

HARVEST TIMES

A General Conference Session 'TED NEWS' Special, July 2025

DREAMS DO COME TRUE!

Local members, volunteers, and special guests came together for the second Albanian Family Camp, held from 8-10 September 2023, in the city of Elbasan, Albania. The weekend, part of the Christ for Europe initiative, was filled with worship, Bible study, and two beautiful baptisms.

Pastor Elbert Kuhn, Associate Secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, served as the main speaker. He emphasised the importance of collaboration with locals to share the gospel, stating, "Together, we can make a difference. When we sit, talk, plan, and address the needs of the field, we can truly achieve something great for the Lord."

This camp was part of a broader effort, according to Pastor Delmar Reis, the president of the Albanian Mission (AM). He explained, "The idea behind this project is to bring all members from Albanian churches together annually, allowing them to get to know each other better, build stronger relationships, and deepen their understanding of God." On Sabbath evening, two beautiful baptisms took place in the hotel's swimming pool. Mirela Zyla, had the privilege of being baptised by her own son, Pastor Marko Frasheri. She shared her gratitude, saying, "I had longed for this moment, and God made it

happen at the right time. It was beautiful to be baptised by my son and become part of God's family." Pastor Frasheri echoed this sentiment, stating, "When I saw my mother in the water, there are no words to describe how I felt! I realised that dreams do come true, and God speaks through our dreams."

First Evangelistic Video Series in Albanian

The Sabbath programme also featured the launch of the first evangelistic video series in Albanian, titled "The Teachings of Jesus." Produced in collaboration with Hope Channel Brazil, Pastor Gentian Thomollari explored key teachings of Jesus, guiding viewers to delve deeper into the Bible. A follow-up study on the prophecies of Daniel, led by Pastor Servet Dema, was released in November.

Thomollari expressed his belief that these Bible study series will greatly benefit Albanians. He said, "Through these recorded videos, many Albanians may have their first encounter with Christ, providing our local Adventist Church with an opportunity to expand its missionary work and evangelistic initiatives."



Pastor Delmar Reis baptises Razi Matraxhiu



Pastor Marko Frasheri baptises his mother, Mirela Zyla

MISSION TO GREENLAND REVIVED

Flight GLL777 finally landed us in Nuuk, Greenland, on 23 March 2025 - marking the end of our long season of waiting. As we descended, we giggled like excited children, asking, "How did we even get here?" Majestic icebergs greeted us through the windows, alongside oceanfront sunsets and deep snow that swallowed up our shoes.

Living in the coolest place on earth as Adventist Frontier Missionaries (AFM), we're thrilled to see how the Lord is already connecting our lives with local people. Since the last Adventist presence in 1998, there has been no permanent work until now. Our long-term mission is to create a disciple-making movement where local Greenlanders reach Greenlanders.

Each week, we volunteer at the homeless breakfast, serving friends while sharing music and stories. Through this ministry, the Lord connected us to a Greenlandic artist who befriended us. Our friendship has grown as she teaches us painting with great

professional skill. Our current theme is creation, opening opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Playing music in the Greenlandic orchestra has helped us build wonderful friendships. We are both musicians - Beryl plays the violin, while Joe plays the saxophone - and music connects people in a beautiful way. As we continue learning the Greenlandic language, having completed our first module, we're gaining the courage to speak in full sentences and connect more deeply with Greenlandic hearts.

Through seamless collaboration between AFM, our network of believers, the Danish Union of Churches Conference (DUCCh), and the Trans-European Division (TED), we've been blessed with support to purchase a home and successfully launch the project. The DUCCh President, Bjørn Ottesen, and his wife, Anne-Maj Britte, visited and brought us much-needed encouragement. We're grateful for their strong leadership

and the warmth of the Danish community.

Having the opportunity to meet His Majesty King Frederick X of Denmark and to congratulate Greenland's Prime Minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, was the cherry on top - a moment of divine orchestration and profound significance.

We experience the Lord's presence daily in our interactions, inspired by how He moves through our lives to point people to Him.

Please pray that God will raise up local disciples with cultural authenticity and passionate hearts. Pray for divine appointments, Spirit-prepared hearts, and boldness in Jesus' name. Pray for wisdom in navigating language barriers and the unique challenges of Arctic ministry.



"WE'VE MADE IT AT LAST!" — HEARTS EXPECTANT, FEET ON ARCTIC SOIL, THE NYAMWANGES ARRIVE—READY FOR THE CALL
BERYL AND JOSEPH NYAMWANGE, JUNE 16 [PHOTO: BERYL NYAMWANGE]

SARAH HENKE, OCTOBER 2023
PHOTOS: SARAH HENKE

GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED PLACES

Dear Delegates, Visitors and Friends,

Welcome to the Trans-European Division Harvest Times, a one-off special edition newspaper, prepared for this 2025 General Conference Session in St Louis. We are delighted to greet you and share glimpses of God's faithfulness across our Division during the past three years. Since the last GC Session, much has changed in our world, but one truth remains steadfast: the Lord of the harvest has continued to work in different hearts and various communities across our 28 countries and territories, calling us to faithfulness, creativity, and mission. From the northern lights of Iceland to the warm shores of Cyprus, from the bustling city streets of London to quiet church halls in Lithuania, the Spirit has been moving mightily. In these few pages, you will find stories of resilience and renewal, of discipleship and innovation, of lives touched and transformed. You will meet people and read of projects that reflect the unique diversity and unity of our Division. You will witness how the gospel continues to bear fruit in new and unexpected ways and even unexpected places. As you read these accounts, may you be encouraged, inspired, and reminded that the harvest truly is plentiful. Thank you for walking this journey with us, for praying, partnering, and pressing forward together - until the whole world knows. "For as the waters cover the sea, the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge that the Eternal is glorious." (Habakkuk 2:14 – The Voice)

With gratitude and hope,
Your friends from the TED



Róbert Cs. Csizmadia, Executive Secretary, Daniel Duda, President, and Nenad Jeparunović, Treasurer

CHRIST FOR EUROPE

Not a one-off event, not a programme, not a fast-track campaign, Christ for Europe is a renewed emphasis by the General Conference (GC) in partnership with the three European Divisions, Euro-Asia, Inter-European and Trans-European (TED), to share the Good News about Christ with today's European people. Over the last twelve months, the TED has hosted numerous projects headed by GC personnel and other local pastors/evangelists. Numerous projects were undertaken in late spring 2023, with even more following throughout the summer and autumn of that year."

Preaching with Both 'Boldness and Cultural Intelligence'

When TED Adventist Mission director Anthony WagenerSmith shared the initiative in his 24 February tedNEWS report, he described our territory as "an incredibly diverse mix of European cultures from post-Christian urban areas to Orthodox-dominant countries", a reality we've known for quite a while - of which

we are committed to grow in understanding. As a result, every pastor and evangelist is encouraged to preach and teach with what WagenerSmith describes as 'both boldness and cultural intelligence'. Again, a value we've been sensitive to for quite a while and have sought to practise, but is still definitely a work in progress.

Take, for example, the 2013 – 2015 Dublin City of Hope mission emphasis. This was no one-off event but a coordinated and collaborative plan to seek spiritual revival, train members for witness, connect with the community, and run multiple outreach/evangelistic events. With the support of GC evangelist Mark Finley (who gave three months of his time and talent over those three years), the Irish Mission's long-term legacy continues to grow deep and wide.

