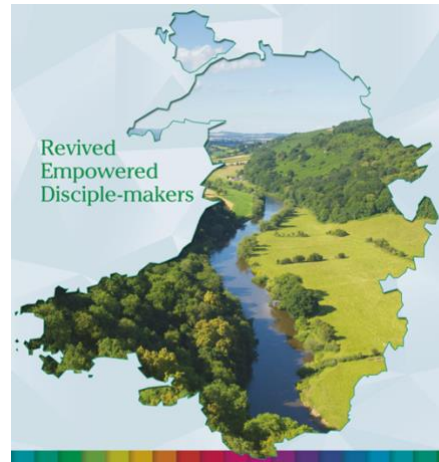


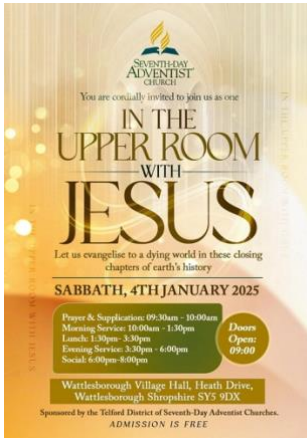


Welsh Mission President's report 1st quarter 2025



Seeking and serving to make God known as revived, empowered, disciple-makers.

Strategic Objective #1 - Revived Revived members and congregations

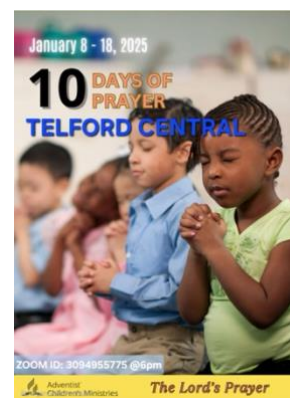


January saw many of our churches focused on prayer as they sought personal revival and God's guidance for discipleship and outreach for the year ahead. Telford district of churches came together for an Upper Room with Jesus experience on 4 January.

10 Days of Prayer 8-18 January

The Welsh Mission (WM) offered 6 nights of Zoom meetings during this time, led by Pauline Allcock as the WM Prayer Ministries Sponsor. A couple of pastors and elders also led out on one of the evenings. People from across the WM territory prayed with one another as we focused on different aspects of The Lord's prayer.

The Children's Ministry team from Telford, led by Tashell Mitcham organised a special children's 10 Days of Prayer and Eileen Mckenzie, the WM Children's Sponsor organised activities with the children on the closing Sabbath.



To mark the end of the 10 Days of Prayer, the Swansea church members united in a collective fast from Friday until fellowship lunch on Sabbath. The entire Sabbath service was designed to allow members to pray for one another and spend quiet, reflective time with God.

Members across the Welsh Mission testified to answered prayers to the glory of God.

Family focus

Newport church had a special focus on the family for three weeks in February.

- ◆ Pastor Samuel and his wife Shola explored the topic of decision-making.
- ◆ Pastor Des Boldeau and his wife Cathy presented programmes aimed at the senior generation, as well as family finance.
- ◆ Pastor Les Ackie spoke about spiritually and emotionally healthy marriages.

The church was revived as it took a deep look at these important areas within the family.

Kenroy and Eileen Mckenzie visited Swansea on 15 February, leading in an engaging and interactive workshop, strengthening the members' understanding of family ministry and its vital role in our faith community.

Pastor Sam Ouadjo, BUC Ministerial Director, was invited to come to Telford Ghana on 22 February to teach on the topic "Christian Home: interactions with our children." Many questions were answered, and emotional struggles and traumas were resolved.

Stewardship

Crystal's stewardship article in the January issue of the Messenger entitled "Where is your treasure?" focused on new year's resolutions and how we can devote more time to the Lord.

Her sermons on her visits to Rhyl, Ystrad Mynach & Wrexham were from the Grateful Living series, focusing on Time, Treasure, and Testimony.

