.uk for more details on how you can help share the Bible.



Did you know that there is a growing Adventist Deaf Ministries Department at the General Conference which has ties with deaf ministries from all over the world? If you are deaf, or know or work with deaf people, why don't you take a look at the website? There are plenty of useful links and resources. www.adventistdeaf.org



Pathfinders

16 July 1915 marks the anniversary of the death of Ellen G. White. A relatively new Pathfinder honour has been created, which you can earn by playing online or on your smartphone! Launched at the 2014 Oshkosh Camporee by the Ellen G. White Estate, it's a fun way to learn more about the life of this prophetess and earn a new honour at the same time!



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Footsteps through the Bible

Footsteps through the Bible is our latest **encounter** series. For the next few editions, we are privileged to welcome Efraín Velázquez, PhD. He is currently serving as the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary. He was a youth pastor who did an MDiv with emphasis in youth ministry. Velázquez was fascinated by the biblical lands and did a PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology/Biblical Studies. He has had field work experience in Jordan, and has led students on study tours in almost every country of the Near East. He has been published in denominational magazines and scholarly journals, and contributed to major biblical commentaries. Velázquez is the host on two popular TV programmes, *Science 360* for North America (3ABNLatino) and *Evidences* for Central and South America (Nuevo Tiempo-Esperanza TV). His major challenge is being the father to four children (between the ages of 4 and 16) who test all his theories and advice, an unbearable task without the faithful companionship of his best friend and wife, Mariella.



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2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and a new figurine of German religious scholar, Martin Luther, produced by toymaker Playmobil, has proved to be its fastest-selling toy ever! Their stock of 34,000 sold out in 3 days! Astid Muhlmann, who is in charge of the preparations for the anniversary of the Reformation, says, 'Parents want to make sure their children grow up knowing who he is because he had such an impact on how society evolved in Europe.' www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/11409405/This-historical-Christian-figure-just-became-Playmobils-fastest-selling-toy-ever.html



If you are visiting Wales this year, drop by the Mary Jones World in Llanycil, near Bala. You'll find out all about the teenage Mary Jones, who walked 26 miles to obtain a Welsh-language Bible that she had saved for 6 years to buy, and how her story inspired Revd Thomas Charles to found the Bible Society. www.bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk

Community Services

Did you know you are a PR agent? We are told to let our light shine: find out more about being an effective PR agent for God in this issue!

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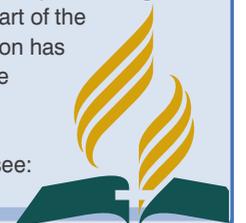
Events

The General Conference Session will take place in July in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

The GC Session is a global spiritual gathering and a constitutionally required business meeting that has been held every five years since 1970. Its purpose is to vote on global leadership, set the direction of the Church for the next five years, and vote changes to the Constitution, Fundamental Beliefs and Church Manual.

At this session the theology of ordination and how it relates to gender will be discussed. Plus voting on: Literal six-day creation phrase added to the Belief on Creation (in the fundamental beliefs); editorial changes to the Church Manual including the disciplinary protocol for sexual misconduct. Also, newly created unions will be accepted through a vote. The good news is that part of the offering collected at the Session has been earmarked for worldwide Public Campus Ministries.

For more about the General Conference Session, please see: <http://2015.gcsession.org/>





Why volunteer abroad? Why Nepal?

o Rachel Lunan

Although I have previously volunteered abroad with another charity, in India, I felt that despite that, something was missing. While our goal as volunteers was the same, to improve people's quality of life and reduce poverty, our motives were different. The God element was missing. Being able to volunteer within a Christian organisation, with volunteers who not only share your passion to help others, but also have the same motive, to be able to love others not only through words but our deeds, for me brings unity.

Furthermore, with the recent earthquake that has devastated many areas in Nepal, together with the mission of the trip, to renovate a primary school library, I feel all the more called to go on the first ADRA-UK Connections trip, to help renovate and rebuild communities, a need which is all the more relevant now.

How will I fund-raise for the trip?

Recently I began my fund-raising by taking part in Live Below the Line: £5 for 5 days, £1 a day for food and drink. Not only has this been a challenge as I realise how lucky we are to have such a wide variety of choice in terms of food, which we often take for granted, but I am also raising awareness of the extreme poverty that still exists today, with 1.2 billion people living on less than £1 a day.

Other challenges that I will be doing to fund-raise are various hikes and running events, book sales (in line with the theme of renovating a library) and bake sales, as well as bespoke cake orders through Cassie's Cakeaway (www.facebook.com/cassiescakeaway).

Volunteering abroad can often be quite daunting, entering a new environment without our everyday comforts and luxuries, but the impact that you can have on others makes it worth the challenge.

Although this trip is now fully booked, there will be more planned. So if you feel called to be a volunteer, contact volunteering@adra.org.uk, and don't miss an amazing opportunity, where volunteers can see the global work of ADRA first-hand.



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Missionaries in London

◦ Pastor Maximiliano Porto Gimenez

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To receive a genuine smile on London's streets is like finding a needle in a haystack, and someone offering you a free hug is something highly unlikely to happen in this lonely city.