A Renewed Christ-Like Love for Each Other and Lost People

That's what happens whenever there is a

renewed emphasis on Mission. The church grows deeply – as members on their discipleship journey find a renewed Christ-like love for each other and lost people. And be assured the previous sentence is no loose soundbite! It isn't, because there is enough evidence to show that an incredible mind shift occurs when we recognise that 'the church', 'our church', exists to serve others above and beyond ourselves. The 'fortress' mindset (it's all about us) all too frequently practised gets demolished as the church is transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit into a genuine open-door community (we exist to serve others). Through the discovery of spiritual gifts, members engage in building up the church. And naturally, or indeed supernaturally, the church grows wide as members share Christ in word and deed.

Reflecting Hope – British Union Conference

In response to the GC's Christ for Europe emphasis, a current example of a coordi-

nated and collaborative plan is underway, led by the British Union Conference (BUC) leadership, to create a climate where being 'engaged in mission' is spontaneous and natural. Reflecting Hope – was launched at the beginning of 2023, with 62 pilot congregations throughout the territory participating in the plan. Described as "a contemporary, lay-led, clergy-engaged, locality-appropriate evangelistic initiative supported by Adventist World Radio (AWR)", several outreach/evangelistic activities have been held throughout 2023.

Over the weekend of 3-5 November, 250 representatives from throughout the BUC met to reflect and evaluate the pilot projects, train for further ministry, and develop plans for the 'Reflecting Hope' initiative 2024 and 2025.

DAVID NEAL, NOVEMBER 2023



The foundation for the Christ for Europe initiative is to build up relationships. This health expo in Malmö, Sweden, did just that providing a service to the local community



Over the weekend of 3-5 November, 250 representatives from throughout the BUC met to reflect and evaluate the pilot projects, train for further ministry, and develop plans for the 'Reflecting Hope' initiative 2024 and 2025. Pictured is the praise and worship team for the weekend



RISE UP YOUTH CONGRESS 2024

In August 2024, nearly 400 young people and 100 leaders converged on Maruševec, Croatia, for the second Trans-European Division (TED) Regional Youth Congress, themed "Withstand." The event drew participants from across the TED, along with special guests from Canada, the USA, Germany, Italy, and The Netherlands. What set this congress apart? Participants and organisers highlight five compelling reasons...

1. Praise and Worship

The music at the congress was simply outstanding—both inspiring and engaging. This was no coincidence; hours of dedicated work went into this musical offering. Consider the example of Lana Tesin, Jakov Kovačević, and Andrija Kovačević, members of the praise and worship team,¹ who arrived two days before the Youth Congress for rehearsals. "We came here on Sunday and rehearsed for 11 hours on Monday," shared Lana. "We've prepared roughly 40 songs, and we hope they will be remembered," said Jakov. "How beautiful it is to worship God through singing together because the words and melody of these songs are so significant," added Andrija, who sees this congress as pivotal for the church in Croatia. "Because we are a small church community in this country, seeing such a large number of youth together in this setting encourages us and the whole community. It reminds us that we belong to a worldwide church." "I completely agree," shared a young lady from Macedonia, "I really appreciated the praise and worship songs!"

2. Excellent Preaching and Teaching

The week featured a mix of homegrown European preachers, including Danilo Puskas (Newbold College of Higher Education), Marcel Ghioalda (TED Youth and Public Campus Ministries director), László Szabó (Friedensau Adventist University), Márton Subatovičs (a pastor serving in Latvia), and Dorothea Relić Macedo (a pastor serving in the Rijeka and Pula district, Croatia).

In addition to preaching, the teaching ministry was spread across six tracks: relationships, spiritual growth, mental health, mission, and practical Christianity. With a wide breadth of topics, from 'Making Sense of Anger,' and 'Resilience Through Faith and Science,' to 'A Biblical Way to Control Your Thoughts and Emotions' and 'How To Use TikTok to Empower Others,' this was an opportunity for participants to hear from experts in their fields, evangelists, college teachers, counsellors, and youth specialists. "One of the workshops presented by Karen Holford, which I really appreciated," shared a Congress participant, "was about how to create caring communities in local church-

es and within our local communities." She continued, "It's also worth mentioning that I really liked the atmosphere of this Congress, where everyone was incredibly kind to each other, and the gracious picture of God that was presented."

3. Small Groups

"There is something special about small group ministry," shared Dr László Szabó, "because one of the most meaningful ways to study the Bible is in small groups. Studying and sharing together creates community, it is a key value for this generation. As many small groups met outside across the campus under trees, a young person from Croatia commented, "I got closer to God while at Congress, and that's what I consider the most important point of being here."

4. Sports and Recreation

One aspect which makes the Maruševec campus special is its serene location and ample space. Space to play football in beautiful surroundings and a very pleasant climate for much of the year. It was all a matter of choice – to build up a sweat playing football, take a hike through fields and forests, or simply lounge under the trees leisurely contemplating the meaning of life. Talking with a group of Serbian ladies, one commented, "I very much like sports," while another enjoyed the experience of "eating foods from different countries."

5. Impact Activities

The impact activities included beautifying the school campus by painting 16 lampposts, delivering postcards in the community with an encouraging message of gratitude, and distributing 40 packages of food and essential items to people in need. A group of Croatian young men particularly enjoyed distributing food to the community in a nearby town. But they noted, "We liked distributing food in the community much more than the card distribution, because we could connect with people directly. Bobo Marceta, (Croatian Conference president) shared, "This congress is primarily important for the church in Croatia because we are a small church community in this country, and when we see such a huge number of young people present here, that encourages us personally, the community, and it revives us, giving us a feeling that we are a part of one bigger world community."

"How beautiful it is to worship God through singing together because the words and melody of these songs are so significant"

DAVID NEAL AND VANESA PIZZUTO, AUGUST 2024

PHOTOS: DAVID NEAL, VANESA PIZZUTO AND THE RISE UP YOUTH RETREAT MEDIA TEAM

¹Praise and Worship team members: Andrija Kovačević, Jakov Kovačević, Karolina Kovačević, Lana Tesin, Chanel Hadžiefendić, Lidija Didara, Petar Crnogorac, Filip Stojanović, and Davor Bratić.

DANILO PUSKAŠ, HEAD OF STUDENT LIFE AND CHAPLAINCY AT NEWBOLD COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GAVE A PLENARY SESSION PRESENTATION CALLED 'THE AIR OF THE SECOND LIFE'





PHOTO: JAMES BOTHA

It takes a team – TED staff working side by side at the European Pastor's Council, Belgrade, Serbia, August 2024. From back row (left to right): Patrick Johnson, Nenad Jepuranović, Róbert Cszmadia. Middle row: Rodrigo Chimello, Anna Papaioannou, Dean Papaioannou, Geraldine Hankin, Anthony WagenerSmith, Ian Sweeney, Kevin Johns, Judy Plaatjes-McKie, Kayle de Waal. Front row: Candy Layson, Antoinette Hall, Viera Duda, Daniel Duda, Vanesa Pizzuto, Heli Otamo-Cszmadia, Karen Holford, Emma Stickland, David Neal, and Michele Thompson. Not pictured, Marcel Ghioalda

OUR STORY OF GROWTH 2020 -2025

Robert Cs Cszmadia, TED Executive Secretary

It is told that the famous mathematician Paul Erdős once attended a party. Someone asked him, "So, have you met my child? He's three and already doing sums!" Erdős nodded politely and replied, "Yes, yes, but is he producing proper theorems yet?" Many times, we perceive numbers as given, dry and boring. However, this short report aims to demonstrate that they indeed convey a captivating story. By exploring the statistics of the Trans-European Division (TED), we seek to uncover the divine work and grace that lie beneath their numbers. As of Q1 2025, the TED comprises 92,591 members across 1,407 churches and companies. These believers represent a 1:2276 membership-to-population ratio, according to the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. They are organised into 11 unions and three fields within 28 countries and territories, serving an estimated population of 208 million people, who speak 29 unique official languages. The vibrant makeup of this field is the reason why cooperation and mutual respect are essential among its people and entities. This has its own challenges, but we find help from God, the greatest Servant of the universe, who demonstrates a community of love of three persons. It's incredibly

encouraging to witness God's presence and His very essence in action during even the simplest of committee meetings.

