



PASTORAL NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DR. EMMANUEL OSEI

Dear Friends,

Christian greetings.

Last week I announced that we had made the difficult decision to furlough a number of our staff, including some of our Ministerial workers.

This decision was not taken lightly but was the result of much prayer, discussion, and consultation, taking into consideration our duty of care to our members as well as the financial viability of our organisation.

Understandably, as our members were not privy to these discussions, they have a number of questions and concerns.

As an Administration we are keen to be clear and transparent about our actions. To this end we have launched a 'Questions and Answers' page on our website, which we hope will help to bring some clarity and understanding about the issues surrounding our decisions:

<https://sec.adventist.uk/index.php?id=1131>

Our ministry and mission as a church continue regardless of prevailing events. In my video update this week I share some of the ways our ministers are keeping busy whilst on furlough. Their enthusiasm and industriousness are an inspiration to me, and I pray that their efforts will encourage you too:

<https://youtu.be/MAb9Z5Pdx4>

Support for Church & Community Members During the Furlough Pastoral Support

We have been working in consultation with our Area Coordinators, Ministers and Elders to roll out a strategy that meets the spiritual needs of our members during the furlough. In each area, Coordinators, Elders, and active Pastors are working together to ensure that there is pastoral cover for every congregation in the Conference throughout the lockdown.

Resources for Smaller Congregations

Newbold Church are producing a number of resources weekly, which they are kindly sharing for the benefit of individuals and congregations:

- **Church Services:** Good quality, creative and diverse Sabbath services, pre-recorded and available on demand.
- **Bible Studies:** There are multiple series for adults and children, suitable for virtual small groups or family study time.
- **Learning Hub:** Mid-week presentations on the plan of salvation, for personal learning, prayer meeting or small group meetings. All of these resources are available free of charge at www.newboldchurch.org

SEC Community Hubs

Several churches in the South England Conference are operating as ADRA community hubs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These hubs provide food, provisions and assistance to the elderly, rough sleepers, young people in care, key workers, and people with long-term health conditions. Some hubs are also partnering with other charities, civil and faith-based organisations to reach those in need.

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TEENS

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

YOUTH

Visit the SEC website to identify your closest church hub:

<https://sec.adventist.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support/sec-community-hubs>

You can also contact ADRA on 0303 040 1017 to get involved with a community project.

General Assistance & Signposting

Please bookmark our COVID-19 Support page for general assistance and signposting:

<https://sec.adventist.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support>

Communication & Media**SEC Sabbath Service Livestream**

Please join us on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) or the SECmedia website each Sabbath at 9.45am: <https://secmedia.org>

BSL Interpretation Livestream

Members whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL) are invited to access our BSL interpretation of the SEC Sabbath service via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95961654542?pwd=VzNmUjZkTURHOTRUZ2FBUXI6Ump3QT09>

Meeting ID: 959 6165 4542

Password: 002617

Please share the details with your Deaf and hearing-impaired members and contacts.

Local Church Livestreams

You can visit the SEC website for a list of churches with sermon archives, and/or their own livestreamed services:

<https://sec.adventist.uk/departments/media/live-streaming-media-channels>

Please note that details of Zoom services are not listed on our website for security reasons.

60 SEC News

A new episode is released each Friday:

<https://youtu.be/7ooQNSQWCv0>

SEC COMMUNICATOR Magazine

The new issue is available now. This quarter focuses on the subject of 'Climate Change': <https://seccommunicator.com>

Systematic Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Please follow the link below for updates on the various methods available for church members to return their tithe and offerings while churches are closed:

<https://sec.adventist.uk/departments/treasury/tithes-and-offerings/treasury-coronavirus-covid-19>

Health Ministries

It seems that we are in for at least another three weeks of this lockdown.

Even though the rise in cases and deaths is slowing, one can understand the government's caution given that scientists cannot yet, with confidence, say how quickly the numbers will start to fall.

As the jailer said to Socrates, we must

"Try to bear lightly what needs must be."

It seems that many are living up to this advice. I see more people going for regular walks with their families. Restaurants like McDonalds are closed, and more families are cooking and eating together. Those living alone are finding the time to think and write and reconnect with others via video calls.

All of this is helping us to "bear lightly" with this lockdown situation. It is also lowering our levels of anxiety and worry.

Although Socrates got some good advice, I believe that God wants us to go further.

Is it possible not just to bear with this, but to also be a blessing?