Sadness, despair and incomprehension are usual and they can be easily seen on people's sad looks and frowning faces. But the good thing is that in the middle of this situation, Christ's followers show up to demonstrate who is the One that can transform your life, giving back smiles and happiness.

One Sabbath afternoon, in one of the missionary activities, Marta was wearing a free hug T-shirt. On that afternoon many people's lives were changed forever, especially Derek's life, an English man who was going through a very difficult physical and emotional situation. Marta gave him a free hug, prayed with him and spent some time with him there, on the street. Next Monday, Derek was visited; he could perceive

God in small details such as a visit and some quality time.

Not only Derek was impressed, but also his family, friends and neighbours.

Due to respiratory problems, Derek was taken to hospital, where he was placed in an intensive care unit. Christ's followers were there too, again, praying, reading the Bible and showing that God is real and He is with His children even in the worst moments.

Derek couldn't get baptised but he accepted Jesus as his Saviour and Redeemer. Now, he rests in peace until our Father's second coming. I invite you today not to underestimate the small details, as without a doubt they make a big difference.

Being a missionary is making a difference in people's lives.

Being a missionary is a real pleasure.

For more details about volunteering opportunities, please visit www.tedadventistvolunteers.com



G.O.A.L.S[®] – Opportunities, Obstacles and Attitude

This issue continues our series on success using the *G.O.A.L.S[®] acronym:



The last publication looked at the 'G' – Go for it. If you read it, I hope you were inspired to take that first step to commence activating your dream or life goal.

We turn our attention now to the next two letters of the acronym – the 'O's and the 'A', which relate to **Opportunities, Obstacles and Attitudes**.

Opportunities

When I think of opportunities, I think of a world of possibilities waiting for me to grasp with both hands. Also to give as much of my potential to maximise each moment life brings in order to make something wonderful of my life. As Danny Kaye says: 'Life is a big canvas, throw all the paint on it you can.'

So, what are the opportunities that you see around you that can make a difference to your future? Here are a few prompts to get you started but you may have your own points which you can list in order of importance.

- People who inspire you – they can become your coach or mentor
- A gift that people would pay for – e.g., music (you play a musical instrument well)
- Ability to express yourself in words – (you could become an author or poet as one of your life goals)
- Ability to present clearly or teach – (using a skill which can turn into a career)
- Getting a sponsorship – (this could open a world of opportunities for you to explore)

Tip: Share your list with someone you trust and ask them to help you pray for God's guidance in this area.

Obstacles

'You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.'
Eleanor Roosevelt

One of the most destructive obstacles in life is fear. In the context of pursuing life goals, it is often the fear of failure that cripples individuals from taking the first step.

Think of some of the barriers that are currently confronting you on your way to achieving a cherished dream or a life goal.

- Is it finance?
- Is it time?
- Is it the right resources?
- Do you doubt your current skill set?
- Or is it fear of failure or other emotions or life circumstances that may be holding you back?

Tip: Think of the extent to which these barriers may be impeding your progress or preventing you from making a start towards your goal of propelling you forward. Pray for God to show you the solution in each area.

Attitudes

'Whether you think you can or think you can't – you are right.' Henry Ford

The name 'Henry Ford' is synonymous with the manufactory of the first affordable automobile that many middle-class Americans could afford. Henry Ford overcome many obstacles both in his personal and work life and became a household name globally with specific reference to Ford cars. His earlier quote highlights the impact of the way we think. If we think success we can become successful in life.

Having a 'can do' attitude to life makes all the difference. Even when we face difficulties, remembering that we are not alone is an empowering thought. Knowing that we have God's help can inspire us to reach our goal. Here is one of the affirming scriptures that helped me to progress in all my endeavours throughout the years. Philippians 4:13 – 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (NKJV).

Tip:

- Think of an affirming scripture that you can use to help boost your attitude when you face challenges.
- With a positive attitude you can make the best of opportunities as they come your way.
- With a positive attitude you can be aware of the obstacles around you and instead of giving up, you determine to find a way around it.

Pause to reflect

In order to activate any goal I have for my life, I would analyse where I was in regards to these three segments – opportunities, obstacles and attitude. I would assess how to

use opportunities to move forwards. I would then acknowledge any obvious obstacles but refuse to let them deter me. This helped me to keep a positive attitude, realising that challenges are not necessarily permanent, and although they may appear insurmountable there is usually a way around them. Here are some of the questions I would ask myself which enabled me to reflect on the practical aspects of my goal. I have amended them slightly so you can apply them personally.

Goal: What goal do you have for 2015 and beyond? Write it down.

Encouragement: Who or what will bring you encouragement?

Preparation: What do you need to commence the journey/teach your goal?

Personnel: Who will be your coach/supporter/s or team member/s?

Endurance: How will you cope with a possible extended time frame? What may be some of the obstacles you have to overcome?

Inspiration: What will motivate you to the finish line?

Take time to go through the questions above and write down your answers. Your responses will be quite revealing and will assist you in plotting where you are on your journey towards your goal. It will also give you some key pointers in relation to your mindset and how to apply yourself in regard to planning the path you will take, the required resources necessary and who the significant people or contacts may be.

Here's to your success!

