

December 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.

Joy To The World

2014 has been a momentous year for the Scottish nation as well as the UK as a whole. The Scottish independence referendum was a powerful reminder that UK politics is not predictable. Commentators were guided by American consultants who claimed that the winners in US elections are those with the most positive message. Research indicates that looking forward to something good builds the human spirit.

Despite many good things happening, 2014 probably brought most of us some disappointments, losses, or even tragedies. The advent of the New Year brings a great opportunity to look forward with hope for something better.

Many Christians see our society's celebration of Christmas as an opportunity to think about the time when Jesus first came into the world. Isaac Watts' reflection on Psalm 98 led him to write the poem that has become known as the hymn 'Joy to the World.' Christ's birth in Bethlehem is the reason for great joy not only for believers, but also for everyone in the world! The biggest problem has been solved and Christ will return to end the suffering that saddens both us and God.

Recently I visited a prisoner who became a Seventh-day Adventist while serving his sentence. He had experienced the incredible transformation that comes when the joy of knowing Christ replaced the hatred that he had for God. Accepting Christ into his life has changed the way he treats others, but he is still a prisoner awaiting physical release. That does not make him miserable, because he has been

told he will be released soon. His joy comes from the experience of Christ in his life and his hope is sure: he has paid his dues to society, he has been transformed, and his release date will come. His smile is contagious.

It is my prayer for all who read this message, that the joy of Christ will shine out of our lives during these dark winter months. My wish for you is that the hope of His return will fill you with the same joy that my prisoner friend is experiencing. We have already been spiritually released from captivity, we are excited and anticipate the physical release that will come soon when Christ returns to take us home. So let's put our issues into perspective as we celebrate and experience the joy of Christ's salvation; Joy to the world, the Lord is come!



[Bernie Holford]

Monthly Devotion

By Jim Botha

This is the time of the year when we work hard, possibly harder than in any other time of the year. We work hard and we are motivated, because there is a new year lurking around the corner, a new year filled with hope, because we have not yet entered it. So we hope that maybe in the new year we will be able to make better use of the resources and gifts we have, in order to get better results and more efficient ways of dealing with life than what we may currently experience.

The new year is filled with promise, because we have a block of time which we can manipulate to be a period of time in which we can fulfil some ideals and hopes. It is a year lying ahead, only an artificial set of days, measuring 365.

Why are we working so hard right now, at least some of us? We have planning to be done for this new, planning which includes budgets for all kinds of areas of work, time schedules, meetings, trainings, and a whole lot more. In our minds we visualise the possibilities and we dream about how God wants to see us be accountable for the time and gifts He gives us.

Many Britons become depressed in winter and suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) or have low spirits or "the winter blues" during the winter months. This is what the NHS tells us about the way we feel during these dark months. So we have lots of work, the winter blues, probably some are ill or not feeling well. Many are far removed from family and will spend many of these days alone or lonely. There are many reasons given why this is a time when we feel the winter blues.

When I drive through the area where we live I see many little rays of hope. At first it is very obvious, the dark night gets lit up by beautiful lighting. Some people overdo it, others just have an obscure light coming from a bedroom window. Others have houses nicely lit up with colourful LED's in the right places. These lights remind me personally of jolly times when I was a kid, and probably this is the reason that I like to see the houses lit up like this in the dark winters.

This is the time when many households in the UK will be celebrating Christmas with trees that they have erected in their houses, with lights everywhere, even the jumpers that they will wear will give it away: it is Christmas time.

Yet some claim that Christmas can be a source of some of the depression or winter blues that goes around. For some it is, because they just couldn't compete with the neighbour on the corner whose house looks like it must have its own power plant. For others it is more of a reality, when they realise that they just don't have the means to get through this time financially and the added pressure of maybe having disappointed a child or someone because of that.

This kind of pressure can be immense. Winter blues can be severe and can cause much distress.

For us as Christians, Christmas does not have to be a time of worry and despair, because we know that this special time of the year is not just about decorations, gifts and lots of goodies. It is so much more than that. For us, Christmas is about the message that gives hope to all humankind and fills us with immense joy, gratitude and love.

In Isaiah 9:6 we read: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Jesus Christ, the King of the universe is the one to be celebrated. He is the hope of the world. In a world that is immersed in darkness, the Light of this world was born, became human and came to deal with our sin. It is because of Jesus, His death on the cross and His resurrection to life that we can rest in knowing our guilt has been taken and we have been set free.

Perhaps there are many out there who celebrate Christmas and have forgotten what it is all about. Perhaps there are some who don't celebrate Christmas because they know that Jesus wasn't born on 25 December, but the central theme of Christmas remains: "to us a child is born, to us a son is given."