Grow Lifelong Disciples Together With All Ages

Compared to the starting numbers in 2022, we added 4,084 new members - a 4.61% growth - , indicating a recovery after the slight membership loss during the COVID -19 years. While long-term data shows a slow, albeit steady, growth for the TED, it's still greater than the population growth. This trend tells a tale of our societies: ageing populations and a low birth rate. The general welfare, secularism, and post-Christian cultural status make it a challenging mission field. Despite the challenges, the number of baptisms has been steadily growing, doubling in the last five years. God doesn't give up on people, regardless of their circumstances or upbringing. He always loves and cares, and so should we. In order to reach European people with their unique mindset and cultural heritage we need to understand them and contextualise the Bible message and our mission methods.

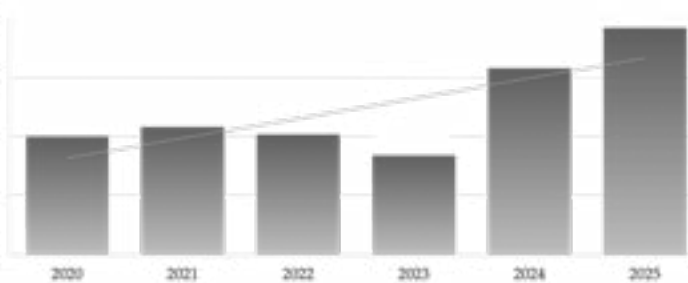
Multiply Communities in People Groups and Places

The number of established churches has been mostly plateauing in the last decade with limited emergence of new churches or worshipping groups. This highlights the need for enhanced church planting and replanting efforts, as new growth happens only at the tips of the branches. In the last three years, a deep longing for spirituality and community has been observed all over Europe, resulting in renewed effort in the TED to plant new congregations, especially among young people. The growing number of church plants, which have doubled in the last three years, demonstrates this new mission drive. Many of these specifically reach out to secular, post-Christian people. This initiative involves several hundred local church planters from every country of the Division. Together with missionaries from every continent of the globe, they started church planting cohorts and a mission laboratory dedicated to post-Christian outreach. We pray and hope that this will be a contribution and blessing to the mission of the global church.

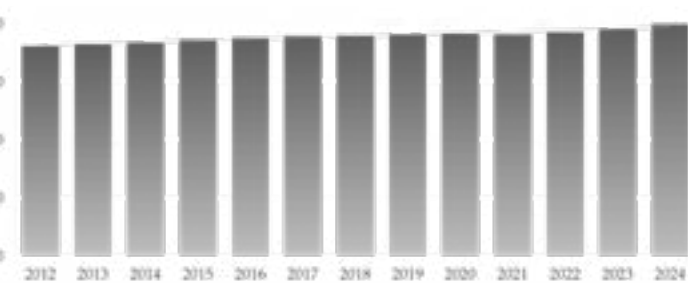
Extend Love to the Whole Person

The pace of additions by letter and profession of faith has accelerated at an unprecedented rate in recent years. If you ask around local churches, you will quickly find that behind some of these statistics there are often tragic stories. Our world has drastically changed, and these numbers represent the growing presence of refugees and migrants, besides the usual individual conversions. The TED is a loving, caring and inclusive community where our members turned their local churches into refugee centres in 2022. Several newly established congregations now serve our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, who are often joined in worship by Russian people. Many of our churches also support migrant families, including single mothers with young children, who have fled war-torn African countries or the devastating effects of global warming. Our members reach out to migrants and refugees, and in return, they are blessed with an assurance of God's love and grace, and gaining new brothers and sisters in Christ.

CHURCH PLANTS



MEMBERSHIP



BAPTISMS

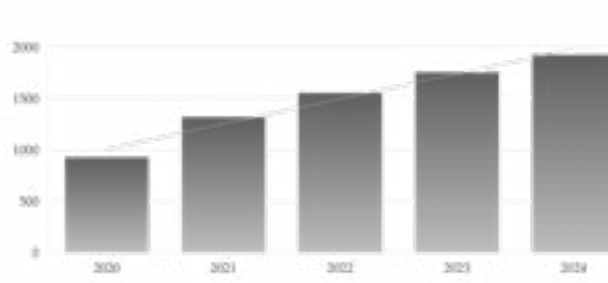


PHOTO: COURTESY OF NEC MEDIA



As part of the North England Conference (NEC) evangelistic strategy, the month of May was designated as a special period when all pastoral districts were encouraged to participate in a unified evangelistic drive. Evangelistic campaigns, seminars and special Bible studies were held in preparation. As a result, at the NEC Camp Meeting, on Sabbath, 1 June, NEC church leaders joyfully announced that 90 people were baptised, and another three joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through public profession of faith. "Much good work was going on in our Conference even before our unified evangelism drive, and much is happening now afterwards," commented Patrick Herbert, NEC Personal Ministries and Evangelism Director. "But we wanted to set aside a time when all our churches could come together and witness how the Holy Spirit would move... God be praised for the 93 souls added!" Herbert exclaimed.

Baptisms at Leicester Central and West

"Jesus Never Fails" was the theme song of the recent week of revival at Leicester Central and West Adventist congregations. The campaign, led by New York-based evangelist

Pastor Alban Francis, ran from 18 to 25 May, deeply moving attendees as the Word of God was shared. The Sabbath programme culminated in a double celebration as Pastor Francis had the privilege to dedicate his six-month-old nephew, Theo, in the morning, and baptise four new members in the afternoon. During the baptismal ceremony, ten more people expressed their desire to be baptised, leading to the organisation of another baptism in July. "We thank God for using Pastor Francis and all participants involved... We believe there's even more to come, because His Faithfulness NEVER fails," reflected local pastor, Michael Baker.

Baptism at Longsight, Manchester

On a bright and joyous Sabbath afternoon on 25 May, the church community gathered at Manchester Longsight Seventh-day Adventist Church to witness the baptism of four new members. The ceremony, led by Pastors Ikechi Ekpendu and Thando Mlalazi, was a heartfelt event marking a significant spiritual milestone for the participants. Each of the four individuals, dressed in blue robes symbolising inspiration and freedom, stepped forward to the baptismal pool with rever-

ence. As the pastors gently lowered them into the waters of baptism, the congregation joined in hymns and prayers, creating a profound sense of unity and celebration. The newly baptised members were warmly welcomed into the church family, where they will continue their journey of spiritual growth.

Baptism in Middlesbrough and Darlington

Months of Bible study preceded the NEC conference-wide baptism month. On May 11, two candidates from the Darlington Seventh-day Adventist Church were ready to commit their lives to the Master in a moving service. The candidates, who had been worshipping with the church community for some time, were warmly welcomed into the fellowship.

Similarly, on 25 May, nine wonderful young people from the Middlesbrough Seventh-day Adventist Church said 'yes' to Jesus. In the presence of their peers, families, and the wider church family, they were baptised in a rather emotional ceremony. "It is always heart-warming to see our youth committing to walk with Jesus publicly in such times as

these," commented local pastor, Paul Millin.