God's PR agents

o Jovan Adamovic

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José Alberto 'Pepe' Mujica Cordano lives with his wife on an austere farm in the outskirts of a big city. He has no possessions, apart from a 1987 VW Beetle and an 18-year-old three-legged chihuahua called Manuela. Even the farm belongs to his wife. They cultivate and sell chrysanthemums in order to survive.

So, what is so special about this man?

You see, on 1 March, José Alberto 'Pepe' Mujica Cordano's term as the 40th president of Uruguay came to a conclusion. He will be remembered as the 'Poorest President in the World', and he is proud of it.

This man, an atheist, vegetarian, Volkswagen Beetle-owner, while being the president, rejected the privilege of living in a palace reserved for the country's head of government for a humble farm in the outskirts of the capital of Montevideo; he fought and is still fighting for what he believes in – that all people are equal and there shouldn't be a big gap between those who have and those who haven't. However, not only has this man been preaching the equality message, but, while a president, he was donating 90% of his monthly salary, which was around £7,500, to charities that help poor people and small businesses.

I cannot help but ask this question – are we Seventh-day Adventists living according to what we say we believe?

Paul writes: **'Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles'** (1 Corinthians 1:22, 23, NIV).

So, what does 'preaching the crucified Christ' mean in practice?



© Getty Images

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:16, NIV).

If we would like to translate this verse in maths language it would look something like this:



There are two things we need to understand here:

1. Our job is to inspire people to glorify God.
2. People will glorify God only if they see your good deeds. Jesus never said that people would glorify God because of our knowledge, did He?

In order to shine, we need to receive that light first (John 15:4, 5).

We are like those solar lights that some of us have in our gardens. In order to give light, they first have to be exposed to light. Otherwise, they are useless. In order to shine, we need to be exposed to the light!

What does PR stand for? What is the job description of a PR person? To promote and raise people's awareness of a certain brand, product or initiative.

What is a PR war? Samsung vs. Apple; BMW vs. Audi; Nike vs. Reebok: the main goal of such a war is to raise doubts about opponents and their products and to offer the better alternative.

Allow me to over-simplify this issue. We are part of a big PR war that started in Heaven and was then brought to Earth (Genesis 3:1-6).

We can say, then, that the great controversy is a big PR war!

And you are God's PR agent. God has chosen you to promote and raise people's

awareness about Him and His Kingdom.

What is it that God's PR agents are supposed to do?

'... I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' (Matthew 25:31-46, NLT.)

Unlike other PR agents that work 9-5, we work 24/7. People watch us all the time. We preach while driving, walking, shopping, eating, watching, playing, working, all the time. We preach to our friends, colleagues, neighbours, strangers, but also to our parents and siblings.

Author Bobby Conway started his book quoting nineteenth-century British evangelist Rodney (Gypsy) Smith: 'There are five Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and you, the Christian – but most people never read the first four.' Or, a more modern version – 'You will be the only Gospel people will read.'

What kind of Gospel are you?

I want to finish with this quote – 'Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.' – Francis of Assisi.





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Name: Claudiu Popescu

Age: 37

Place of birth: Suceava, Romania

Living in: Troon, Scotland

Married: No women, no cry :) so far

Children: No

Job title: Scottish Mission Youth Sponsor

Hobbies: Snowboarding, skiing, climbing, hiking

Pets: Love all of them but not in the house

Most inspiring Bible text: Matthew 13:12, 13

'Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables . . .' (NIV)

What was your life like growing up?

I had a great childhood. My parents, very often, took me outdoors; I loved it – especially at my grandparents' place – they had a small farm. Later I enjoyed very much being in a boarding school, studying and hanging out with my friends – it was a great time.

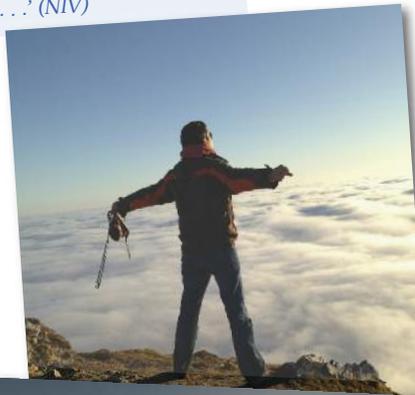
Favourite memory as a youth?

I still remember it like yesterday. It was during my time in boarding school. We did quite a number of journeys with the school band during the year – which was the case on this particular occasion. We were on the train ready to leave the station when we realised that two members of our band weren't on the train yet.

By the time the train had already started to depart we heard our band mates scream and shout: 'Stop the train, wait for us . . . !' So, young and stupid as I was, I did exactly that: I pulled the emergency brakes – the train stopped and my friends got on board. Afterwards I got one of the most severe talks in my life, followed by an unforgettable penalty fee from the train conductor . . . hah.

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

At first I studied theology in Austria and later I did a Master's in systematic theology at Newbold College.



I decided to study theology (and also philosophy autodidactically) because I was always interested in the 'why' (during high school I enjoyed my classes in chemistry and biology – which showed me the 'how').

After natural science, theology and philosophy I wanted to know more about the human psyche, especially on a practical level.

Why be a pastor/work in youth ministry?

