

October/November Issue, 2014

# Scottish *Mission*

*The Scottish Mission News Letter shares highlights of recent events as well as upcoming events within the Mission and the British Union.*

## TALKING ABOUT CULTURE

Dr Saustin Mfuné, the main speaker at our recent Scottish Mission 'Camp Meeting' described the congregation on Sabbath morning as representing 'a rainbow of peoples, the way it should be.' The adult congregation included members from dozens of cultures. The majority were from Africa, the West Indies, Eastern Europe and the UK, including some born in Scotland.

Some would ask, how can we be united together when there is such diversity? As Christ's followers, we pray with Jesus in John 17:21 that we will all be one. However anyone who has tried to develop a relationship with someone of a different culture will know how easy it is to misunderstand each other. Our common experience is that every culture tells itself why it is superior to other nearby cultures.

The Scots tell jokes about the Scotsman, the Irishman and the English man, where the Scotsman is the hero. Both Irish and English tell similar jokes where their own national example comes out on top! This human tendency towards cultural superiority can cause serious challenges in any community. Since being called to Scotland five years ago, I have been wondering how our relationships in our churches have been affected by our growing diversity.

This last Sunday at Camp Meeting I led a seminar advertised as 'Culture, its strengths and its challenges.' All seven attendees spent time hearing

each person describe their unique understanding of their cultural identity. We discovered insights that we never knew and I gained a deeper respect for my brothers and sisters.

We also heard stories of the pain experienced by those with different cultural expectations. As a result some have developed new insights into managing cultural diversity in our church.

Together, we agreed this is too important a topic to leave unaddressed. We need to continue these vital conversations.

If you live in Scotland and are interested in participating in such a dialogue, or if you have any suggestions about how to facilitate such meetings, please email me at [bernie@sdascotland.com](mailto:bernie@sdascotland.com). In the meantime, let's pray that Jesus' prayer will be answered, and that we will all learn how to be truly one. A united church with a united purpose, in a fragmented and broken world.

(Dr Saustin Mfuné is the General Conference associate children's ministries director and a Malawian.)

[Bernie Holford]

# Monthly Devotion

By Jim Botha

At the end of September I calculated that the Dunfermline building project would come to fruition around the end of October. I discussed it with the builders and they agreed that the beginning of November seemed to be a good estimate. Well, this got my mind racing in a few important aspects. If we were going to use the church, we would need some furniture in there.

Two items that had to be bought, and for which we had gotten generous donations from other churches in the Scottish Mission, were the chairs and the piano. We had already started to shop around for the best deals and we had some ideas in mind for these items.

I started contacting the companies which make chairs and discovered that most of them would need about two to three months' notice for the chairs to be made before they could send them. This started looking more and more like a possible disaster. "Would we have to rent chairs for the opening day?" I finally spoke with a company that actually provides chairs for other churches in our denomination and the owner was very friendly and helpful. He gave me the good news that he had enough chairs for our needs and that he could have them delivered by the 30th of October (That was 2 days before our first service.) The price was right, I could see pictures of the chairs, I was fairly happy with what the chairs looked like, and I decided to go ahead and buy the chairs. From that night on, I lay awake some nights and wondered if I had done the right thing. Once you have the chairs, they will be the furniture that people sit on when they are in church, what if they don't like it? What if the congregation tells me that I made a mistake? I had no way of knowing what the chairs looked like exactly.

The day came, in the midst of many other things happening. On the morning of the 30th of October, it was clear that the church would not be completed by 1 November, but the guests had been invited, the food was already bought, the neighbours had been notified. On all counts, it was go ahead. In my mind I started seeing pictures of people sitting on the floor. I had not heard from the chair company, so I decided to call them by about noon. The man on the other end of the phone assured me that the chairs were on their pallets, and should be there before 4pm, so I started keeping myself busy with other things, keeping in mind to look out every now and then to see if I could see a lorry with chairs.

By 3.55, - nothing yet, then my phone rang. It was the lorry driver. "Are you the Seventh-day Adventist Church?" I replied that we were and enquired about the delivery. His reply almost came as no surprise: The lorry has broken down and they can only deliver the chairs the following day!

