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LG TRUMPET

Monthly Newsletter



LONDON GHANA SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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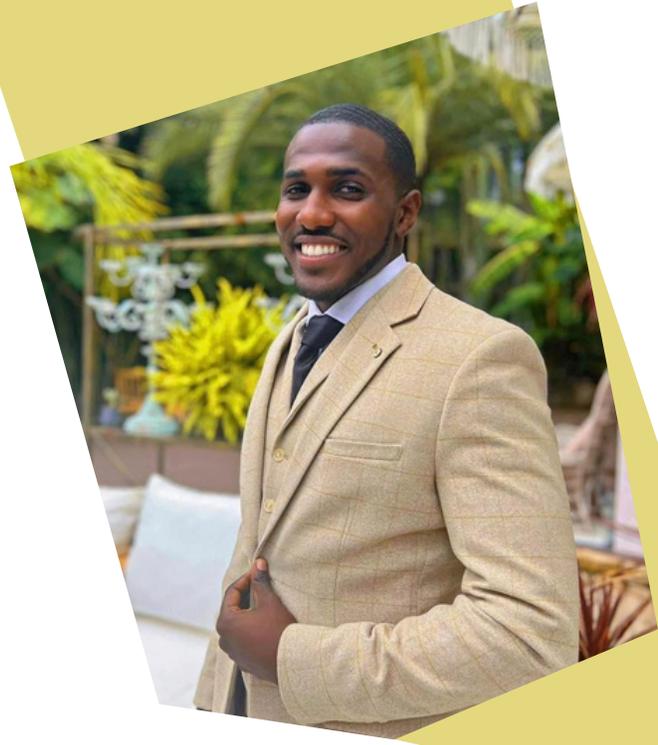
Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Kwame Sarpong

(Associate Pastor of London Ghana, Prince Emmanuel and New Jerusalem SDA Churches)

Days of Our Lives

Continuing from the high and adjusting reality of September, as a church we entered October with the Euro Ghanaian Adventist Congregations (EGACCOM) Virtual Mega Campaign. This Evangelistic campaign aimed to serve as a method to encourage all the Ghanaian Adventist churches within Europe to embark on a two-week evangelistic journey, empowering everyone to reach out to their families, friends and communities. This program was primarily virtual but was hosted in London Ghana and was streamed for the same location during the campaign. The speaker for this occasion was our senior pastor, Pastor Joojo Bonnie. From September 30th until October 14th, Pastor Bonnie preached his heart out daily from the London Ghana Church complex.



He was inspired and empowered to ensure that during this tenure, people would be encouraged to know about God and His love for man; how He sent His Son Jesus to come and die for us; and how Jesus will return as King to defeat Satan and sin so that we may experience eternal life with Him.

When asked about what kept him going during this campaign, Pastor Bonnie praised the commitment of the organisers of EGACCOM for organising the campaign; and the support and prayers from all the churches that make up EGACCOM but Pastor Bonnie gave thanks to God for the ministry of his special prayer team at London Ghana who would intercede for him three times a day. God worked a miracle in that the campaign ended with a baptism across all the churches in EGACCOM on the final Sabbath, the 14th of October and there was great joy as many gave their lives to Jesus, as a result of this campaign.

London Ghana continued but was also met with challenges which meant we needed to call on our God to work a miracle. A young girl was hospitalised and in intensive care, depending on the assistance of a life support machine. This was brought to the attention of the leaders and later the church on Sabbath 21st October and before the business meeting commenced, the church prayed like never before and God being faithful and hearing our prayer, the young girl became stable and as the days went on, she continues to grow from strength to strength. Proving to the enemy that God is still in charge and is still in the business of healing His children.

I am reminded of when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18. We live in a day and age where we do not always see or people do not believe that God can do miracles. Our lives have been conditioned in such a way that we do not even see miracles, but just like when Elijah prayed and fire came down from Heaven, proving to everyone present that He was the true God, God used His healing hand to touch the young girl and was made better for all of London Ghana to see that our God is still the true God and should not be doubted.

Such an experience was carried on to the next Sabbath, 28th October where London Ghana hosted the inauguration of the Zone 3 area of the Ghanaian Adventist Choir Union in the United Kingdom (GAC-UK). This zone comprised London Ghana, Lea Valley and Milton Keynes International. The day was inauguration was headed by the GAC-UK director, Mr. Padmore Baffour Awuah and was supported by Pastor Kwame Sarpong who not only encouraged all choirs present to commit to their calling as ministers in song but also through his sermon where he encouraged all musicians be diligent in their skill as music ministers, ensure that the Spirit of the Lord is upon them so that they would be able to 'Sing the Demons' out, based on 1 Samuel 16.