Because I hope that I can combine all those aspects mentioned above in pastoral ministry, and especially in youth ministry most of all. Young people like to question things, they like to get to the bottom of things, and if we have no satisfying answers they won't stay in our churches. I love to discuss critical questions with young people, even if I do not always have answers; but I am honest enough to admit that I want to get on a journey with them as a partner to find the answers to those questions. This experience will let me grow as well. That's the goal I have: growing closer to each other and getting connected to each other on our journey of finding the existential answers to our lives.

What was your first job ever? How did your career move on from there?

Teaching German language to adults in Reading.

How many times have you moved house and how many countries have you lived in?

I have moved so far around seven times and I have lived in four different countries.

Worst/funniest experience in youth/pastoral ministry?

The worst has been seeing young adults losing their faith.

The person who has had the most influence on your life and why?

On a personal level definitely my mum. On a professional level, the theologian Karl Barth and the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. Karl Barth because he made me understand I need to look for the core answers of my beliefs in the 'story behind the story – Sitz im Leben'.

Søren Kierkegaard, because of his statement: 'Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.'

Your vision for Youth Ministries in the Scottish Mission?

Because I am new to the role, firstly, I would like to connect very well with the youth, to listen to and understand their concerns and their dreams and then try to translate the dreams into reality.

'You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us . . . and the church will become a place you'll want to be part of.' :)

Although relatively new to this role, what is your most stand-out moment as a SM Youth Sponsor?

Except for arguing with the budget holders about more funds needing to be allocated for youth ministries :) none so far . . . I'm still waiting – as I do for the second coming of our Lord.



AGES 13-16
 FUN ACTIVITIES
 ROCK CLIMBING
 CANOEING
 ARTS AND CRAFTS
 BEACH GAMES
 AND MANY MORE
 ALL STAFF CRB CHECKED

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Footsteps through the Bible – Introduction

This is a new feature in **Encounter** which will hopefully bring Bible stories and biblical history to life. Using accounts from archaeologists (real-life Indiana Jones and friends!), they will use their knowledge, gained from their extensive research and while on archaeological digs and field trips in the Near East, to share more about the lives and history of those who existed during Bible times.

For more about this edition's author, see the Newsbites on page 4.

We hope that this series will deepen your Bible knowledge and help you to experience the stories with a new and refreshed understanding.

One building, many stories ◦ Efraín Velázquez

I love to share stories; I have always loved to discover details about the stories I read. Perhaps that is one of the reasons I got excited with the idea of being an archaeologist. It has been a blast to ride on camels, hike up mountains, drink tea at wildernesses among Bedouins, and use creative WCs. But archaeology is more than that: it's a window to the past, a bridge to ancient communities and individuals. The science and art of archaeology illuminates the past, and in the Near East it connects us to the world of the Bible. I have learned about biblical characters and answered some of my questions over the reliability of those stories.

After becoming a father, it transcended my interests, and now it's about my boys and my little girl. As a young father I have tried to make those stories come alive for my children. I have used colourful Bibles, funny puppets, biblical cartoons and videos, and even dress up like Bible characters. On the other hand, these are not just children's 'stories'; if they are not historical, then their relevance is diminished. That is why I began a quest to find out more about those stories when my first child was born. Is the Bible reliable? Is what we have in those pages history or just stories?

I decided to take my kids to experience those stories, and I hope you can join me in these travels to the places where history took place.



One of the buildings with more stories from the New Testament is outside the major metropolises. The site is not located in Jerusalem, Caesarea, or Jericho. It's a small village at the shores of the lake of Galilee, known as the town of Nahum, or 'Capernaum'.

There is no impressive acropolis (upper city) like in Meggido, with temples like in Samaria, theatres as in Caesarea or an elegant city centre similar to Scythopolis. No remains of villas, gymnasiums or forums have been excavated. This little village became the headquarters of Jesus and His disciples (Matthew 4:13).

The site was 'lost' until the nineteenth century, when Bible enthusiasts and treasure hunters flocked to the Near East to find evidence against or in favour of biblical history. The remains that were dug at the shores of the northern part of the lake are simple and common. The black basalt stones are used on many sites of Galilee for their durability and ease of access. Calcite stones, in brilliant white, are not common in the area, and most of the time they have to be brought up from elsewhere.

That is why the largest building in town is so impressive: it is built of white calcite stones. This is the synagogue of Capernaum, and even if it is from the fifth century AD, it was built over a first-century structure, which was destroyed during the Jewish revolt of the AD 60s, and historian Josephus describes the fierce resistance of the inhabitants of Capernaum.

This is perhaps the most exciting building that I have visited in the Holy Land. This was most likely the synagogue built by the centurion who is mentioned in the Gospels. The same synagogue was the scene where the





Footsteps through the Bible

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demon-possessed young man was delivered from his burden. The synagogue that was in the care of Jairus, was where the man with the shrivelled hand was healed, and was not far from the small street where the woman with the issue of blood was cured!

This building is across from the house that has been identified as the 'house of Peter'. That house is one of the New Testament-related sites with strong evidence of its antiquity and biblical reliability.

I was excited to share the historical evidence for the place of those stories with my children. However, at the end of the day, faith in the events that the Bible describes is a miracle and cannot be proven. It is a gift of God. Just as was the healing of the woman with the issue of blood, or the man with the shrivelled hand. We have to believe, in the same way that Jairus had to trust that he was going to see his daughter get well.