Baptisms in Sheffield Manor New Start

Four people were baptised, and one joined the Church through profession of faith on 25 May at the Sheffield Manor New Start. "I'm delighted to share this good news. God be praised!" expressed local pastor, Paul Jayaraj.

Baptisms in Leeds and York

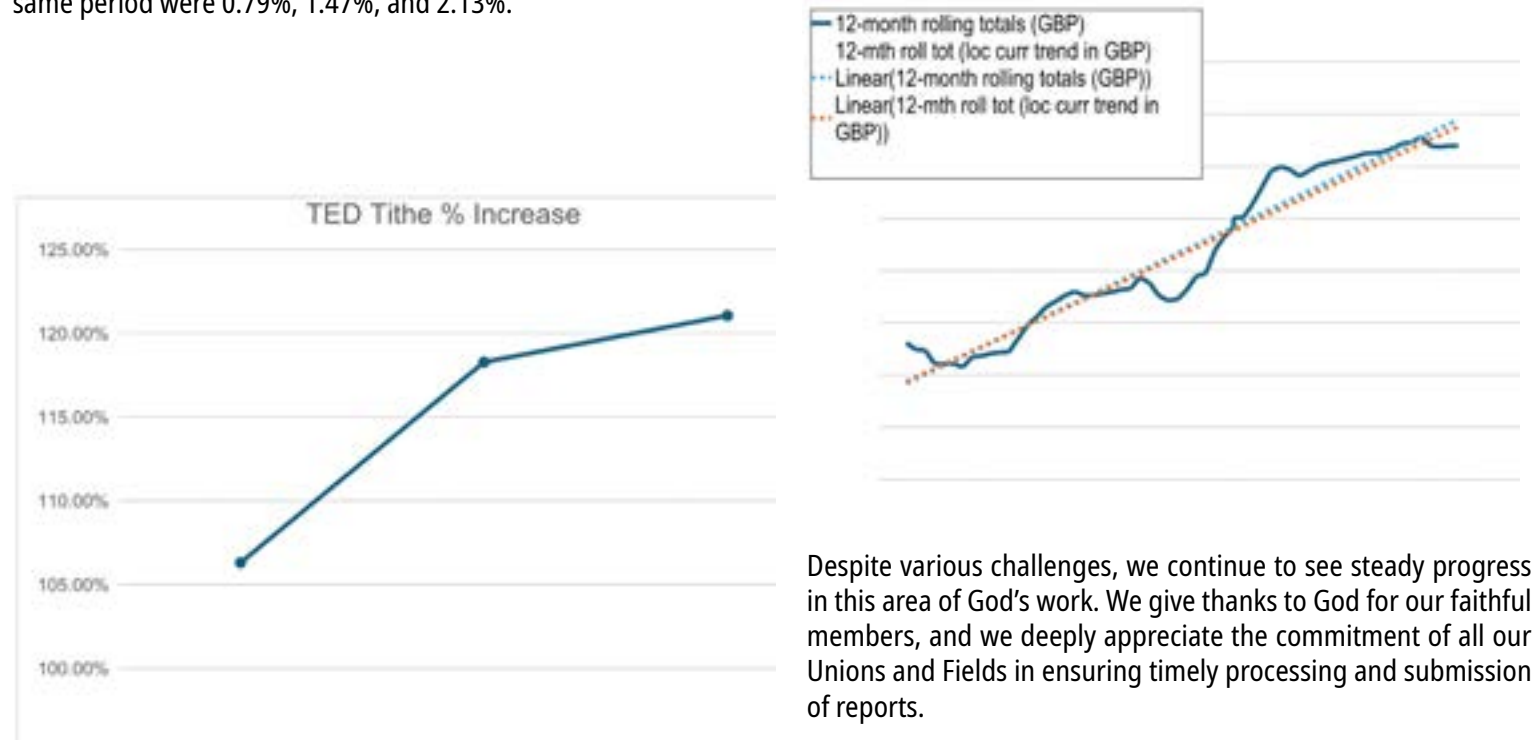
After a two-week online series entitled "A Revelation of Hope", led by district pastors Frederick Nti-Mensah and Sergio De Sousa, a baptism was held at the Leeds Central Church. With special participation of the former NEC President, Pastor George Kumi, and also Pastor Herbert, the baptism ceremony was a moving celebration as 21 people gave their lives to Jesus. Among these were several Pathfinders, and the NEC Pathfinder director, Pastor Ikwsa Mwasumbi, along with the British Union Conference (BUC) Pathfinder director, Pastor Kevin Johns, present to welcome them into the fellowship

OUR STORY OF FAITHFULNESS 2022-2025

Nenad Jepuranović, TED Treasurer

Over the past three years, tithe contributions have grown by 6.30% in 2022, 11.27% in 2023 and 2.35% in 2024 respectively, compared to the previous year. This pattern reflects a broader global trend. The increases in 2022 and 2024 were actually below the UK's annual inflation rates, while 2023 was the only year in which our tithe growth outpaced inflation. The tithe growth was greater than the increase of membership. The membership growth rates for the same period were 0.79%, 1.47%, and 2.13%.

Below is a presentation of the 12-month rolling tithe, displaying the trend in both GBP and local currencies. Over the past five years, there has been a consistent upward trend. However, while local currencies continue to rise, the GBP has begun to plateau, suggesting the impact of fluctuating exchange rates.



Despite various challenges, we continue to see steady progress in this area of God's work. We give thanks to God for our faithful members, and we deeply appreciate the commitment of all our Unions and Fields in ensuring timely processing and submission of reports.

STAY CONNECTED. FOLLOW US NOW.

REACHING SARAJEVO THROUGH BOARD GAMES



Daniel and Kristina Soldat emphasised that the relationships formed through this ministry are not superficial but deeply genuine

At the European Pastors Council (EPC), Anthony WagenerSmith, Adventist Mission director for the Trans-European Division (TED), introduced the mission feature for the evening. He

brought to the stage two passionate individuals from Bosnia: Daniel Soldat, a pastor, and his wife, Kristina. The newlyweds, who had been married for just three months, shared their unique approach to ministry in the city of Sarajevo. Their initiative, fittingly named “Roll & Play,” uses the simple yet effective medium of board games to foster relationships and build a spiritual community. What began with a couple of posts on Facebook and Instagram, inviting locals to join them in playing games, has now grown into a vibrant community, with over 90 members in their WhatsApp group and an Instagram page that regularly garners thousands of views. The response has been overwhelming.

PHOTO: TOR TJERANSEN, ADVENTIST MEDIA EXCHANGE CC BY 4.0

Each week, participants gather from seven to eleven in the evening, eager to engage in games, laughter, and meaningful conversations. Soldat shared how this initiative has allowed them to connect with people from all walks of life, including those from Muslim backgrounds. The ministry has expanded beyond board games to include hiking and reading groups, creating a network of individuals who support one another and share in each other's lives. Soldat emphasised that the relationships formed through this ministry are not superficial but deeply genuine. It has allowed them to cultivate spaces for deeper discussions about faith, God, and the Adventist Church.

JOE PHILPOTT WITH TEDNEWS, AUGUST 2024

HELPING HAND CENTRE OFFERS HOLISTIC SUPPORT IN CROATIA

In the ancient coastal city of Pula, Croatia, a unique ministry centre is transforming lives through free health, emotional, and spiritual care. Since opening its doors on 9 May 2021, Helping Hand has become a trusted refuge for individuals seeking restoration - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The project was born in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. “COVID was a trigger point because we realised everything was changing. People were very lonely, even angry...” explained Dr Lidija Godina, a former social worker and lecturer now serving at the centre. “We were really worried about it and decided to turn our worries into action by helping people with their [physical] health, mental health, and spirituality.”