Early on the Friday morning a big lorry arrived and the man unloaded 3 pallets loaded with chairs. I was so relieved. We unloaded them and took them into the building. To my further relief, those who helped carry the chairs into the building commented positively about them.

This chair debacle reminded me of some of the stories in the Bible, not least the promises that God had made to people like Abraham and Moses. We read in Genesis 24:7 "*The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there.*"

Abraham was very old when he still remembered God's promise that his offspring would inherit the promised land, a new world where God would provide for them; and we also have the same sentiment generally as Christians, knowing that the promised land was a type of the promise we have of heaven.

On 1 November, when all the chairs in the new church in Dunfermline were filled by the church family and guests, I looked around and I was filled with joy and the image that the building was not complete. I had a sense that the way we went about purchasing the chairs and other equipment was a step of faith and that God had a way of helping the service to be realised. We had to take a step into the unknown, and pray that it would all work out.

The workers made every effort to create a workable space for us to have our service, and it was done well. We had the service, but upstairs, it was still a bit of a construction site.

The thought that the church wasn't complete was no negative thought either. We are all unfinished and God has also promised to finish the work that He has started in us. One thing is sure, learning from this experience, the promise of a new place, the acting in faith, the joy of using a new place, I can only pray that God will help us all to keep our minds focussed on the future, a new place to stay, one that will be finished, and we will be with Him, always.

## DIGGING DEEPER AT SCOTTISH CAMP MEETING

'Digging Deeper' may just have been a theme, but it was also a result for Scottish Mission members attending Camp Meeting, the weekend of 24-26 October, 2014.

"You stand next to the water, and you look in, you see the fish swimming there, and you realise that it is God who opened this water so that we can go through it, on dry land, in the middle of the sea." This is the kind of miracle that inspired Dr Saustin Mfune in such a profound way that he had to share it with thousands around the world. Dr Mfune, Associate Director of Children's Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was invited to Gartmore House, in Stirlingshire, Scotland, to be the main speaker. His reputation certainly preceded him as the audience was riveted by the storytelling and songs he presented throughout the weekend.



Sabbath morning manna and prayer session started at 7:00 am with a good number congregating in the hall. Presented by Beavon Sanderson and Pastor Llew Edwards, they continued from where Dr Mfune left off on Friday night driving the message of how good it is to know that God is always there.

It was evident the cooks of the Gartmore Centre had prepared for the weekend. The tables in the dining room rumbled as folks enjoyed their breakfast along with discussions as to which rooms the harmony of snoring emanated from the night before.

Led by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, the Sabbath School focused around a good discussion on the topic for the day - the difference between 'Being' and 'Doing'. "The traffic light doesn't make you love the road laws", Pas-



tor Edwards contributed. "It is very possible to obey the traffic laws and still feel in your heart that you hate those laws, and in effect be a danger to other drivers." Is it possible to do good things and not love God or other people? There has to be a change in the heart for one to change completely. To be in harmony with God and others is dependent on a change of heart. Intense, thought-provoking statements and ideas were shared during the discussion.



Camp Meeting would not be Camp Meeting without praise and worship. Under the leadership of Pastors Rory Mendez and Victor Harewood, and assisted by Eddie Mwiinga, the weekend was filled with singing, special items including instrumentals by Martina Emrich, Natasha Seo, Jasmine Poon, and singing groups such as Testify.

Dr Mfune continued during the main service exploring the theme 'Digging Deeper' by sharing stories from his own life and that of others.

This was often humorous as well as inspiring, encouraging us all to dig deeper into scripture. (Cont'd p. 4)

(From p. 3) His wife, Gertrude, accompanied him to Scotland sharing her experiences of working with many different children over the years, as well as presenting a seminar in the afternoon.

After such an inspiring weekend, the leadership team will shortly be seated around the table to start making plans for Scotland in 2015. How can we make fellowship events even better? How can we continue to be a significant part of God's work in Scotland? We know He will provide as He has always done in the past.