These few paragraphs might not do much for someone who is in distress presently, but maybe the one central message cannot be missed, in this dark world, there is light. You may not see it just now, but it is there, I know it, I have experienced it.

When celebrating Christmas, let us remember, the gift is Christ. Merry Christmas!

Carole's Retirement!

Carole Barratt-Peacock has worked as secretary for the Scottish Mission for almost 13 years. As of 2015 she will be joining her husband in that wonderful stage of life called retirement. This is the last SM Newsletter that she will be sending out and we will miss her keen editorial and proof-reader's eye.

I have worked with Carole for the last 5 years and found her to be a friendly, efficient and dedicated team-mate. She has used her gifts and talents to provide the administrative support for almost everything that the SM has done. Days of fellowship, Camp Meeting and leadership team meetings have all gone as well as they have because of her eye for detail and ability to plan ahead.

One of the most challenging areas of this ministry has been implementing best practice for our church's Child protection policy. I have admired how she has become an authority in this area, training our members with the help of our friend and retired expert in the field, Mo Keough.

Pastor Llew Edwards wrote a very fitting tribute to her ministry which was read out at her surprise retirement party a few weeks ago. Here are just a couple of paragraphs that illustrate her helpfulness and wisdom.

'You (Carole) also were my daily, weekly and monthly – even yearly calendar. There was no need for my laptop to tell me of appointments that were coming my way. Like a mother who sets her child up with the correct school books and needed paraphernalia, you made sure I had all I needed for whatever meeting I was about to sally forth to attend.

You also taught me my proper responsibilities – I recall one day when I just couldn't get some report completed as people were calling either at the office or by phone for some duty I needed to do. I remember saying to you that I wished all these people would stop interrupting me so I could get on with my work and you sagely said "Llew those people – are your work." It was a piece of wisdom I have always since valued.'

I have really appreciated her hard work and loyalty in serving God and our Mission and pray that God will give her many years of a healthy and happy retirement.

In the next SMNL we will be introducing our new SM secretary – Mrs Hellevi Walker.



HARRY DORNAN

(05/03/35 – 04/09/14)

Henry Dornan, known as Harry, was born on the 5th of March 1935. Harry, along with his two sisters, Rae and Ruby, and younger brother, David, were brought up in Rutherglen and attended the Glasgow SDA Church in Renfrew Street where their parents were members. On the 21st of February 1953, Harry was baptised by the late Pastor 'Jock' McGougan.

When Pastor TH Fielding and his family moved to Glasgow to become Pastor, the two families found a strong connection in sharing music. The archived copies of the Messenger are speckled with their names as they sang and played at Days of Fellowship, weddings, evangelism campaigns and other occasions.

Harry and June Fielding became engaged in 1959 and Pastor Fielding officiated at their wedding on the 19th of June 1961 at the SDA Church then in Queens Drive, Glasgow. In 2011 the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their three children, Stuart, Kirstie and Kevin; four grandchildren; and extended family.

Harry played an active role in the Glasgow Church over the years, holding a number of offices including Head Deacon, Tithe Treasurer, Sabbath School Superintendent and Young People's leader.

Will and Gem Kelly 27 Sept 2014

Several church members from Scotland travelled down to Derby for the wedding of William and Gemma. William is the son of Lawson & Jean Kelly and sister to Jacqueline – who are E/K members.

The 12th century church of Alstonefield was a beautiful setting complete with traditional bell ringing. The sermon was on LOVE and each letter was matched up with bible words and verses. The bride wore a beautiful white dress and carried a bouquet of wild flowers and her groom in his suit chose a tie of his Mum's Johnston tartan with a buttonhole of purple heather.

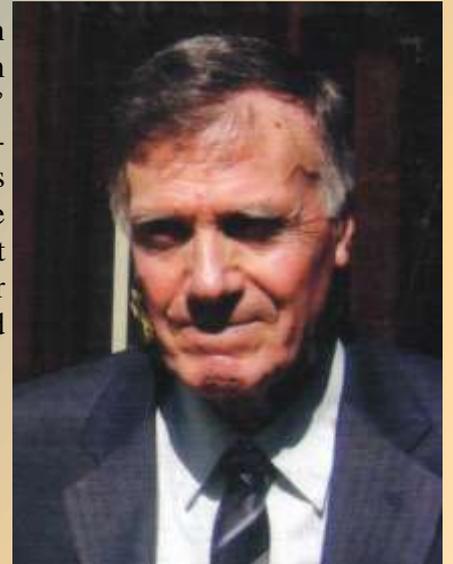
The sun shone and the reception was held next door in a marquee on the manor lawn. Outside a fire was lit. The folk band played tradition music

Harry was cremated at South Lanarkshire Crematorium on Thursday, 11th of September 2014. The service was conducted by the three Area Ministers, Pastor Victor Harewood and husband and wife team Rory and Ivana Mendez. He is survived by his wife June, their children and his two sisters.