Backed by the Trans-European Division (TED), Adriatic Union Conference, Croatian Conference, and the local Pula church, Helping Hand reflects what's possible when mission-minded institutions collaborate. Today, a committed team of professionals operates in this 3,000-year-old city, offering a space where compassion and care converge.

According to Pastor Mišo Havran, Health Min-

istries director for the Croatian Conference and founder of the initiative, the centre's uniqueness lies in its blend of health and spirituality. “I think we offer a great health message, a spiritual message, and prayer too. We combined them together and opened this centre,” he said.

While the centre is unapologetically Christian, it respects personal choice - prayer and spiritual workshops are offered only to those who seek them. This sensitive approach has helped build trust across the local community, opening doors that might otherwise remain shut.

From the beginning, the challenges were clear. Those walking through Helping Hand's doors often face addictions, broken relationships, anxiety, or deep emotional wounds. Yet again and again, they return with stories of healing and hope. “People say this is exactly what they needed. Some call us angels, which we are not. But we are doing our best to support them, and we are especially thankful to God for the opportunity,” shared Godina.

The vision for Helping Hand is rooted in a Gospel-centred desire to care for the whole

person. Though not everyone who comes to the centre becomes a church member, the seeds of faith are quietly planted through love in action.

The strategy reflects the broader TED-wide commitment to innovative mission models - those that step outside traditional formats to meet people where they are. Helping Hand doesn't require a sermon to preach the Gospel; it does so through meals shared, wounds listened to, and burdens lifted. This is incarnational ministry in its most tangible form.

For the team involved, the rewards are spiritual as well as practical. “It's beautiful to see people start trusting again,” said one volunteer. “To see someone walk in with their head down and leave with a smile - it reminds us why this work matters.”

As church leaders across Europe seek to engage post-Christian cultures, Helping Hand offers a compelling model: one that embraces wholistic healing as part of Gospel proclamation. It reminds us that church planting and evangelism in today's context may begin not with a tent or a sermon, but with a helping hand.



PHOTOS: MIŠO HAVRAN

People in the community feel incredibly grateful and blessed, shared Mišo Havran

VANESA PIZZUTO AND DAVID NEAL, APRIL 2023

HISTORICAL BAPTISMS IN CYPRUS

PHOTOS: LYUBOMIR VLADIMIROV, MANASSEH MOREM, LUCIAN BRAGUTA



Branslav Mirilov (centre) with from left to right: Stefka, Anna, Sasho and Angel



Ellenique and Jeroen with the family



Eleven new members were added to the Limassol church

MARICA MIRILOV, JUNE 2024

On Wednesday, 17 July 2024, shortly after writing this inspiring report, Marica Mirilov passed to her rest after a sudden and short illness. Her legacy lives on through every One Year in Mission and Service (OYIMS) volunteer who serves in Cyprus.

Twenty people were baptised in the Mediterranean Sea in June 2024, marking one of the most significant moments in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cyprus. Ranging in age from 10 to 75, the new members represent a 15% growth in the Cyprus Region's membership, but the impact runs far deeper. The event, held near the archaeological site of Amathunda beach in Limassol, was a vivid testimony to the Gospel's power to transform lives—young and old, migrants and locals, fashion professionals and refugees.

Faith, Fashion, and a New Beginning

Among the first to be baptised on 1 June were Ellenique van Vliet-Chrysanthou and Jeroen van Vliet, a Dutch-Cypriot couple successful in the high fashion industry. After fourteen years searching for purpose, they found meaning in Scripture and the call to serve. “I pray every day that God sends people to me who need to hear about Him,” Ellenique shared. “I want to be equipped with Bible knowledge... and see people in Heaven, God-willing.” Jeroen added, “I want to learn to listen to the Lord... to discern His voice from mine.”

From War to Worship

On 15 June, 18 more individuals were baptised, including Olga and Iurii Pasenik, a Ukrainian couple who fled the Russian-Ukrainian war. Now living in Cyprus, they found not only refuge but a spiritual home in the Limassol Adventist church. Iurii, a retired hydroelectric engineer, was baptised just days after his 75th birthday. Olga, a former cultural coordinator in Ukraine, prayed that the Holy Spirit would keep them close to Christ and one another.

Their journey reflects the region's growing diversity and the Adventist Church's role as a spiritual family for displaced people.

A Son's Prayer Answered

Sasho Velkov Stoyanov, a Bulgarian migrant worker, had become ill after years of substance abuse. His son Mario, already a baptised Adventist, longed to see his father give his life to God. On 15 June, Sasho was well enough to be baptised. But what moved Mario most was that his mother Anna and aunt Stefka also chose to be baptised that same day.

Adding to the joy, Angel Traichov Dimitrov, a young man who had recently married into the faith, was also baptised, joining a vibrant Bulgarian group of believers in Cyprus.

A Family Transformed by the Word

Dr Pallavi Morem, a woman of Hindu origin with a passion for prayer and Bible study,

was baptised alongside her teenage son Nivedh. During the same service, her husband, Divine Sabbath Manasseh, was welcomed into membership by profession of faith. Their story speaks to God's call to entire families, echoing the ministry of Paul—who once served in Cyprus himself.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38–39)

Refugees Find Rest in Christ

Ernest Akochere (Cameroon), Cyiza Monique Tumukunde, and Deborah Icyeza (both from Rwanda) also sought spiritual shelter and fellowship after arriving in Cyprus. Through baptism, they confirmed that Christ is their Rock—and that the Church is a place where they feel “accepted and validated.”

When Angels Dance: Eight Young Pathfinders Baptised

The final group of the day included eight Pathfinders who chose to follow Christ, even at personal cost. Valentino Vladimirov, the youngest, is a gifted footballer but decided to prioritise faith over matches held on Saturdays. His sister Ramona has already participated in the Pathfinder Bible Experience twice, reflecting a deep dedication to study.

Stefini Storer, a gifted musician, serves with her father at the Nicosia church, continuing a spiritual legacy from Sri Lanka. Others, like Davyd Tyryshkin, Angelo Braguta, Rosella Goufoti, Emmanuel Mirilov, and Nivedh Morem, bring unique gifts to their local churches and a contagious joy to their faith communities.

A Father's Tears and Heaven's Joy

The emotional high point came when Dr Branslav Mirilov, president of the Cyprus Region, baptised his own son, Emmanuel. With heartfelt words echoing across the shoreline, he confessed, “Son, I was not always the best father, but it is my privilege to bring you to this point to give you to the perfect Father.”

There were tears of joy, resounding amens, and hallelujahs as each baptism reminded those present of the grace and faithfulness of God.

In one month, twenty people from different cultures, ages, and backgrounds entered the waters of baptism in Cyprus. Their stories are as diverse as they are powerful, but they share one message: the Gospel is alive and calling people home.

STAY
CONNECTED.

FOLLOW US
NOW.

A BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE



Hello, my name is Veljko Smakić, and I work as a Literature Evangelist in my home country of Serbia. Recently, I've had profound experiences witnessing the Holy Spirit touching the hearts and minds of the people I connect with through the books I sell. But before I share that, let me tell you how the Holy Spirit has influenced my own journey.