More photos from the weekend can be found in the Scottish Mission picture gallery.

Jimmy Botha



## HAVE YOU TRIED THE SOFA?

"You are invited to come and sit on the sofa." Perhaps this invitation sounds a bit mundane, but it is indeed a special invitation. In an ambitious effort, the Dunfermline congregation prepared over the past few weeks to use their new church building for the first time on Sabbath, 1 November 2014. The building is not quite completed, but the downstairs area was prepared for use on the day, and members and visitors were impressed with the result. To put the cherry on the top, the first thing you see on the platform as you enter the church - is a sofa.

All are invited to come and test the sofa. It is a piece of furniture which was selected by the membership on a day out in the city to do some shopping for the new church. Its primary purpose is to encourage people from everywhere to come and find a spot to pray or worship God. It is a sentiment of acceptance, an atmosphere of love, and a place of care for all. Everyone who attended the first service had an opportunity to 'test' the sofa. The view from the sofa is both humbling and beautiful. The congregation almost filled the 75 chairs set out for the day, and they enjoyed singing together to praise God. The Edinburgh based group, 'Testify', were special guests who set the tone for a very musical day.



Some words from long-standing member, Grace Dick, committee member Pastor Neil Robertson, and the Mission President Pastor Bernie Holford, also painted a picture of thanksgiving and praise. Towards the end of the service, district pastor Jimmy Botha expressed further thanks to many individuals, and suggested to the congregation that the unfinished building is a reminder that we are all "unfinished", and that God still has work to do in us.



The congregation is in full agreement that this building exists for the local community. Their intention is that they will do all that they can to help the people of Dunfermline City feel at

home in this place of worship. "Come in, sit on the sofa."

An official service of consecration will take place once the building is fully completed.



# Scottish Mission CHURCH OFFICERS' TRAINING

## Sunday 16th November 2014

*BUC Guest Trainers: Pr. Nathan Stickland, Pastor Llew Edwards*

### Programme

**10:00 Devotional**

**10:30 Vision for 2015- N Stickland,**

**12:00 Lunch**

**13:15 Seminars with Sponsors 1**

**14:30 Seminars with Sponsors 2**

Personal Ministries  
Family Ministries  
Health Ministries,  
Youth  
Community Services

Women's Ministries  
Stewardship  
Communications  
Elders/other officers  
Deacons & Deaconesses

Children's Ministries,  
Pathfinders  
Child Safety Reps  
Prayer Ministries

**15:30 Closing**

**16:00 Depart**

*Venue Crieff SDA Church, Gwydyr Road, Crieff PH7 4BS*

*Lunch of soup, rolls & drinks provided.*

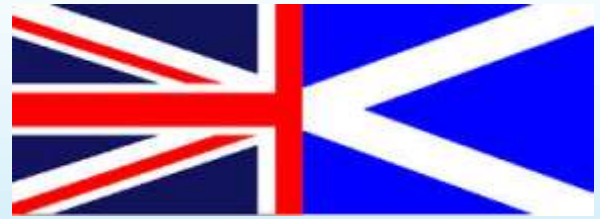
*Please let us know if you plan to attend so enough food is provided*

[sdascotland@gmail.com](mailto:sdascotland@gmail.com)

Tel. 01764 653257

**SM CHURCH OFFICERS' TRAINING**

## A 'YES' VOTER'S LAMENT



Strange that a nation long under the rule of another, whom being granted her liberty, would by her majority remain under yoke and accept the crumbs from her masters table.

Much akin I see to an angry child who threatening to run away from home set a date to flee. Alas the great day had arrived, but keeping a lock of his mother's hair in a pocket he opened the latch of the gate, he paused, he pondered, now the bond being too strong and unsure of himself and without crossing over, closed it again to return to the care of his mother's bosom.

Oh Scotland! I hate you as much as I love you! The beauty of your land and the potential of your people inspire me still.

But your people are like your weather – unsettled,

full of contradiction! Warm, wild, wet, windy, woe-ful and wonderful all in your season!