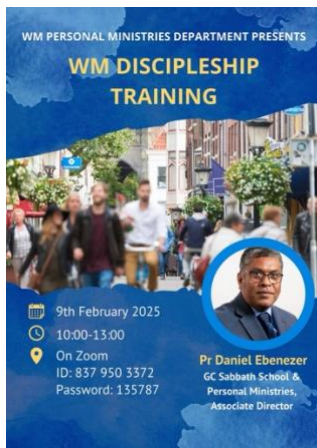
Port Talbot

After a long period without regular meetings, services resumed in Port Talbot on 11 January. Members gather once a fortnight at the local community hall, for worship, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Strategic Objective #2 - Empowered members and pastors

Discipleship training

The Cardiff district of churches joined together for a two Sabbath training programme of discipleship, led by Pastors Michael Mbui and Daniel Ebenezer. This took place straight after participation in the 10 Days of Prayer which prepared the church both spiritually and mentally for discipleship and the GROW initiative.



Pastor Daniel Ebenezer, the General Conference Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Associate Director, shared strategies and practical steps for making disciples based on the GROW biblical model of discipleship in a Zoom training that took place on 9 February. He spoke about building meaningful relationships and sharing the gospel and nurturing spiritual growth in others.

In the Telford district, members have received training on ‘Christ’s method’ and the outreach and in-reach will be guided by this approach.

Lay Preachers’ Course

Pastor Adriana Fodor, in her capacity as the WM Personal Ministries sponsor, organised a 6 session Lay Preachers’ Course presented by Newbold College lecturers on Zoom. The Irish & Scottish Missions were invited to join, and we had participants from all three Missions, as well as Malta. The 40 participants found the presentations very helpful and practical. Dr Ivan Milanov and Pastor Ivana Mendez presented on how to study, prepare and deliver expository sermons. Pastor Jonathan Holder looked at topical sermons and Dr Laurence Turner gave two presentations on preaching Biblical narratives.



Stewardship Training

Representatives from Newtown, Swansea and Telford Central benefitted from a Stewardship Ministries Training programme via Zoom on 25 March, led by Crystal Knight (WM Stewardship sponsor) and Cathy Boldeau (BUC Stewardship Director). The Irish Mission sponsor, Audrey Moyo also attended the training. Attendees were made aware of the Grateful Living resources available for both adults and children, as well as other resources from the General Conference Stewardship Ministries and the Stanborough Press.

Anouska Sammy, the Stewardship leader for Newtown church used the Grateful Living topic of Time on 25 January. A quiz based on Ecclesiastes 3 and break-out groups discussing tips on time management were part of the

afternoon programme, as well as teaching the children the Time song. On 29 March she spoke about Talents from the Grateful Living series.

Children's Mental Health Week

Samantha Fessal, WM Women's Ministries sponsor, facilitated and hosted several presentations for children with regards to managing mental health. This was done as part of Children's Mental Health week which is a UK wide initiative



set up by an organisation called Place2Be. Topics covered included:

- ◆ What is mental health?
- ◆ Normality of mental health issues
- ◆ Ways to manage mental health
- ◆ Gratitude and kindness
- ◆ Recognising how I feel.

The presenters were Bruce Khumalo, Pastor Jeremy Johnson, Shola Semakula, Joanna Daniels and Samantha Fessal. Children aged between 4-14 years throughout the Welsh Mission engaged and enjoyed the interactive sessions whilst gaining some skills and information to manage their mental health and wellbeing.

Women's Ministries Training

Karen Holford, the TED Women's Children's and Family Ministries Director was invited to give some training to the ladies in the Welsh Mission via Zoom. The sessions were presented under the theme "Leading Creatively" and included:

- ◆ Creating a Caring Community
- ◆ A fresh perspective on conflict
- ◆ Narratives that heal
- ◆ Compassionate leadership
- ◆ Creative Bible Study
- ◆ Finding your Mission as a Woman

Karen presented some devotionals which were infused with imagination as she encouraged the attendees to immerse themselves into the biblical story whenever reading Scripture. The presentations helped the ladies gain more insight into God's love and compassion and provided ways that we can follow Christ's example practically in our daily lives to encourage individuals around us to get to know the God we serve.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training was given by Eileen Mckenzie to Carmarthen church via Zoom on 1 March. The purpose was to help members understand the role of the designated safeguarding lead in a congregation.