The family would like to express their thanks to all those who attended the funeral and the countless offerings of comfort and support received. Their actions are a tribute to Harry's life and a symbol of his friendship to them all.

A favourite Hymn of Harry's was 'In Times Like These' which Pastor Harewood sang at his funeral, and we are sure, very sure that Harry's anchor gripped the solid rock of Jesus.

Kevin Dornan



and many Scottish reels were danced. The newly weds took off to Morocco for a week's honeymoon before returning to Aberdeen where they both work and worship.



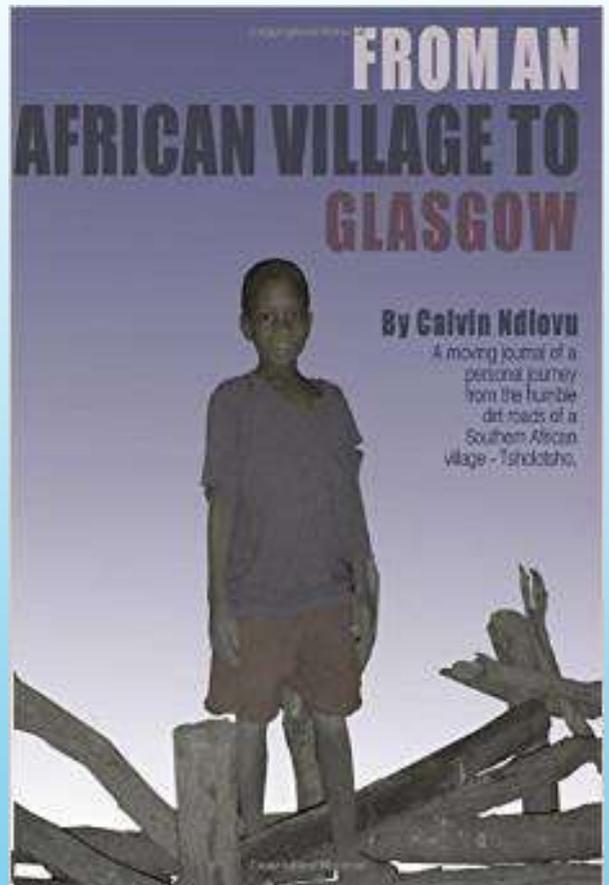
Herd Boy to Health Professional

A church member has turned published author with a revealing and inspiring account of his childhood in a rural African village and his determination to succeed against all the odds. From humble beginnings, his journey from herd boy to health professional via an Adventist education, is a thought-provoking story for those who may question sustainable aid to developing countries.

Now a staff nurse at a leading Scottish hospital, Calvin Ndlovu is also Glasgow's Family Ministries Leader and Sabbath School Superintendent. Calvin intends to devote part of the book's proceeds to an appeal to build a school library at his former primary school in Nemane, Zimbabwe.

The book, *From an African Village to Glasgow*, is now available online at Amazon.

John Wilby



Paulo Dias 18 Oct 2014

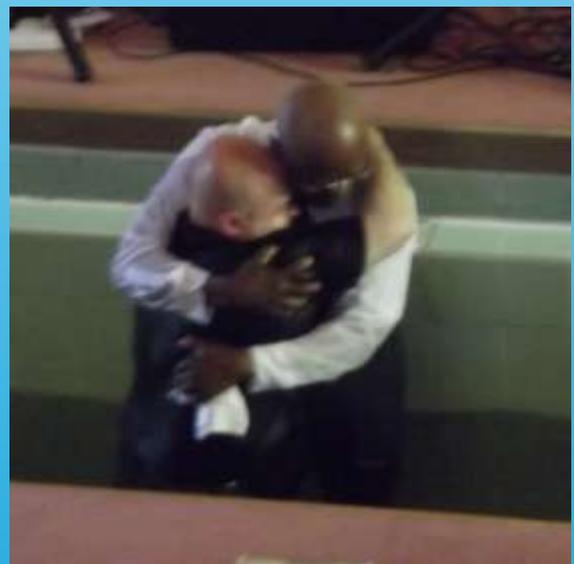
East Kilbride is an Adventist church who currently depends on the generosity of others for their place of worship, and as usual for our Baptisms, the East Mains Baptist church loaned us their beautiful baptistery.

On the 11th of October Paulo was baptised and took his place as a member of the East Kilbride Group.

Paulo's Mum, Antonia, travelled over from Portugal where she works at the SDA Publishing House. Paulo's daughter, Catie was there too. Paulo had been baptised previously in Portugal but had fallen away for the past 12 years.