Should I then vent my anguish at the “NO” camp whose cry was “*Empire and Union, come what may*” or should I re-join the YES camp and await another day - even a lifetime? Or perhaps a leader – a Wallace or a Bruce, even another Salmond? I pondered these things also and decided not to, for all this is vanity, like *chasing after the wind* says the wise man.

However I was raised on the “Good Book” whose leader said “*follow Me*” and “*In My Father's house are many mansions*” he further stated He will create a “*new heaven and earth*” where *Patriot passion* burns no more.

*Patrick Dillon*

## “Dundee is Homesick”

“Have you ever felt homesick?” was the question posed to the 130 people who attended the annual International day of the Dundee SDA church on the 11th of October. Members and visitors of different nationalities came to represent their respective country by either wearing their traditional clothing, by bringing their native language speaking Bible or local food dish. Visiting singing Group TESTIFY from Edinburgh church, marked the occasion with their superb singing.

The service began with the reading of Hebrews 11:13-16 in four languages: Afrikaans, English, Scots and German. Then followed a Welsh Poem composed by “Taffy”- a new member of the church. The service then saw a Special item from the Zimbabwean members of the church followed by a song from the group TESTIFY. Students from Tanzania, Canada and Northern Ireland, who recently moved to Dundee were then asked to give five minute presentations to explain how it felt, to be home away from home.

Pastor Marcel Ghioalda's sermon titled “Home away from home” shared the personal story of his feeling

homesick when he undertook his Pastoral Training. The congregation was then reminded that the people of God have always felt homesick and that mankind is homesick for God. The word “Emmanuel” is a reminder that we crave for God “to be with us”. The sermon concluded with the point that we don't belong here but we belong with our Father in heaven. A lunch of different types of food from different countries was tucked away enthusiastically; this was then followed by an afternoon programme conducted by the Filipino members of the church, which consisted of Special Items, Bible Quizzes and musical performances which marked the whole occasion as a superb one.

Mervyn Owusu-Ayim



## Don't Wait for the Birds & the Bees

Our children's curiosity about sex is natural. Children of all ages (especially teens) have questions about sexuality. Understanding how their bodies work and how to take care of them is a part of building a healthy life. It is therefore necessary that we furnish our children with accurate information about sex and sexuality.

Our children are living in an "information age". They are exposed to too much information and misinformation from the media and the internet regarding sex.

While God gave Adam & Eve instructions to "go forth and multiply", we need to teach our children that procreation was never the only purpose for sex. The sexual experience is not pleasurable by accident. God intended that sexual union also provide intimacy, bonding, companionship and trust within the covenant of marriage. However, we live in a society which has detached the sexual experience from its divine moorings and reduced it to a level way below the dignity with which mankind was created.

Rather than teach abstinence until marriage, sex education in schools teaches them to, "Wait until you feel ready." However, our task is to encourage our children to be sexually pure. Sexual purity has often been confused with sexual abstinence, but they are not the same thing. The goal for Christians is not just to remain virgins until they are married. Abstinence may be a by-product of purity, but purity involves much more. The Bible makes it clear that purity is a matter of the mind (see Matthew 5:28). It involves a transformed heart and a commitment to biblical standards in how we use the members of our body. Teaching sexual purity to our children emphasises the truth that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in them by their choice.

Many parents are intimidated and embarrassed by the idea of addressing sexual matters with their children. Some fear that talking about it will stimulate curiosity to experiment, while others just don't know how to broach the topic. However, we cannot allow our discomfort to prevent us from addressing so vital a topic with our children. We can take advantage of "teachable moments" as they arise in the natural course of life (see Deuteronomy

6:7).

We can share with our children in an age appropriate manner depending on their level of maturity. It is most important that we cultivate a healthy view of sexuality for ourselves so that the topic does not become taboo in our households.