VELJKO SMAKIĆ & MIRJANA VUKASOVIĆ,
MARCH 2024



My Journey

Four years ago, I knew nothing about God and absolutely nothing about what it meant to be a Seventh-day Adventist. That changed one day while scrolling through my Facebook feed, where I stumbled upon a quote attributed to Ellen White. It resonated deeply with me, almost like medicine for my soul. Intrigued, I began following that particular Facebook page. A few days later, the administrators of the page, who were church members, announced a 'Book Giveaway'. For whatever reason, I responded quickly and it wasn't long before I received a copy of 'The Desire of Ages' in the mail. As I read through the pages, my thirst to understand God grew stronger with each chapter.

Eager to discuss the book, I reached out to the Facebook administrators. They invited me to meet up with them and to attend Sabbath worship. After a year of getting to know my new friends, I gave my heart to the Lord and became a Seventh-day Adventist.

But That's Just the Beginning!

That's the essence of my conversion story, but it's merely the beginning of my journey! I felt the first prompting from the Holy Spirit while reading 'The Desire of Ages'. But the Spirit did not stop there. He invited me to enter into a deep relationship with God. After that first book, I read extensively and became convinced that readers can meet Christ through the pages of inspired books. Motivated by this conviction and wanting to share Christ, I connected with Literature Evangelists in the South East European Union Conference (SEEUC). Just months after my baptism, I went on my first solo mission to Montenegro during the summer season, witnessing remarkable success by God's grace. When the summer season was over, I felt led to distribute free books in front of the Belgrade City Hospital and Spa Centre with a group of church members. Every Sabbath afternoon, we shared books with the local community, until the colder winter months arrived, and it was a profoundly moving experience.

Currently, along with the pastor of a nearby church, I'm mentoring two members of my church to become Literature Evangelists. The transformative power of the Holy Spirit through literature is undeniable, and I'm convinced it's contagious!

"It's A Revival Through Prayer" Says Mirjana Vukasović

As staff members at the Serbian Publishing House and Printing House (Eurodream), we recognise the importance of staying closely connected with Literature Evangelists and church members involved in literature outreach. Understanding their needs and challenges while visiting homes, businesses, and schools is paramount. For this reason, every Tuesday morning a small group gathers for an inspiring Zoom meeting to review the past week's experiences, share blessings, and discern God's guidance for the future. Above all, we pray fervently for Literature Evangelists, church members engaging in book distribution, and every reader impacted

by our literature. Through these meetings and prayers, we've witnessed a revival in missionary literature work across the SEEUC. As depicted in the accompanying photos from the past year, churches have actively participated in book-sharing initiatives at various local events, distributing literature multiple times in many cities and villages. These endeavours have delivered beautiful spiritual experiences and successes, demonstrating God's mighty power.

We are grateful to God for His protection and guidance in the literature ministry! In Belgrade, Serbia, we are blessed not only with an Adventist publishing house but also a printing facility that provides literature and materials to support the needs of Literature Evangelists and churches. Witnessing inspiring books change lives is a tremendous blessing. Thank you all for your prayers!

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MIRJANA VUKASOVIĆ, AND VANESA PIZZUTO, ADVENTIST MEDIA EXCHANGE, CC BY 4.0



ONE YEAR IN MISSION AND SERVICE - A BOOMING MINISTRY

The day prior to Newbold's 2024 graduation ceremony, Vanesa Pizzuto sat down with graduand Victoria Afolayan for an insightful conversation about healing, female pastors, and God's unwavering faithfulness.

VP: What made you decide to become a Newbold student?

VA: Well, I first came in as a part of the One Year in Mission and Service (OYIMS) programme. I was studying nursing when I heard about OYIMS, and I thought "okay, as soon as I finish, I want to do that." The timing worked out, God just kind of ordered it all together. I finished my nursing programme in January and started OYIMS, and I thought, "I'm only going to do it for one year, and then I'll go back to doing nursing." That was the plan!

Where did you go on your mission trip?

I went to Cyprus, and stayed there for almost seven months. We were hosting fitness classes on Tuesdays, and Bible studies on Thursdays. And then each Sabbath, we would usually help and support the worship services, preaching, and helping with Sabbath School. This would be followed by a fellowship lunch where members and friends would meet and eat together.

It wasn't long before we started running English as a second language classes for a group of Ukrainians and Russians of whom many do not have a Christian background, which meant that they saw Christianity through us. Our relationships became so strong that when it was time for us to leave, many of them said, "we'll miss you" or they would give us small gifts. God has been so good through that experience!

You are not working as a nurse now. So, what changed after you returned from Cyprus?

I returned home to Ireland, and took time to reflect and understand the decisions I was about to make. I really wanted to know what God was calling me to. During that time, Pastor Atte Helminen invited me to speak at the Finnish Union Teen Summer Camp. It was the wildest and most amazing experience! I was quite nervous while preparing the message. I was thinking, "Who am I to do this? Who knows me? I am a stranger!" But I felt God would use whatever He placed on my heart, even if no one knew me.

I spoke about connecting with God in a personal way. And how his love impacts the way we connect with others. Atte asked me to do an altar call. But because my message was translated, I was not sure if it would make an impact. But Atte asked me to share part of my story, my testimony.

As the music began to play, and while the camp counsellors moved to the front, I made the call – not just for baptism, but for those who also wanted to renew their relationship with God. I had no idea if anybody would respond, and I remember I had this moment in my head with God where I just said,



Victoria (centre) with members of the Finnish Union summer camp team

'Even if nobody gets up I know that I've done what You called me to do.' I surrendered the response to Him, and then all of a sudden, many young people started running towards the front. It was like an avalanche, and they were all standing there. I was so shocked!

I think this experience helped to seal my professional direction. So, I made the decision that I wanted to return to Newbold. It helped me see that God was leading me and this was not an idea I was just making up.

Tomorrow is your graduation, Victoria. You've finished your Graduate Diploma in Biblical and Pastoral Studies. Congratulations! What is next for you?

Next is a Master's degree which I will be starting in September, praise God. There is a lot of financial support from the Trans-European Division (TED) to make it possible – and I'm grateful to have sponsorship for my studies, because otherwise it could be a bit intimidating financially. There is also plenty of support, especially for women.

How has your experience at Newbold changed you? How has this journey made an impact?

It has changed me emotionally; I feel like it has been healing. Knowing God's love and realising that He likes and desires the very best for us, that He desires us to be happy in

what we are doing, and that He experiences joy when we do, has changed me. It's been powerful. I think I have more peace at heart and in my mind as well now.

Are you the first pastor in your family? How does your family feel about your new professional journey?

I grew up in an Adventist family and from a very young age I was interested in church and Bible study. I was very active from the beginning. When I was about ten years old, or younger, I asked my dad, "What if I become a pastor?". But he explained to me, "No, you are a woman. Women are not pastors. You can think of other jobs to do – to help out in the church." I felt incredibly sad when I heard this.

And there were all those texts about women being silent, and this made me more confused. I couldn't understand the context of the passages, so I thought I could not speak at all in Church. I tried to be quiet and I did not engage as much in church, because I wasn't really sure what to think of those texts or how to understand them.

By the time I was secondary school age, I was just like every other teenager, just kind of living and trying to fit in. I didn't really think much about the idea of becoming a pastor again. It wasn't until I was coming to my final years of secondary school that I started

thinking to myself, 'What will I do?' I thought maybe I'll become a midwife. Then my mum suggested I should do nursing.

During the Newbold OYIMS programme, I talked over the phone with my dad, asking him what he thought about women as pastors. I kept returning to the topic with him, because now I saw women studying theology and I was talking with lecturers too. One day my dad asked, "Why do you keep bringing this up? Is it because you want to do it?" He was not convinced it was a good idea and tried to persuade me against the idea. But eventually, God changed his heart, and now he is very supportive. Even when I get negative feedback he says, "Don't worry about them, just focus on what God is calling you to do."