Sometimes we have to travel far and fall deep before we hear God asking us to come back home. Now working in Scotland Paulo answered God and the East Kilbride members welcomed him back home.

Maggie Robertson



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 ad-

vantage of "teachable moments" as they arise in the natural course of life (see Deuteronomy 6:7).

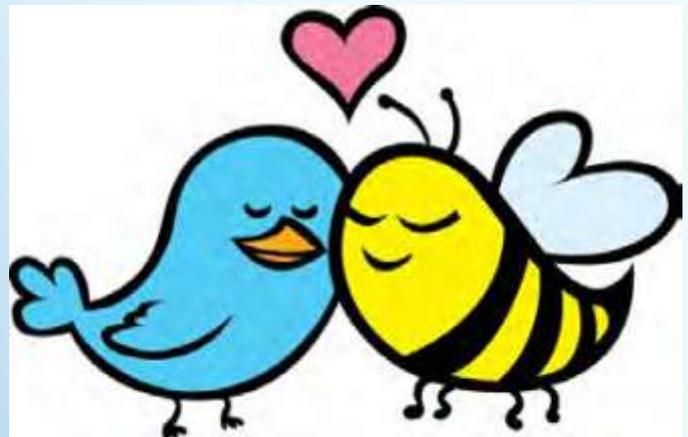
We can share with our children in an age appropriate manner depending on their level of maturity. It is most important that we cultivate a healthy view of sexuality for ourselves so that the topic does not become taboo in our households.

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)

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 Stojkovic**, together with Charles Lethbridge and Jimmy Botha. The training will consist of:

- Engaging youth in useful work within the church!
- Promoting creative expression and inspire 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.
- Producing shareable material to encourage thought and introduce non-Adventists to our beliefs specific to Scottish context.
- Hosting videos on YouTube
- Collaborating with other teams (BUC/TED/GC), etc.

Dundee Toddler Group Helps Barnardo's

On 11 November Pastor Jimmy Botha visited the toddler group held in the Dundee church hall on Tuesday mornings.

He came to take lots of individual photos of the children aged 0-3 who attend the group with their parents or carers.

Over 20 children from the neighbourhood come each week.

When the parents/carers saw how charming their little ones looked on the photos, they were so delighted that they gave very generous donations towards the cost of the photos and for Barnardo's charity. The group was therefore able to present a cheque for £100 to Barnardo's charity for their Christmas appeal.

Jane Walton

For info: jimbotha@gmail.com

You can find directions on their website: <http://www.fordellfirs.org.uk/>

Registration will be between 2 and 3pm on Sunday 28th December and the training will continue until 12 noon on Friday 2nd January.

There will be some free time each day and we are planning to make the most of the year-end celebrations.

Sheets and pillows will be provided but you will need to provide your own Duvets/Sleeping bags and towels. If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know as soon as possible so we can make sure our catering plans include everybody.

There will also be a **Youth Day** held in Dunfermline on **Sabbath 3rd January** during which time we will be showcasing the work of the team from the week. If you would prefer to stay in the area the night of the 2nd please let us know as soon as possible so we can try and arrange accommodation.



First Baby Dedication in the New Dunfermline Church

The church in Dunfermline, also known as the Hope House, has seen its first baby dedication since the building has been in use.

Tyler Hitz is a happy beautiful young boy who smiled his way through the short service which was held on Sunday 14 December in the Hope House. His parents, grandmother and great grandparents were present, together with many other friends. Everyone enjoyed the service and some food was served afterwards.

During the service all the adults agreed that it takes a village to raise a child and that the responsibility for helping little Tyler grow up to be accountable should be shared by all.

Tyler's parents, Ashleigh and Sean said that they were blessed by the service and this was also the experience of many of the other



Christmas Service to Remember ⁸

Joy to the world!!!

These are the words which were sung by the children on 6 December when the Edinburgh church held a Christmas service which will be long remembered. The 2 hour long program was packed with musical items, nativity scene, lights, food and fellowship.

With around 100 people in the church, the program flowed without any announcements and an appreciation of the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, was felt and proclaimed by all.

The cast of about 30 was well prepared and each person knew their part. The program was organised by Ela Wiech and Stephany Elofer, who delegated well and managed a big group of people in order to pull off a wonderful service that was much appreciated by many members of the community.

"Now it is time for the next big thing", is the sentiment as Edinburgh starts to plan the schedule for 2015.



Important Events coming in the near future:

28 Dec - 2 Jan	Media Team Training	Fordell Firs
24 January 3:30pm	SM Executive Members Vespers, Visioning & Planning	Crieff
25 January 10am	SM Executive Committee	Crieff
31Jan-1 Feb	Basic Pathfinders Staff Training	
1 February	SM Leadership Team Meeting	Crieff

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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