Pastor Lawrence Ofei has been focused on empowering the members of Wrexham company to take on more responsibility. Graham Jones was ordained as an elder by Pastor Graham Allcock on 8 March. The young people are also being encouraged to take on leadership positions like praise team leaders and deaconesses.

Strategic Objective #3 – Disciple-Makers

Global Youth Day 15 March

This was an opportunity for youth across the Mission to embody Christ's love through service. The Swansea youth prepared and distributed food and hygiene hampers to the elderly and those in need, visited nursing homes with songs of encouragement, and expressed appreciation to care givers with gifts of gratitude.

The day reached its pinnacle with the baptism of three young people, George Cucos and Hana and Masha Adamovic. For Hana and Masha, the Swansea church became more than just a place of worship – it became their home, their community, their spiritual family and they chose to make a commitment to Christ and officially become part of the Swansea church family. It was a special privilege for their father, Pastor Jovan, to baptize them.



George was raised in an Adventist foster family in Romania and was nurtured in faith from a young age. When he moved to Swansea for his studies, he found friendship and a deep spiritual connection within the Swansea church. It didn't take

him long to realize this was the family he wanted to belong to, the community he wanted to call his own.

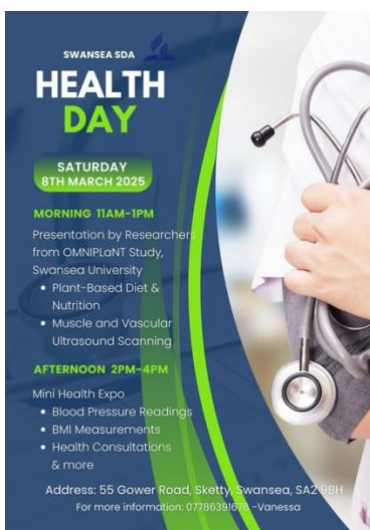
At Llandudno Junction church, Crystal preached a sermon called “Here I am Lord, I am Listening” and got some of the children to act out the passage in 1 Samuel 3:1-10 where God called Samuel. The young adults took part in improvised conversations focused on active listening. Feedback was given and further conversation took place.

In Newport, the youth led an adult Sabbath School class and then went out to the town centre, where they had a singing area, a prayer station and a talk station where people could ask questions about God, the Bible, the church, and other related topics. They also asked people questions from the Bible and gave out small gifts and literature.



While the youth were in the town centre, members of the church were lifting them up in prayer and discussing ways to help our young people see God’s purpose for them and what the church could do to assist our youth with the challenges they encounter in a secular society.

Telford Ghana involved the young people in the services that day as part of their commitment to train the youth to learn new skills.



Health Ministries

Health and well-being took centre stage at Swansea on 8 March as Swansea University professors and the Omniplant research team shared the results of their research on the benefits of a plant-based diet, followed by a talk on healthy eating. In the afternoon, the Swansea health team provided health checks for both church members and members of the local community, reinforcing their commitment to holistic well-being. There are plans to organise workshops for the wider community in partnership with the university and Omniplant research team.

On 9 March, the Hereford church took part for a second year in Hereford's Vegan Market, an event that celebrates all things plant based. They had a prime location for their stall and had members of the public looking for them from last time.

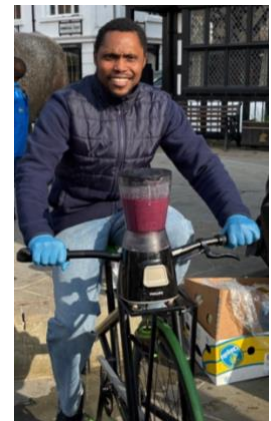


Shelly Khumalo's poke pies and the juice bike (borrowed from Newtown church) were a great hit.

A community police officer was encouraged to pedal hard to make a smoothie.