I can almost hear the screams that were muted by the orders of Jesus, the awe and anger after the healing of the hand of that sick man, and the laughter and joy of Jairus's daughter as she entered this building.

Now, as I read the story with my son on my lap, I hope he travels back in history and it brings the Bible to life.

||||| Digging deeper: |||||

Temple built by the centurion whose servant Jesus healed of palsy: Luke 7:1-10
Cleansing of the man with the unclean spirit: Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37
Jairus's daughter was brought back to life: Luke 8:40-42, 49-56; Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
Woman with the issue of blood healed: Luke 8:43-48; Mark 5:25-34
Peter's house: Mark 1:29-31



extreme

TEENS CAMP 2015

17th-23rd August 2015
Chapel Porth
ST AGNES TRURO CORNWALL TR50RN

£95
including transport

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First come first served

BUC Youth Congress report *reborn*

22 The BUC Youth Congress took place at Newland Park in Chalfont St Giles over the Easter weekend from 2 to 6 April 2015.

Combined with the SEC Teens Prayer & Faith Conference, there were more than 300 people on site. Daily morning and evening prayer, praise and worship times, a wide range of seminars and workshops, early morning prayer times in the dedicated prayer room, a games morning, and a concert were the main highlights of the weekend.

We had dynamic speakers in the form of Elder Sebastien Braxton and Pastor Nicardo Delahaye, together with General Conference Campus Ministries Director, Jiwan Moon. Many blessings were provided by their sermons and testimonies, as demonstrated by the many people who responded to the various altar calls.

If you were not able to attend the congress or would like a reminder, you can watch the sermons at www.adventistyouth.org.uk



'Best time of my life!' were the first words Marc Neal used to describe his time at the BUC Youth Congress. Marc had travelled all the way over from Northern Ireland to attend the congress, along with around 25 members of the Irish Mission. He particularly enjoyed the music (he took part in the musical concert arranged for Sabbath evening), and the speakers.



He also had lots of fun at the games morning (organised by Irish Youth Sponsor, Adam Keough), and thought that the way everyone worked together and joined in with all the games was really great.

The best time for him was socialising after the worships. This took place in the Park Room, with plenty of refreshments and the extremely popular ice-cream machine! Marc made some very good friends at the congress and is in fact planning to travel to England this summer to visit some of them.

Marc Neal (Irish Mission)



The BUC Youth Congress was a life-changing experience for me, where I found joy in rediscovering the Jesus I thought I knew. Since it was my first Youth Congress I did not know what to expect; I now realise that God just needed me to be there. The continuous atmosphere of praise and worship to God required us to carefully soul-search. Many of us youth intended just to be spiritually revived. However, I received a greater blessing of being reborn. I particularly enjoyed engaging in the dynamic workshops and making new friends.

During this weekend I saw God redefine my understanding of His purpose for my life. One thing I learnt is, 'You cannot love God if you do not love the Book which testifies of His goodness.'

I thank God for such an amazing experience. My life will never be the same.

Danelle Cuffie (SEC)



More feedback received from the forms we collected at the end of the congress revealed that there were some less-than-enthusiastic comments about the bedrooms ('uncomfortable beds', 'duvets non-existent', 'non-functioning extractor fans'), the food at mealtimes ('not very flavourful', 'too greasy', 'so sad') and the music being too loud. Many also wished that they had received advertising for the congress via their churches a lot earlier.

However, on the plus side, the speakers themselves were rated very highly ('fabulous', 'engaging', 'just what I needed to hear'), the quality and variety of the workshops were appreciated ('eye-opening', 'informative and professional', 'needs to be shared with the youth in churches') and the additional activities, such as the prayer room and prayer mornings, the games morning and the evening social time, were all a big hit with those who attended.

The next BUC Youth Congress is planned for four years' time, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Pssst!

Fancy volunteering with us over the summer?

If you have:

strong organisational skills,
great research skills,
excellent copy writing skills,
a good eye for detail,
&
a passion for charity work

... and you think you might be suited to our Marketing & Volunteering summer placement, contact communications@adra.org.uk