That is a wonderful story! Thanks, Victoria. Do you have a final comment for those exploring studying at Newbold?

If you want to have a close-knit community where you can connect with other people who have similar beliefs, this is a great opportunity! You can serve, and grow, and learn from lecturers who are well established in their fields. You can ask questions about the Bible, that others may not be able to answer. It is a place to discover new perspectives and connect with God.

VANESA PIZZUTO, 2024



PHOTOS: VANESA PIZZUTO AND COURTESY OF VICTORIA AFOLAYAN

Victoria Afolayan, a One Year in Mission and Service student from Ireland, served at the Centre of Influence in Limassol, Cyprus

COULD THESE BE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH?

DAVID NEAL, JULY 2023
PHOTOS: TOR TJERANSEN

DAVID NEAL & VANESA PIZZUTO, FEBRUARY 2025
PHOTOS: JAMES BOTHA AND SANJA VRANCIC

As the year 1994 began, the singer, songwriter and composer Robin Mark became distressed after watching a ‘Review of the Year’ programme about 1993. The story of 1993 was a bad year for the world. Stirred by what he had seen, he summarised his feelings in the song known as, “These are the Days of Elijah”, a song which has been slow to catch on among Adventists. Strange, because its lyrics speak to the times as a song of hope in a world where the composer once wondered if ‘God was really in control’. As he began praying to God about the matter he explains, “I felt in my spirit that He replied to my prayer by saying that indeed He was very much in control, and that the days we were living in were special times when He would require Christians to be filled with integrity and to stand up for Him just like Elijah did, particularly with the prophets of Baal.”¹

The song has many lines which speak to the issues of our time – great trials, loss of confidence in God’s Word, and even an allusion to the consequences of global warming (now recently described as having moved on to ‘global boiling’), creating ‘famine, darkness and war’. But as Mark describes, resolution for our human condition and situation comes through ‘Righteousness being restored’, because “In Christ Jesus, you who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ”. (Ephesians 2:11-18 ESV) The response of those living in similar times to those of Elijah is to live as “the love of Christ compels us...” (2 Corinthians 5:14 NKJV).

Pathfinders and the Message of Elijah

At more or less the same time as Robin Mark was composing his song, Malcolm Allen became the 5th General Conference (GC) World Pathfinder director (from 1986 – 1996). Allen’s burden for Pathfinders was to invite them to take up the ‘Elijah Challenge’, which in summary at its core is to let God fill them with his love, because in these times:

1. The people on this earth need to see God’s love so badly.
2. They need to see examples of people who are not selfish.
3. They need to see examples of people who care about other people.
4. They need to see examples of people who are loyal to God.

As I joined in singing this song along with today’s generation of Pathfinders at the Trans-European Division (TED) 2023 Camporee, I was reminded of their calling with ‘A message to tell to the world’, and to experience a ‘truth that will set us free’. Also on my mind was the challenge given by GC Education director, Dr Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, at the TED Education Convention (running concurrently in Serbia 26-30 July) – for the Adventist teachers present to shape students to become champions for God’s new countercultural society.

Camporee Baptism



“And these are the days of harvest...”, says the line of the final verse with an illusion from the gospel of John. “Well, I’m telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what’s right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It’s harvest time! (John 4:35 Msg) And that’s exactly what Friday evening at Camporee felt like – witnessing ‘Righteousness being restored’, making disciples through the power and presence of Jesus. Watch the video!

Baptised into Christ and a Living Church

Stirring images of sixteen baptised Pathfinders! But this is a story which goes much deeper than the beautiful and stirring images of the moment. Because this is a story about the Holy Spirit who has prompted these young Pathfinder hearts and minds for weeks, months and even years to bring them to this point. Through parents, Sabbath School teachers, Pathfinder leaders, pastors, elders, and Adventist school teachers, comes a strong message that it takes a living church, the Ephesians 4 church, one that is biblical, worshipping, caring, serving, and expectant – to not only lead a Pathfinder to Christ, but help them maintain their relationship with Christ.



Sixteen Pathfinders Say “Count Me In!” Through Baptism at TED Camporee



Dejan Stojković, TED Youth and Pathfinder Director (2022–2024) and lead organiser of the Camporee, baptises a Pathfinder during the event

Pathfinders Respond to Authenticity



But the added dimension of camporee makes the difference, not just for those baptised, but for all the Pathfinders wrestling with spiritual matters. As stirring as the images in the video are – and they most definitely do stir, the message from the response cards to the evening messages of Adam Hazel demonstrated the Spirit to be clearly working, prompting, stirring and convicting Camporee Pathfinders. 252 Pathfinders decided to follow Christ. 133 request baptism at a time in the near future and 77 want to study bible. It takes someone with a gift and a personality where authenticity shines, to ably connect with children and teens between the ages of 10 and 18. His story is worth taking a few moments to view.

Worship Matters

If there’s one thing the church struggles with but needs to understand about this generation – it is that today’s praise and worship experience is multi-sensory involving music, lights, sound, and expression. And this was the tenor of the Camporee music, sensitively steered by a newly formed praise and worship team, mainly from the Netherlands, just for Camporee.

Providing a range of songs, of both traditional and modern genre, the team engaged the Pathfinders with songs for reflection and meditation, and at other times songs to which campers moved and cheered, raised their hands, and gave the Lord thanks and praise with everything they could physically offer.

The Drummer’s Story



Seen from a distance, it would be easy to conclude that the worship team members are incredibly good musical artists focussed on presentation and style. Nothing could be further from the truth as the testimony of the drummer Allard Nammensma illustrates.

“Every time I play those few short words of the song, “Behold He Comes, riding on the clouds, Shining like the sun, at the trumpet’s call”, that’s the moment when I look up above to the sky and imagine how it will be when Jesus returns for us to be with him in person as he promised. I look forward to that moment, and every time I do it gives me goosebumps. I feel this way, not least because there is a war on at the moment in Ukraine, with so many people suffering (there have always been wars in this world). Recently my family experienced a serious health issue (and we are quite young) but we are now fine thanks to the Lord. It is in moments like we’ve just been through, that I can’t help but focus my concentration on the Lord. Combine the world’s problems with our personal issues, and I have a deep longing for Jesus to return and renew this world from its present condition...”

The drummer’s testimony stirred and encouraged me. There is a poor stereotype with drums and drummers in the room, that the drummer and those singing along will somehow be ‘Adventist Christian lite’. The testimony says otherwise. The song says otherwise. The decisions of TED Pathfinders say otherwise.

My Takeaways From Camporee:

- Praise God as ever for every baptism and decision made.
- Those baptised and who have made decisions need our continued and focussed prayer.
- Will those who have made decisions, be followed up with excellent pastoral care and discipleship?
- As the Pathfinders return home, will they find a living expectant church community?
- To make Camporee successful involves excellent team building, teamwork, and team-care. The leadership of Dejan Stojković made that possible.

Today’s generation of Pathfinders think there is ‘No God like Jehovah’ and are not afraid to repeat it many times. Pray we do too.



In his welcome address, Daniel Duda challenged Gen Z to envision the incredible things God can accomplish through them

“It’s time we really connected with Gen Z,” said Vanesa Pizzuto early in 2024.

“What do you mean?” asked David Neal.

“I have a dream, all these young people from across the TED sharing authentic stories of hope and faith digitally...”