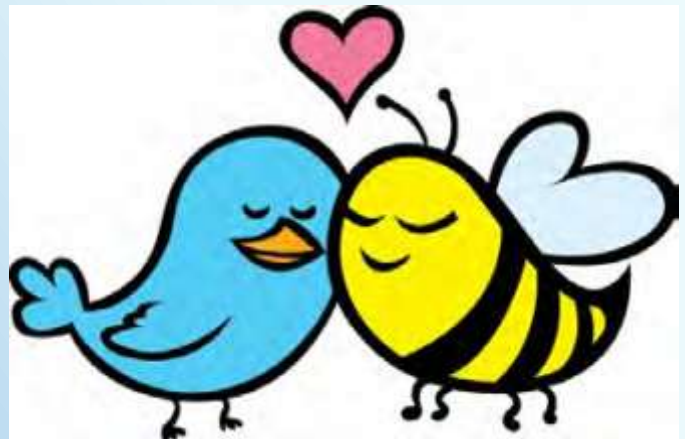
As parents we must be the first and primary sexual health educators of children because the question is not whether they will get information about sex, but HOW and WHEN?

We should be proactive in educating ourselves about child development and sexuality, but we should not expect to be the oracle of all knowledge on the subject. Our task is to become an 'askable' parent. Someone who is approachable for information and guidance. Someone who will listen and respond to inquiries in a non-judgemental, open and accurate manner.

An 'askable' parent is a 'secure base' person who can affirm human sexuality as a valuable gift and create a safe environment in which our children can ask their questions.

Research indicates that children whose parents clearly communicate their values to them are less likely to engage in inappropriate sexual activity. We cannot afford to drag our feet when it comes to our children's sexual education. The time is now and as parents, we are definitely the people.

Pr Les Ackie (South England Conference)





## Nurturing Successful Families

Learn more about:  
 How families work  
 Enriching marriages  
 God's plan for sexuality  
 Spiritual Parenting  
 Human growth and development  
 Building Character

BUC and Scottish Mission Family Ministries Department present

## Family Ministry Leadership Training Part 2

Date: November 21-23 2014 - Venue: Crieff

Cost: £50 per person  
 including accommodation, materials and meals

Book early! Space is very limited!

It is not essential to be a family ministries leader – anyone interested in learning more about families, and how to help them, is welcome to come along.

Please contact Scottish Mission Office for more information and to request an application form - 01764 653257.



# "CONNECTING FAMILY MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY"

2<sup>nd</sup> SCOTTISH MISSION FAMILY MINISTRIES TRAINING WEEKEND

November 21-23 2014



(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME/MOBILE TEL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL-----

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:

I am a vegetarian who eats dairy \_\_\_\_\_ I am totally vegan \_\_\_\_\_

Any other dietary or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Unfortunately the venue is not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us if you have any other special needs.

**Cost £50 per person**

**This event has been subsidised by the Scottish Mission Family Ministries Department.**

**Your local church may also be able to sponsor you.**

Accommodation will be in a variety of venues close to the church. Some will be in Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford's home, and some in local B and B accommodation. The seminars will take place in Crieff SDA church and the Holford's home.

The weekend will start in Crieff Church on the Friday evening with a light meal provided from 6.00pm, and the first meeting starting at 7.30pm Please let us know when you plan to arrive so we can arrange meals and adjust the meeting times to suit the needs of the group. The weekend will end with lunch on Sunday.

Please return this booking form, together with a cheque for the full amount, by the

31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 to:

Family Ministries Department, Scottish Mission Office, Comraich, Gwydyr Road, Crieff, PH7 4BS

Please make cheques payable to: **Scottish Mission of SDA. Thank you.**

If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, contact the SM office for details.