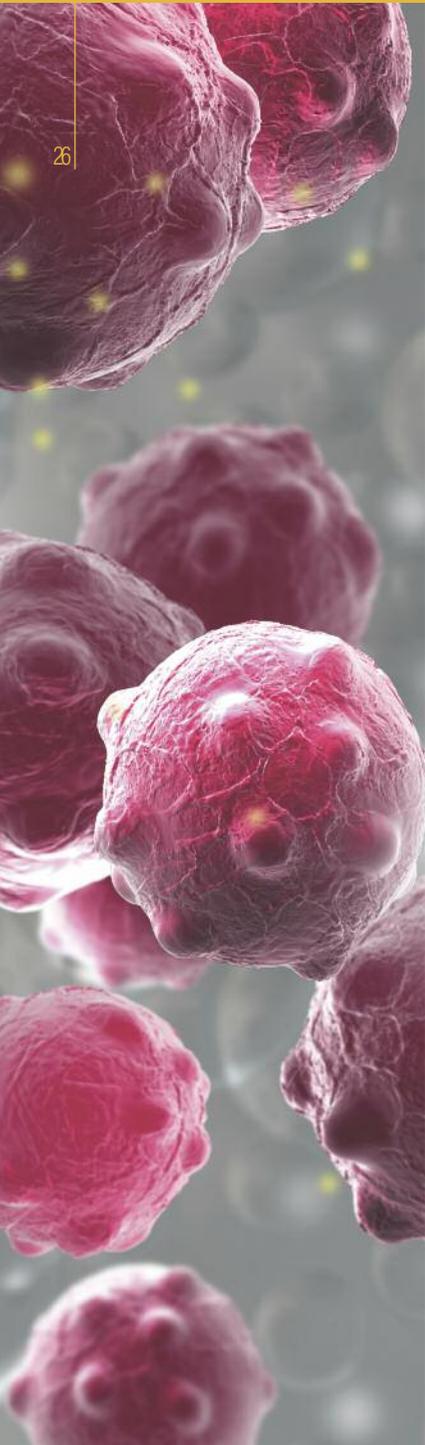


Go Kart Sunday

November 29th

Come and test your driving skills against the best drivers across the NEC!
Register at www.necyouth.org.uk





Cellular nano-machines and real education

You have about 30 trillion cells in your body (roughly). That is 30 followed by 12 zeros! Everything we and other living things do, such as move, feed, sense and respond to our surroundings, is all done by cells. Cells were first described by Robert Hooke in the seventeenth century, using a light microscope to magnify a section of cork. To Hooke, cells looked like empty, walled boxes.

As microscopy continued to improve, it became obvious that cells were not empty boxes or simply microscopic bags of a chemical gel, but instead they were full of tiny structures, 'factories' called organelles. The nucleus, an example of one of these organelles, controls the cell and carries the instructions for making more cells. All the cells inside your body, with the exception of red blood cells, have in their nucleus the complete instructions for making you!

The imaging of cells using electrons instead of light in microscopes produced more detailed images, revealing what looked like little blobs or bumps on some of the organelles of cells. Today we know that these tiny blobs are nano-machines, billionths of a metre across.

Using electron beams and X-rays, we can now see what they look like; we can determine the positions of each atom in the structure. These nano-machines carry out important functions in our cells, such as reading messages from the nucleus and converting them into the building blocks that make up the cell. As a PhD student in molecular biophysics, I am training to use X-rays to take 'snapshots' of such molecular machines, of which there are possibly millions, found inside living cells. My focus is on a transporter molecule that uses energy to carry other molecules from the blood into the brain. The work I do is important because this transporter carries into the brain drug molecules used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and epilepsy. The work I am doing may someday contribute to the development of



o George Chiduzo

drugs for conditions that currently have few or no effective treatments, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Why and how do I do it?

I was raised in a good Seventh-day Adventist home. This meant as a child I had Bible stories for bed time and as soon as I could read, the house was already full of books for me to read. My reading not only included spiritually focused books, but ones on other subjects as well. One of my favourite books to read between the ages of 9 and 13 was the *Reader's Digest Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Knowledge*. I remember carrying the 608-page single-volume encyclopedia with me to school to show my friends an image of a CD4 cell, one of the cell-types that defend the body against

infection. I believe my exposure to and study of the Bible at an early age determined the direction and speed of my early intellectual development in the way E. G. White describes in these words: 'The mind thus brought in contact with the thoughts of the Infinite cannot but expand and strengthen.' (*Education*, p. 124.) As students there has been the temptation for us to neglect study of the Bible for the sake of our academic studies. We should resist such temptation. The time I have spent studying the Word of God in university is comparable to, if not greater than, that spent on my university work. I completed my Bachelor's degree in molecular biology with first-class honours and was then awarded a scholarship for my PhD. God has been faithful to me, and He will be faithful to you.

George was born and lived most of his life in Harare, Zimbabwe but moved here with his family to Liverpool in 2011, to start a BSc in Molecular Biology at the University of Liverpool. He is still at the university, where he is a PhD student and part-time Research Technician. He serves God as a youth leader and Sabbath school teacher in his local church. He enjoys music and bike riding when the opportunity presents itself





Irish Mission Youth Department



Irish Mission Summer Camp, 2015

Tue 11th - Tue 18th August

Venue: Portlick Scout Campsite

Athlone, Co Westmeath

Join 50-70 children & teens from across the Irish Mission and experience great worships, have bundles of fun, do some cool activities, and make some wonderful new friends ... all at an Adventist Camp :)

Ages: 9 - 17 years

Cost: Juniors - £135/€170

Seniors - £150/€200

Payable over 1-4 months

Your church may be able to help with a subsidy!

COST DROP = €20+pp on 2014

Information & applications:

www.imyd.ie



SEC STUDENT Camp 2015

20TH - 24TH JULY 2015



At Chapel Porth Caravan Site:
Goonvrea, ST Agnes, Truro,
Cornwall, TR5 0RN



Places are limited. Please book early:
www.secteens.org
(online registration only)



Students are encouraged to bring
roommates, flatmates & Christian Union
friends. University students only.