When we look at the way our world is, when we talk about our days are numbered and how demonic spirits come to torment us from every angle, we must ensure that we are vigilant and make use of the power that God has given us to banish demons from our homes, from our churches, from our workplaces, from wherever it may impact us. Jesus is coming again, and we must be ready to meet Him. When He comes, He will ask "What did we do with the gifts I gave you?"

Demons are waiting to be cast out; victories are waiting to be experienced; let these days of our lives be filled with these victories, filled with testimonies, filled with the hope and reality that when God is for us, no one can be against us.

By Ransford Nana Sarpong

Pathfinder Investiture at London Ghana SDA



The London Ghana Seventh Day Adventist church has one of the strongest and vibrant pathfinder club known in all London. In the Area 6C where the church finds itself, the pathfinder club is the largest in the area. This year, the club's membership strength stood around 55 with the largest class being the Rangers class handled by counsellor Eugene Rutayisire. Uncle Bismark took the Explorer Class, Counsellor Racheal took Friends, Uncle Isreal Anai was in charge of Companion Class and MG Ransford handled the Voyagers.

It is imperative for one to know that the course work for the pathfinder club runs over a period of 9 months of vigorous activities and learning. The study and workshop covers a vast area of work comprising but not limited to Spiritual discovery, nature study, health and fitness, friendship development and leadership training. Thus, when the full course is run at the end of the stipulated time, it is only right that all pathfinders are appreciated and rewarded for their excellent work done.

came to assess the various PF classes on their work and support documents on the 4th of September at the church premises. The assessment team were highly elated with the detailed work that the class instructors had put into the work of the pathfinders and all these were to be testament to how great the investiture day will be. The assessment was not only the workbook assessment but also an examination of the skills that were learnt during the Area 6C curriculum camp at Chingford in the month of May. The camp was a place for the pathfinders to harness and develop a number of skills of life. Each group spent hours a day doing various crafts and handiworks like tie and dye batik, hiking and survival skills, knot tying and cooking skills, personal hygiene and basic navigation skills. Thus, on the day of assessment all these skills were evaluated to be sure the pathfinders had duly learnt and acquired the skills.

On the day itself, pathfinders and their counselors all dressed up in their uniforms were seen all over the church. The adventurers were also in their uniforms to also partake in the program as they had also finished their assessment a week prior. The main auditorium was draped in beautiful flags of the pathfinder club, the Ghanaian Flag and the Union Jack. And the honoured speaker for the day was. Master Guide Daniel Tetteh speaking on the theme, "Joshua". Just like Joshua took the mantle and led the children to Isreal and not hindered by his youthfulness, the same way did MG Daniel Tetteh urge all pathfinders and the church at large to also allow the young person exhibit some of the important skills and knowledge that they have acquired over the course of the year.

In the awards section, all pathfinders were given class pins and honour packs to symbolise satisfactory completion of their courseworks and an acceptance in the class of the various group. Acshah Amankwah was given The Friend Award, Annabel Afriyie was the best Explorer of the year while Kwaku Acheampong was the Companion of the year, Kirsty Nyarko was also the Ranger of the Year. Emmanuel Williams Adjei who also won the Voyager of the year was crowned the Pathfinder of the year. Joy Ofori and Annabel Afriyie both picked up the 1st and 2nd runner up awards respectively. Special acknowledgement awards were mentioned for the wonderful contributions that Rita Opoku and Nana Nyarko Mensah made towards this year's curriculum workshop. Master Guide Daniel Tetteh was also honoured for his selfless and undying dedication towards the work of the Pathfinder Club. Special mention also goes to the our coordinator MG Roz.

The afternoon service was one that was informative and educative as well as one that was an eye opener for all members of the church, parents, counsellors and adults in general. Mr Kwakye and our guest counsellor both admonished parents to go above and beyond to foster a friendly and healthy relationship between their kids and the parents so that can be able to know the needs of their children throughout their developmental stages and be able to know which help and where to get them to support their children to become worthy citizens in the society and the church at large.

This year's investiture is a truly testament to how well dedicated the leadership team and pathfinder club in London Ghana SDA is and long may it continue as we look forward to the next investiture in 2024. Congrats to all parents, class instructors, counsellors and the entire church.

Salut.







GACU ZONE 3 INAUGURATION AT LONDON GHANA CHURCH

By Elder Richard Antwi



Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord and extol Him with music and song (Psalm 95: 1 - 2); this can only be achieved through love and unity – and this is exactly what Ghana Adventist Choir Union (GACU) stands for.