“Don’t we already help them do that at our annual GAIIn (Global Adventist Internet Network) conventions?” Neal replied.

“Yes and no,” said Pizzuto. “GAIIn conferences mostly attract professional media people - videographers, engineers, and filmmakers. And can be price prohibiting for younger generations...”

“Ah,” Neal mused. Then he added, “What about a GAIIn Gen Z event in the spring of 2025, on the campus of Newbold College of Higher Education?”

“Brilliant,” said Pizzuto. “And just for 18–29-year-olds. What I really want to do is create a ‘holy atmosphere’- something they can relate to and remember.”

“You won’t forget that, will you?” she added with emphasis.

Neal didn’t.



One of many voices at GAIIn Gen Z, Viktoria Giantzaklidou shares an idea



Laughter, lenses, and living for Christ - empowering Gen Z to share joy and faith through their digital devices

“THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT HERE” - THE SPIRIT OF GAIN GEN Z

Fast forward to the last weekend of February 2025. One hundred GAIIn Gen Z participants - the first true digital natives, raised with smartphones and social media, who learn, connect, and express themselves online - gathered on the campus of NCHE.

Among them was special guest and attendee Nicole Brown Dominguez, who travelled from North America and who offered a heartfelt reflection on her experience.

“We often think of a ‘holy atmosphere’ as a spiritual high - something that fades once the chairs are stacked and the goodbyes are said,” she shared. “But here, that atmosphere felt real and lasting.”

What made the difference, Dominguez explained, was the intentional design behind the event. “The engagement we experienced didn’t just happen - it was the result of thoughtful planning. “From the TED organisers to presenters like Kevin Wilson - known as ‘Chaplain Chai’ to a global online community of half a million, many of them non-Christian - and Dr Seth Pierce, a pastor, author, and podcast host, everyone played a part. Even the worship leaders extended a genuine respect to us as attendees.”

Between them, Wilson and Pierce unpacked three essential shifts every Christian content

creator must make in the digital age - calling for deeper authenticity, greater relational awareness, and a move from mere broadcasting to genuine engagement. They explored the power of digital storytelling, urging creators to begin with their own stories as a foundation for connection and impact.

Drawing from media theory, they highlighted key effects every communicator should understand, alongside timeless principles of persuasion and advertising that can serve the gospel well when used with integrity. Central to their message was The Burning Bush Blueprint - a compelling seven-part framework designed to help Christian creators build bridges through content that is both faithful and culturally resonant.

For many participants - most from smaller churches across the Trans-European Division - the opportunity to connect and share experiences was just as valuable as the weekend’s content. The programme offered a rich blend of theory and hands-on training, including podcasting insights with Nicole Brown Dominguez, YouTube development with Dario Kovačević, and the power of visual storytelling with Adrian Duré. This combination of thoughtful instruction and practical application gave attendees tools they could immediately begin using in their local contexts.

For Patricija Oberte, an Instagram enthusiast from Latvia, attending the GAIIn Gen Z event was more than just a weekend gathering - it was a transformative experience.

“The GAIIn event, thoughtfully organised for our generation, was a truly meaningful experience for me as a young content creator in the church,” she reflected. Before arriving, Oberte knew only a handful of youth engaged in digital ministry. But that changed quickly. “It was incredibly encouraging to see so many young people who are either already serving or interested in sharing God’s message online.”

Oberte believes that youth have a vital role to play in shaping the future of the church. Events like GAIIn Gen Z, she says, are essential in bringing together like-minded young people from around Europe. “They help us build connections and inspire us with new ideas on how to creatively and effectively share the good news of our gracious God.”

As Dominguez returned home back to the USA, she reflected, “GAIIn GenZ wasn’t about hype or emotional highs, but about creating a space where young adults felt seen, heard, and spiritually nurtured. There was something different here,” she said. “And you could feel it.”



A hundred voices of Gen Z—true digital natives, shaped by screens, stories, and streams—gathered at Newbold College, where connection, creativity, and calling came to life

10 ¹ The song ‘Days of Elijah’ was written by Robin Mark in 1995. He took inspiration from a sermon on the “valley of dry bones” from Ezekiel, to share God’s power to revitalise and change even the most challenging circumstances.

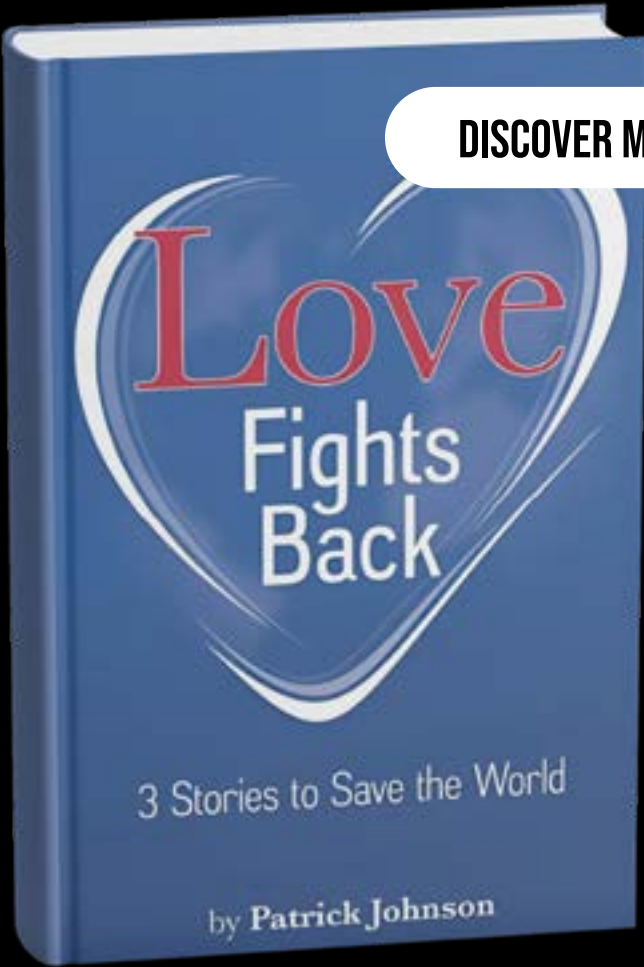
THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES: A LOVE STORY

God is love – we sing it, preach it, and powerfully proclaim it, but for some people the question remains: ‘Does God really love me?’ The unequivocal answer is an emphatic ‘YES!’ answers Dr Patrick Johnson, Trans-European Division (TED) Personal Ministries Director. In his book, *Love Fights Back*, Johnson provides a wonderful invitation to discover that the Three Angels’ Message is, at its core, a love story which is often misunderstood.

As we begin to study the Three Angels’ Message as a global Church, Johnson wisely invites us to consider some thought-provoking questions that can help us unveil biases and unlearn misconceptions: “What is God really like?” Do the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 show Him to be an angry, vengeful God, a God to be scared of? Or do they rather portray a God we can run to, a God who longs to protect us and save us . . . a God we can trust?”

To say that these are crucial questions, with eternal ramifications for our lives, is no exaggeration. For this reason, and to help us explore this topic in depth, Johnson is releasing a series of *Study Guides* and *Podcasts*. These free resources, designed for group and personal study, will be shared weekly on the TED website.

TEDNEWS, APRIL 2023



DISCOVER MORE



Patrick Johnson serves as the TED Ministerial Association Secretary



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PHOTO: DAVID NEAL
Commissioned by Alan Collins around 1970, this sculpture - depicting the Three Angels of Revelation 14 - is displayed on the wall of the TED office located in St. Albans, UK



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