Contact:
Dejan Stojkovic - 07919 172 176
dstojkovic@secadventist.org.uk
Rebeto Samuel-Ouadjo - 01923 656 533
rsamuel-ouadjo@secadventist.org.uk



Hosted by the Adventist Student Network in association with the Welsh Mission

How to run a successful event on campus

An inside story with Coventry University Christian Adventist Society

◦ **Chantal Tomlinson**
Chantal has a passion for campus ministries, and was the founder of the Adventist Society at Coventry University following her attendance at PEACE.



Before the event

1. Pray, pray, pray! Place the event before God, that He may lead and guide you as you plan.
2. Plan in advance. Don't wait till the last minute: this prevents disappointments that could be avoided. Set dates from early on and work with them!
3. Decide on what the event is: what is your purpose; who are you aiming it towards?
4. If you need a guest speaker, make use of guest speakers used for youth events in your area as well as local speakers. Have a back-up speaker or a plan B in case your main speaker can't make it.
5. Fill in an events form/guest speaker form or whatever protocol that needs to be followed by your university's student union. The relationship with your student union is very important!
6. Get a room booked at the university, and make sure it's:
 - The right size
 - Suitable to the type of event
 - A central location on campus
 - Accessible for students
 - Equipped with the right facilities and equipment, i.e. computer, projector
7. Promotion is key: create a poster; share it on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, the student union mini site for your society, and so on. Make sure you notify your members, share with friends and encourage them to share!
8. Contact the presidents and leaders of the other faith societies. For example, with our event on 'Searching for the reality of God'

with Dr Subodh Pandit, we sent around an email to all the other faith societies (the Islam society and Hindu, Jewish and other Christian societies).

9. Set a budget: how many people do you expect to come, how much money do you have available to you, what do you need to buy (i.e. food, literature, books, etc)?
10. Arrange a programme for the evening so that there is structure and organisation.
11. Ensure each committee member knows what they are doing. As a leader, delegation is very important.



At the event

1. If possible, try to send a reminder to the members and friends right before the event.
2. Make the necessary arrangements to meet/transport the guest speaker so that they arrive at the right place.
3. Before you start, pray as a team and ask that the Lord will touch the hearts of those who will attend. Pray for those who will be deciding whether to attend.
4. Start and end on time!
5. Pray to start and close; ask the Lord to be with you.
6. Make sure that all of the students are friendly to the visitors: friendship and warmth is the best way to reach out to people and keep them coming back!
7. Incorporate some time to mingle with the visitors and each other. Be intentional with who you speak to; get to know somebody new.
8. Make sure you have food! Free food is best; always a winner with students! Try to make it as healthy as possible in order to promote the health message. Examples include: fruits, houmous, breadsticks, salsa dip, fruit, nuts, tortilla chips, granola bars, juice, and water.
9. Have someone to take photos and/or videos so that you can share with others on social media and friends after the event!
10. Take feedback from those who attended so that you know how to improve for next time. Also provide an opportunity for individuals to request Bible studies or more information about the society. Don't forget to provide space for their contact details so you can keep in touch with your new contacts. Consistency in communication is vital!

After the event

1. Ensure you leave the venue on time. (This one is hard to stick to as everyone likes to mingle at the end, but do try your best!) Also ensure you leave the room clean and tidy, with all the furniture as you found it. You want to remain in the good books with your university.
2. Pray for those who came along and follow up with the visitors.
3. As a team evaluate the positives and improvements so that events just get better and better and more effective!

As you do it all, have fun!





One hundred years ago, on 16 July 1915, Ellen G. White passed away at the age of 87 years. She had been a faithful servant to her Lord Jesus, having given her life to Him at the age of 12 and received her first vision at the age of 17.

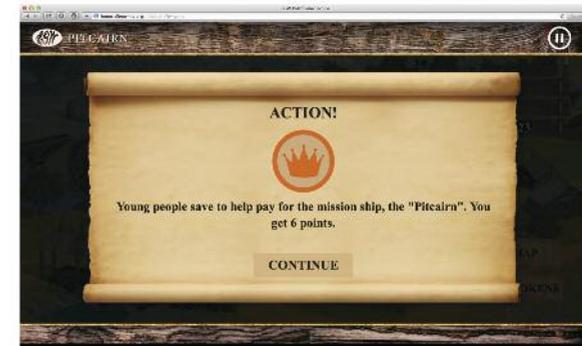
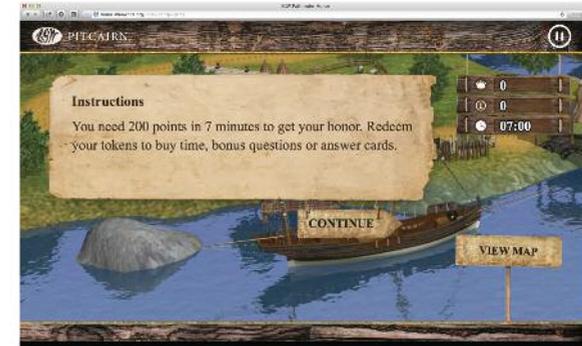
The Ellen G. White Estate has created a new Pathfinder honour, entitled 'God's Messenger', which can be achieved in the traditional way, or earned by playing either an online or smartphone game.