I'd like to share a little of my own journey. When the crisis started my mind went back to Dr Kellogg, one of my inspirations for becoming a doctor. I remember that some of the methods he taught medical students were used to help those suffering from the Spanish Flu of 1918. "I wonder if that could help today?" was my thought. I didn't get time to develop the thought as I became busy with other emergencies. I then saw elder Mark Finlay speak on a similar topic. "I wonder....?" But again, I got distracted. Then I got an email entitled "Crazy Idea" from Pastor Johnathan Barrett, detailing the same thing! It was like a rebuke from God! "What are you waiting for?" so, with the President's permission, I have been looking into how we can find a way to provide basic, life-saving treatments to those who may not be sick enough for hospital, or, in the worst case scenario, the hospitals are too full to accept them. We could convert some of our churches and schools into temporary clinics. We could also train people to go into homes to give treatments. I know that this is a bold move and is not without risk, but I believe that it can be done. Also, given the fact that approximately 20,000 people in the UK die from influenza each year, this could be a continual task force for the nation. It could also be the genesis of a group of compassionate carers who could be tasked to help give domiciliary care to those in need when there is no crisis.

Just last weekend, to crown the prompting, the GC Health department and AWR 360 Health, aired an excellent symposium on the research behind our response to the 1918 Flu and how it may impact us in 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v75qipspDvQ>

It is interesting to see world leaders openly reference God for the first time in a long time. It seems God's message of Health, Hope & Healing is meant for such a time as this.

God bless,

Dr Chidi

SEC Health Ministries Director

Cornerstone Counselling Service (CCS)

Counsellors and trained listeners are available from 8am to midnight, offering telephone and online counselling through Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, and other mediums. Please see the poster attached for details of the support available and contact us via:

- Email connect@ccscounselling.org.uk;
- Call us on 0207 7238050; or
- Visit our website to chat online and for emotional support resources:
- www.ccscounselling.org.uk

Women's Ministries Zoom Meetings**Women's Inspirational Power Hour****Every Sunday Morning (10am)**

<https://zoom.us/j/91230813441?pwd=OERML2YvN203VEFWWTBPV0p0YkZ6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 912 3081 3441

Password: 427704

This week's topic is 'A Mother's Story: Raising a Child with Special Needs.'

The Upper Room Experience**Every Sunday Evening (7.30pm)**

<https://zoom.us/j/96657614788?pwd=bXdlK3Y5OSTBdmJUbNfkbG4zUIQ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 966 5761 4788

Password: 004637

Join our Women's Evangelism Hour every Sunday evening.

Women's Ministry Drop-In Session**Every Wednesday Morning (10am)**

You can also join us for our Women's drop-in hour on Wednesday mornings:

<https://zoom.us/j/96171713938?pwd=Y0NlMGLRGQwK1Y0NHNDZSUZyRDVlQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 7171 3938

Password: 026058

Men's Ministries Zoom Meeting**Real Men Real Talk****Monday 20 April (7.30pm-8.30pm)**

Pastor Ray Patrick is our guest speaker; and men of all ages from across the SEC and beyond are invited to join us online via Zoom Conferencing.

Meeting ID: 994 8841 8386

Password: 043555

For more information contact Devon Boyd on dboyd@secadventist.org.uk or 07956 383222.

Possibilities Ministry**He's got the whole world in His hands!**

We are in a time of uncertainty with many changes that are very challenging and difficult for all, not least families living with children who have a disability.

Please find below some useful links to assist you in this time of ambiguity:

- How to cope with a child with disability during covid-19: <https://uk.search.yahoo.com/search?fr=mcafee&type=E211GB105G0&p=how+to+cope+with+a+child+with+disability+during+covid19>
- COVID-19 Support and Guidance from the Council for Disabled Children: <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/covid-19-support-and-guidance>

Possibilities Zoom Support Group**Every Tuesday (10am-11am)**

Support for parents, guardians, carers, and people living with life limiting illnesses. Contact SEC Possibilities Ministries for details on 0790 361 9034.

ADRA-UK Update

Community Hubs

Over the past week, the momentum around the community hubs has definitely grown. Just after the lockdown, there were 2 churches supporting their local communities with the COVID-19 response through the 'I AM Urban' initiative with ADRA-UK. As of this afternoon, there are 35 community hubs across the United Kingdom. This is truly amazing! ADRA-UK have put in a bid for funding to the Trans-European Division for these 35 hubs which will be processed in the next few weeks. Thank you to all the pastors, who have volunteered their time with ADRA-UK to make community outreach a possibility in their localities.