GACU was formed in 1971 to unite Adventist Choirs and sing the glory of our Lord; this unity has supported the union anywhere they travel. Hence, GACU is prevalent and strong in Europe and most especially, in the United Kingdom (UK). The Autumnal warmth Sabbath of 27th October was an exceptional day as all the three churches under Zone 3 teamed up for the inauguration at the London Ghana SDA Church premises in Plaistow, London. Among them were Lea Valley (LV), Milton Keynes (MK) and London Ghana (LG), the host church. Seeing an array of beautiful and colourful African clothes always make me happy and proud to be the son of this great continent but most importantly, shows the glory of the almighty God for His creation. It is not just about the exquisiteness of the tradition but the zeal, the belief, and credence given to God during worships; that Sabbath was phenomenal! The timely arrival of the guest churches entirely whitewashed the African concept of 'Africans have no respect' for time. GACU proved on that fateful day that the so-called African lethargic quotation is nothing but a myth. To be an ardent Christian it is worthwhile to know that our Saviour is 'God of time'. "With God, there is always an appointed time for everything as mentioned in Ecclesiastes 3: 1; putting Him first, keeping to His timing and keeping the faith make you closer to Him. The invitee churches just arrived on time to start promptly with LGC. Steadily, the program followed the normal Adventist church service routine in despite frequent musical interludes from the different groups to enhance the occasion. Among some of the popular songs were 'Let me always be with thee' (Hymn N42) and 'We give our thanksgiving to you' that were respectively sung by LG Singing Band and the mass choirs. There were words of inspiration from many participants; particularly among them was a quotation during the Tithe and Offering promotion: "When God blesses you financially, do not increase your standard of living but rather increase your gift of giving" – a robust expression indeed to promote the tithe! Since this was a solemn inaugural ceremony, it was crucial for the choristers to pledge towards their duties to the Almighty and Omnipotent God.



The minister in charge read the obligation as follows:

Appreciation Minister:

Eternal Father, the hosts of heaven – the Ranks of Angels, the 24 Elders and the Living Creatures – all praise and worship Thee in Heaven, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

We thank thee for providing us with these Wonderful choristers “for Glory and Beauty”
And join the heavenly hosts to praise Thy Holy name on earth!

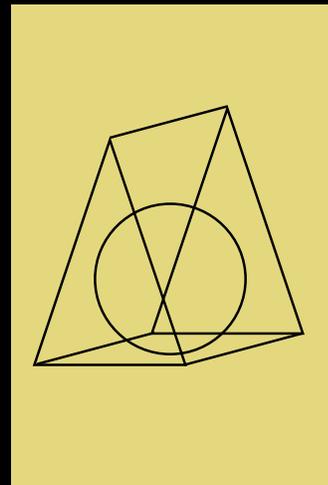
To which the Choristers reacted with a responsive prayer:

Heavenly Father, we have given our pledges
Before thee and this congregation to fulfil
Our duties as members and leaders.

Grant, O God that what we say with our lips,
We believe in our hearts and also practise in our lives. Grant us the joy and the will to sing with our
voices and with our lives.

And, together, may we so love and save our Saviour/ here on earth,
that together, we may soon live with thee in the hereafter!
In your Holy name, we pledge,
Amen!

After the inauguration, the short sermon was centred on ‘Sing out the demon’, which was focused on when young David played the harp to drive out the evil spirit that was tormenting King Saul. The sermon emphasized the importance of music in God’s ministry; therefore, admonishing GACU members to unite and sing wholeheartedly to honour the Lord.



Harvesting Melodies:

Mothers make debut duet cello performance at London Ghana's Children's Harvest

By **Rubina Fosua Arthur**

The mellow tones of the cello playing, *This Is My Father's World*, serenaded the Children's Harvest at the London Ghana SDA church on Saturday, 4th November, 2023.

Marking their debut performance at London Ghana, mums who usually are seen teaching the children sabbath school and volunteering their services over the years to the Children's Ministry, Mrs Bernice Kyere and Mrs Margaret Obese Amankwah, popularly known as Auntie Bernice and Auntie Margaret, bopped their heads gently as they showcased their new found talent.

Both ladies are new to the classical music genre and strumming along the strings of their chosen instruments, they debunked the notion that learning to play an instrument should be restricted to only children. Having initially signed their children up to the East London School of Music's scheme, which has been recently featured on the BBC's *Songs of Praise* under the leadership of Fiona Piquette, Auntie Bernice and Auntie Margaret said they had been inspired by watching their children learn a variety of instruments including the flute, piano, saxophone and the violin. Beaming enthusiastically, Auntie Bernice said, "We enjoy playing to glorify God and also help each other to improve".



Amidst the audience who witnessed the inspiring cello piece were children between the ages of zero to fifteen who had in one way or the other been impacted by Auntie Bernice and Auntie Margaret since their infancy. One of such young people was Nine-year-old Prince Joseph Boakye who was the preacher for the day. Speaking under the title, God is Faithful, Prince couldn't have chosen a more appropriate title as he narrated the story of God's blessings on Jacob despite his flaws as found in Genesis chapter 28. Prince said he felt grateful to have been given the opportunity to share his message before the harvest money was collected. He said he was very happy because his "older brothers had come to church to support" him and ""had also been very helpful when he was deciding what topic to choose".