During the day there were opportunities to speak with people about the church and what we do, as well as share with them about Christ, the Bible, and how these topics relate to our health. Dwight & Maria Harris (as the health and personal ministries leaders) played major roles in making the day a success, and Bruce Khuamlo the treasurer, kept an accurate account of what was selling via the chip and pin machine. The event was also supported by Glenville Daniel (WM Health Ministries Sponsor) (seen here on the bike) and members from Newport.



Two weeks later, they held a follow-up programme enabling them to reconnect with the community by offering free health checks for blood pressure, blood glucose level and BMI tests. The children were also able to get involved as they went out into the town centre and invited people to the health checks and gave out literature.

A community lady had seen the Facebook ad online and wanted to have some tests done. Susan Moser, a retired doctor and member of the Hereford church, was able to speak and pray with her. This lady wanted to know more about the church and will start Bible studies with Susan.

Youth

At a meeting of youth leaders from across the Welsh Mission at the beginning of the year, a need was identified for a specific youth church to cater for the large number of students and the amount of youth leaving the church due to disenfranchisement. Cardiff Central has undertaken to start this youth church as a test pilot to see how it can meet the needs of the youth of today.

Community donations

The Ystrad Mynach church continue their ministry to support the College students coming from families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. They regularly collect and donate food, toiletries and clothing.

Fellowship

Part of discipleship is nurturing the relationship between one another.

- ◆ Following Global Youth Day, the Swansea youth team organized an exciting football tournament, bringing together young people from the Swansea and Cardiff churches. With over 70 attendees and four teams competing, the event fostered camaraderie and fellowship among the youth. Sports sessions have been held most weekends this quarter.
- ◆ The Swansea youth team have been actively engaging the young people with monthly socials and youth programmes. The last Friday of the month is dedicated to vespers – a time of worship and spiritual reflection. All the youth activities have been fully funded by the local council who gave a grant of £1,200 to support the youth ministry.
- ◆ The ladies of the Carmarthen church enjoyed a brunch on 8 March as part of International Women's Day. The time included prayer, spiritual encouragement, and activities helping them get to know each other, strengthening relationships.
- ◆ The Ystrad Mynach members enjoyed a meal at the New House Country Hotel, followed by Bible games and activities.

Pathfinders and Adventurers

The Carmarthen church had a Pathfinder investiture on 1 February, led by Jonathan Nyengani (WM Pathfinder sponsor) and local leader Chinwe Okwudire.



Pastor Lawrence Ofei has been doing some personal outreach to his housemates in Telford. His housemates are all working adults pursuing high-end jobs and promotions. He shared notes and flowers with these non-believers. They were well received and led to conversations concerning his faith and why he believes in God. In this picture he is explaining his joy in Jesus Christ to one of his housemates while enjoying time in Ketley Paddock Mound, Telford.

He also had the opportunity to speak with some non-Adventist students from Bangor university when he went to preach at Llandudno Junction church.

Presidential matters

Presidents' Training

In January, along with my counterparts from the British Union Conference (BUC), I attended some training for presidents at the North American Division.

Newbold Student Interviews

Every February, the Presidents, Executive Secretaries and Ministerial Directors from all the fields in the BUC hold annual student interviews at Newbold College where students are chosen for sponsorship for their master's programmes and others chosen for employment pending completion of their studies.

Safeguarding Summit



The BUC Safeguarding Summit in February was for the benefit of the trustees, field leaders, departmental directors and sponsors throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This was the first time that those governing the Church and those strategically and operationally managing the organisation have collaborated in

this way.

The summit involved looking at case studies and listening to presentations from organisations that are involved in safeguarding and how to look at it from a church perspective.

Further information on this event can be seen at:

<https://wm.adventist.uk/news/uk-adventist-church-hosts-its-first-safeguarding-summit>

Strategic Objective #4 – Audit of Membership Records

A lot of training has been given to pastors and church clerks on the Redemptive Membership Review Process. In some churches, attention is being given to connect with those who do not come to church regularly. The Cardiff International church has given each member of its congregation responsibility for another member and each Sabbath a report is given on missing or absent attendees.

Graham Allcock

Welsh Mission President