Toiletries

ADRA-UK has recently been given a large supply of high-quality toiletries. Community hubs will be able to collect supplies from the Houndsfield Road Community Centre at specified times from the 27 April onwards. Arrangements will be made to deliver toiletries to community hubs outside London.

Listening Training

To assist our members, church leaders and especially our ministerial workers to become more effective listeners in this fragile environment, ADRA-UK have partnered with the TED Family Ministries Department to launch the EARS 2 HEAR campaign with training resources available from the [TED website](#) (see the poster attached). The resources are written by Karen Holford, family therapist and TED Family Ministries Director, and Helgi Jónsson, psychiatrist and Health Ministries Director, and include a Zoom video, a sample script, and a telephone listening skills worksheet. The training is straight-forward, but we must stress, it DOES NOT make you qualified to counsel, only to be a more effective listener.

COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

Please encourage your church members to support our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. Each pastor should have received a letter with information to share with their congregations. We have also included virtual fundraising ideas to assist people during the lockdown.

Full details are available online at: https://adrauk.org/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&ata=WzMsImlyMDUyNDZmYjgwZCIsMCwwLDAsMv0

For further information regarding the appeal or the 'I AM Urban' community initiative, please contact Cathy Boldeau at:

- cboldeau@adra.org.uk or
- urban@adra.org.uk

Stanborough Press

Life Source Online Shop

To place your order with the Stanborough Press call 01476 591700 (Mon-Thu); email sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk; or visit: www.lifeforcebookshop.co.uk

Watford Bookshop: Opening Hours

Open on Tuesdays from 12.30pm-5pm, and Fridays from 10am-2pm. If you will be making a special journey, please call ahead on 01923 893461.

Adventist Discovery Centre

Building Online Communities

Please continue to promote the ADC on your local church's websites and social media pages; as well as with friends and community members within your address book and anyone you believe would benefit from staying connected with the Word: www.discoveronline.org.uk

Adventist Radio London

Friends of ARL Appeal

Throughout the coronavirus crisis, ARL have continued to 'share the hope' with a growing listenership. If you have been enjoying our programming, you may wish to consider supporting us through our on-line giving facility.

To set up your gift details please visit: <https://adventistradio.london/become-a-friend>

Every gift is thankfully received and goes towards helping to keep this radio ministry live on air as we broadcast the gospel of Jesus to London and beyond.

Job Vacancy: Adventist Risk Management

Customer Service Representative

ARM are currently looking for a customer service representative to assist assigned account executive(s) in serving clients, including gathering and maintaining policy renewal data, preparation of schedules of insurance, processing certificates of coverage, and performing general administrative duties. Interested applicants should email their curriculum vitae to rfiddis@adventistrisk.org no later than **Thursday 30 April**. Interviews will take place as soon as feasible. Details attached.

Invitation to Express Interest:

Stanborough Press

Finance Director/Business Manager

The role of the finance director is to oversee all financial aspects of company strategy, and to be responsible for the flow of financial information to the chief executive, the board and, where necessary, external parties. This is an elected role through the nominating framework of the British Union Conference.

In order to match the unique requirements of this role with the abilities of aspirants, the management of The Stanborough Press would be pleased to entertain expressions of interest in this regard no later than

Friday 15 May.

Full job description with terms and conditions available on application in writing to the General Manager at either: The Stanborough Press Ltd. Alma Park, Grantham Lincolnshire NG31 9SL or esanguesa@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

Prayer Focus

This week's reflective reading is attached.

Our prayer focus:

1. Let us pray to walk in active faith in HIS silence and He will provide for us.
2. Let us pray that we hold on and never let go until the Lord gives us what we need and to know that we are forgiven.
3. Let us pray for God to see the anguish of our hearts and answer the prayers we so earnestly pray within.
4. Let us pray for a holy ground experience that brings us to true reverence and respect for God and our mission.
5. Let us pray that the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be filled with deep and complete determination to stand firm beside our Lord and Saviour.
6. Let us pray that the miraculous examples of our Lord Jesus Christ will be the powerhouse of faith to which we constantly connect. May we be reminded that we serve an active up close and personal Saviour who will always come through in HIS silence.
7. Let us pray that we are ready to meet Him; and that we may prepare others to meet Him.

All members are invited to participate in the 100 Days of Prayer for the world church. Please visit the dedicated website for details of this General Conference initiative: <http://www.revivalandreformation.org/100days>

I also encourage you all to join the SEC Prayer Line for a Spirit filled hour of prayer every morning from 6am-7am. Please call 0330 088 1937; access code 619764#.

Warmest regards,



Dr Emmanuel Osei
President
South England Conference