The old cliché, with God all things are possible, was definitely at play last Saturday, when Auntie Bernice and Auntie Margaret were seen stroking the solemn strings of their cellos because in displaying what they had learnt over the last six months, they highlighted that everything is possible with determination and hard work.

Your Questions Answered

Question:

I hear there are other inspired books that have not been included in the bible. Can you explain why they have been excluded?

Answer:

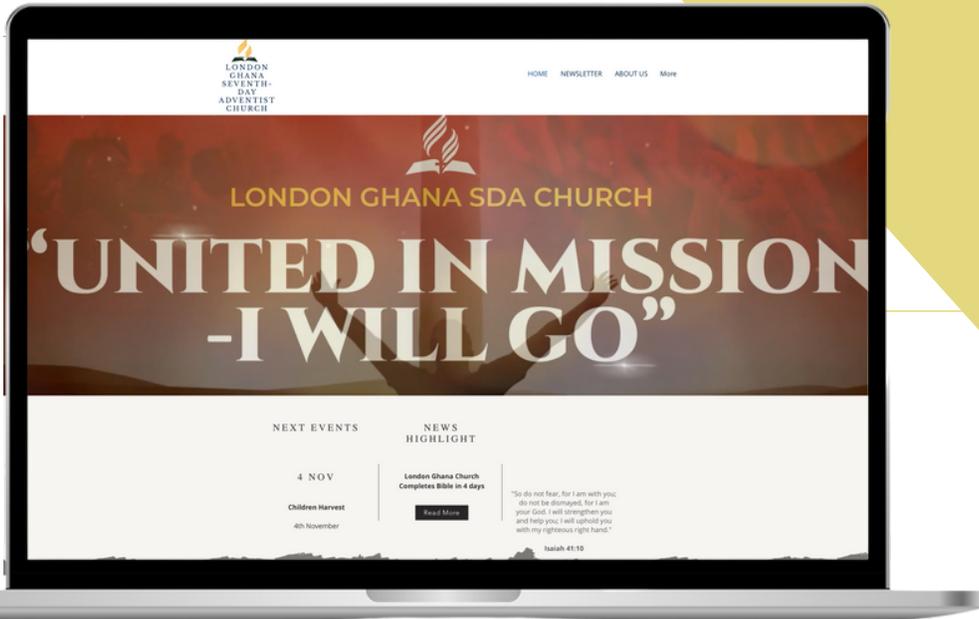
Across Christendom there is general agreement that the New Testament has twenty-seven books. However, there is disagreement between protestants and the Catholic church in respect of the number of books that should comprise the Old Testament. Whilst protestants maintain there are thirty-nine Old Testament books, Catholics argue there are additional thirteen or fourteen more books that need to be included to the Old Testament because they are also inspired books. They call these additional books The Apocrypha – some of these books are 1 & 2 Maccabees, 1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, etc. However, a critical search through the Bible shows at least six reasons why the Apocrypha books cannot be included in the Old Testament or the Bible. I have briefly outlined these reasons below.

- 1.** These books were never included in the twenty-two Hebrew Old Testament books – which has been expanded to thirty-nine by dividing some of the books.
- 2.** Jesus and the Apostles never quoted from any of the Apocrypha books – At the time of Jesus and the Apostles the Old Testament was fixed and no additions had been added to it. That is why they always quoted from it. These were broadly known as the core books of the five books of Moses {The Law}, The Prophets and The Psalms {Eg. Luke 24:44} reflecting the original arrangement of the Hebrew bible.
- 3.** Even though there are other true prophets like Samuel, Nathan and Gad who also wrote books (1 Chron. 29:29), they have not been added to the Bible and neither Jesus nor the Apostles ever quoted from them. These writings served a different purpose.
- 4.** There is not enough evidence in the Apocrypha writings to suggest that they were inspired – There are serious errors in the historical, geographical and chronological accounts they provide.
- 5.** Another interesting point to note is that because the books failed to gain authority from the Jews other means have been found to grant them the authority they did not originally have, and these came from some of the Greek churches not the Jews.
- 6.** The final reason why the Apocrypha should be rejected is that it appears by a vote on April 8, 1546, at the council of Trent, the Catholic church was attempting to force all Christians to accept these extra books when it is obvious it has been rejected for their lack of inspiration.

In conclusion, if any Seventh-day Adventist is tempted to want to read any of these books, my question to you will be – Has the current 66 books of the bible not provided enough revelation about Jesus Christ to meditate and reflect on? This advice from Jesus is timely –

“You carefully study the Scriptures. You think that they give you eternal life. These same Scriptures tell about me!” (John 5:39, ERV). And that is all we need – 66 God inspired books of the Bible.

Pastor Japheth Obese-Amankwah
Guest Contributor



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