**NATIONAL LAY BIBLE WORKERS CONVENTION**  
**21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**  
 WOKEFIELD PARK HOTEL, MORTIMER, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG7 3AH

Robert Costa  
 Evangelism & Church Growth  
 Ministerial Association

Petrus Bahadur  
 Associate Director  
 Adventist Muslim Relations

Jeremiah Weeks  
 Associate Director  
 Strathairn

Gladstone Earl Knight  
 President, Greater New York  
 Conference

*Transformed*  
 by His  
**WORD**

For more information contact Catherine Palmer at the BUC Office  
 Tel: 01923 672 251 Email: [cpalmer@adventist.org.uk](mailto:cpalmer@adventist.org.uk)

## National Lay Bible Workers Convention

The presenters this year will be **Pastor Robert Costa**, GC Evangelism Director; **Dr Gladstone Earl Knight**, President of the Greater New York Conference; **Petrus Bahadur**, Associate Director GC Adventist Muslim Relations and **Pastor Jeremiah Weeks** from ShareHim.

In addition a number of BUC/Conference departmental Directors and field Pastors will also hold crucial seminars. Through a series of dynamic presentations, transforming plenary sessions and challenging seminars you will be inspired, challenged, and re-focused to minister with the tools of Bible study.

Date: **21st – 23rd November 2014**  
 Venue: Wokefield Park Hotel, Mortimer, Reading Berkshire, RG7 3AH  
 Cost: Early booking only £90.00 per person based on two people sharing a room if booked before 12th October 2014, then £140 thereafter. A £10.00 supplement applies for single rooms. It is therefore in your interest to book early.

Closing Date: **10th November 2014 is the deadline for all applications**

## Multi Media and Communications Training

For Local churches and beyond.

After Phase 1 (Dundee training complete; 12 October—Glasgow), the team will be heading to Fordell Firs, Inverkeithing, **28 December 2014—2 January 2015**.

Guest speaker is **Dejan Stojcovic**, together with Charles Lethbridge and Jimmy Botha. The training will consist of:

- ◆ Engaging youth in useful work within the church!
- ◆ Promoting creative expression and inspiring others to their own personal ministries using their own gifts and talents!
- ◆ Providing Scottish churches with short, shareable media clips aimed to increase awareness with non-Adventists and non-Christians about our principles and theology.
- ◆ Aimed to produce shareable material to encourage thought and introduce non-Adventists to our beliefs specific to Scottish context.
- ◆ Videos hosted on YouTube
- ◆ Collaboration with other teams (BUC/TED/GC), etc.

For info: [jimbotha@gmail.com](mailto:jimbotha@gmail.com)

## Angels and Teddies

Driving in an unfamiliar part of Glasgow at night isn't my forté. It isn't that I am an unconfident driver, just a little apprehensive about navigating new roads in the dark.

Google Maps did not give very good directions and so I took the 'old-school' A-Z Glasgow Street Map and had a rough idea of the route to my friends' home. Along the way though, due to the fact most of the street names are hidden, broken or facing the wrong way, I pulled into a lay-by to confirm my route. I happened to be at the entrance of a police station car park and when waiting there with my flashers on, an unmarked police car with two bobbies rolled down the window to offer assistance.

Instead of just giving me directions, they escorted me directly to my destination, which was several miles away!

I couldn't have been more grateful! Police officers leaving the station at that exact moment was coincidence...or did I meet that evening two angels in disguise? Either way, my prayer for travelling safety was answered!

For the return journey (a now slightly more familiar route) my friends gave me a travelling companion. Nobody would dare attempt to harm me with him in the car! I felt so safe! Sitting at the traffic lights in the Moo-Mobile (my car is 'decorated' with cow spot stickers) however, I had a few strange looks! I wonder why?



The following morning (31 October) the daily Bible verse sent to my phone was 1 Corinthians 13.7-8 and in the English Standard Version it reads: 'Love BEARS all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'

Not only does God send His angels to watch over us, but He has a sense of humour too!

Yvonne Bauwens

## Important Events coming in the near future:

9 November	SM Executive Committee	Crieff
16 November	SM Church Officers Training Day	Crieff
21-23 November	Family Ministries Training part 2	Crieff
29 November	SM Pathfinder Investiture Day	
29 November	SM Leadership Team Social	Crieff
1 December	SM Leadership Team Meeting	Dundee

## Contact the Editor

Remember that your stories and articles should reach us by the 20th of each month, so as to make sure your stories can be edited and inserted on time.

Thank you to our regular and other contributors.  
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