By scoring 200 points or more in the allotted time, you can achieve your honour and you can email your Pathfinder director with the details of your score once you have completed the game.

It is great fun and an interesting way to learn more about this great lady whose works are so widely published and read. It might inspire you to read more of her books, which serve as a way of pointing to the greatest book, the Bible.



Complete this honour at either
<http://honor.ellenwhite.org>
(online game)
or www.gcyouthministries.org
(traditional requirements)



BUC STUDENT DAY

Leicester Central Church

12 SEPTEMBER 2015

Save the date!

More details soon at
www.adventistyouth.org.uk

See the photos from last year's event at:

http://youth-adventistchurch-org-uk.adventist.eu/photo_albums/3468



Setting up a new Adventurer club

o Ruth Farrer
Crieff Club, Scotland

© ncounter 18

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So, you are thinking of setting up a new Adventurers club? Don't be daunted at the prospect! Briefly, my background has been about 8 years (way back in the '50s and '60s) in the Youth Department of the various conference offices, and also setting up the JMV (Junior Missionary Volunteer Society as it was known in those days) when I was a member at Watford Town Church. I have also spent many years as a college lecturer. With that background you would think setting up an Adventurers club, for me, would be a 'piece of cake'. Everything has changed, of course, over the years and when I saw the curriculum and all that is required of the children my heart sank to my boots! Don't worry if the same thing happens to you! Once you take a deep breath and time to flesh out the syllabus everything will fall into place and it is nowhere near as difficult as it first seems.

Firstly, the things you need to consider: how many children and their ages; how many teachers? How many sessions – one

per week, fortnightly, monthly? What day: Sabbath, and then Sunday for the secular requirements? Sabbath, and then continue on after sunset for the secular things? Remember that each course should take about one year to complete – they are geared to the ages of the children. Busy Bee for 6-year-olds, Sunbeam for 7-year-olds, and so on. Don't forget to check the legal requirements for working with children, and that you have them in place. Send a letter to the parents to explain about the club and listing the things with which you need their help. Some things have to be done at home.

Computer or paper? Everything you need is on the computer, but I must admit I like paper! How I worked things out can be done either way:

A full copy of the awards for the Adventurers is useful to keep to hand, so those are in a ring binder.

I split up a further copy of the awards and put them into four ring binders – one for each level, Busy Bee, Sunbeam, Builder and

Helping Hand, so each teacher can have quick and easy access to the ones applicable to their class.

I then tackled the syllabus for each level for the teachers. Each level had its own ring binder containing a polythene pocket for each assignment to be completed.

In the appropriate pockets, I put a copy of the syllabus; reading course certificate; quiet time commitment; essential awards syllabus; law and pledge; notes for visual aids; teaching methods, and so on, for the other requirements. Teachers can then add their own ideas.

I then put in other documents that I thought would be helpful, such as a record of work, lending library record, awards achieved.

We have a folder for each child so that we can keep their work in a safe place.

I am not actually the leader, but volunteered to help organise things if they needed me. The associate leaders and I appointed a teacher for each level, with a couple of other teachers to help where necessary, and this group will be working with the children on Sabbaths. Most of the syllabus will be covered during the Sabbath meeting, and what is of a secular nature will be done on Sunday under the direction of the associate leaders.

For those who wish to use only the computer, you can download the materials from here:

www.gcyouthministries.org/Ministries/Adventurers/tabid/81/Default.aspx



Enjoy your new club!



BUC CALENDAR



- | | | |
|----------|---|-----|
| 2-11 | General Conference Session in San Antonio, US | GC |
| 2-11 | IMPACT Outreach San Antonio, US | GC |
| 3-5 | MG Training Camp | SEC |
| 5 | Teen Leadership Training | SEC |
| 17-19 | MG & PLA Training (3) | NEC |
| 20-24 | Student Camp | SEC |
| 21 | Start of 4 months' PEACE Training in Manchester | NEC |
| 31-3 Aug | Pathfinder & Adventurer Camporee | SEC |
| 31-7 Aug | Mission trip to Slovenia | WM |



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|----------|--|-----|
| 1-18 | Youth in Tanzania (Camp Meeting) | SEC |
| 2-9 | Junior Camp | NEC |
| 9-16 | Earliteen Camp | NEC |
| 11-18 | Summer Camp at Portlick Scout Campsite | IM |
| 16-23 | Youth Camp | NEC |
| 17-28 | Area-run Adventurer and Pathfinder Camps | SEC |
| 17-23 | Extreme Teens Camp | SEC |
| 21-3 Sep | Cambodia Mission Trip | SEC |
| 22-23 | MG Training (2) | SM |
| 23-28 | Summer Camp | WM |



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|-------|---|-----|
| 5 | Adventurer & Pathfinder Rally Day | SEC |
| 6 | Irish Mission Sports Day | IM |
| 6-16 | ADRA-UK Mission trip to Nepal | ALL |
| 12 | Student Day at Leicester Central Church | BUC |
| 18-20 | MG & PLA Weekend (4) | NEC |
| 18-20 | MG Training in Newmarket-on-Fergus | IM |
| 19 | Global Pathfinder Day | GC |
| 26 | Rally Day | SM |
| 25-27 | MG Training Weekend | SEC |