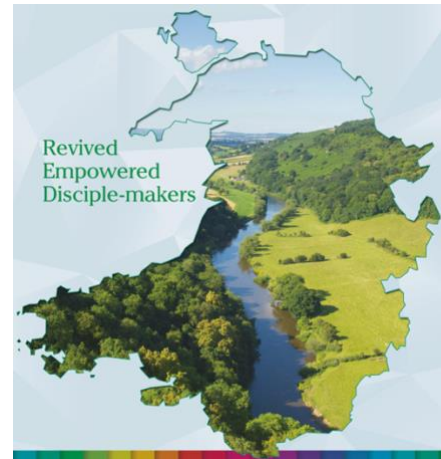




Welsh Mission President's report 4th quarter 2024



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

Strategic Objective #1 - Revived

Revived members and congregations



Crystal Knight, the Stewardship Sponsor for the Welsh Mission (WM), was very busy during the 4th quarter with visits to the Llandrindod Wells group, and Carmarthen, Rhyl and Newport churches. At each of these churches she preached a sermon from the Grateful Living series, dealing with Time, Truth, Talents and Spiritual Gifts and returning Tithes and offerings with a grateful heart. She shared PowerPoints for the children's stories which also had a stewardship theme. The I Promise Commitment cards were distributed so members could think about the different elements of stewardship.

Stewardship Revival Week took place from 30 November – 7 December. Cathy Boldeau, the British Union Conference (BUC) stewardship director, worked with the stewardship directors from the other entities, including Crystal, to produce some videos and podcasts. These videos were also endorsed by the Trans-European Division (TED). Crystal had the privilege of having video conversations with Dr Augustus Lawrence, BUC Personal Ministries Director, Lorraine McDonald, BUC Education Director, and Pastor Heli Otamo-Czismadia, the TED Stewardship Director.

Links to these videos have already been shared on the Welsh Mission Promo WhatsApp group but if anyone would like further information, please email Crystal at stewardship@adventist.wales.



The Focus magazine in December dedicated its theme to the topic of Stewardship under the title “*Living a Satisfying Life*”. Pastor Samuel Semakula contributed an article entitled: “*From exploitation to care: a call for environmental responsibility*” and Crystal’s



article dealt with the “*Eight Ts of efficiency*” from the Grateful Living series.

World Stewardship Day 7 December

Storm Darragh forced the closure of many of our churches, but the members of Llandudno Junction church were still able to benefit from the 8 elements of the Grateful Living series presented by Crystal via Zoom.

Women’s Ministries Retreat 1-3 November

The purpose of the annual Women’s Ministries retreat is for the ladies to focus on spiritual growth and enjoy fellowship together. This year the theme was “*Remembering to Remember*” with the speakers all coming from within the Welsh Mission – Pastor Adriana Fodor, Joanna Daniel, Shola Semakula and Erica Cameron. Twenty-five ladies congregated together at the Bessemer Hotel, Merthyr Tydfil, with an additional five joining for the Sabbath.



Several activities were done to enhance spiritual growth, with one discussion focused on Psalm 103:1-5. The questions were asked: How do we bless the Lord? Why should we bless the Lord? What happens when we bless the Lord with our whole soul?

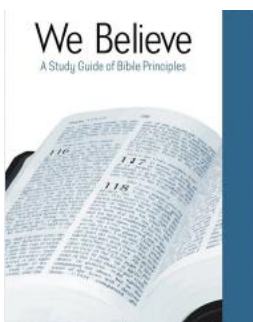
The ladies explored the promises of God, sharing favourites and displaying them creatively. A powerful activity involved a Timeline of each person's life which enabled the ladies to do some intentional, focused thinking on the major events of their lives where God had revealed Himself in mighty ways.

They prayed and sang together, and shared testimonies. New commitments were made, and a revived women's group left the retreat feeling reached, nurtured, empowered and equipped to make the changes needed for spiritual growth.



Bible studies

Pastor Lawrence Ofei has started a Zoom Bible study class on Friday evenings for the young people from the Telford Ghana and Wrexham churches. Topics studied so far include: *The main 3 things the Holy Spirit does; Laws of the Old Testament; A study on Evil Spirits; Jewellery, Tattoos and Attire*. The purpose of the studies is to galvanise the young people in both churches to engage with God and give them an opportunity to ask questions.



In Telford Ghana, Sabbath afternoon Bible studies and enrichment studies help members grow spiritually and confidently as active members, working to share the gospel in their sphere of influence. Pastor Lawrence Ofei has introduced them to the book "We Believe" and is involving the elders in teaching the lessons.

Don Chihwayi, a Newbold ministerial student, started his tenure at Cardiff Central with a plan to help start a youth church and support the new initiative of having a weekly afternoon Bible study for the church and youth service.

November Week of Prayer

Pauline, as the Welsh Mission Prayer Ministries sponsor, arranged for several Zoom prayer meetings, led by herself, some pastors and lay members. Attendance from across the Mission was good.

Swansea 85th anniversary celebrations



Despite the big storm and red weather alert, Swansea church members and friends from the local community came together the weekend of 6-7 December to mark 85 years since the Swansea members got their first church building. As well as remembering the past and those who laid the foundation, it was a time to acknowledge the present and express determination to raise future generations who love the Lord and work to see the gospel shared in Swansea.



Revived facilities



The Rhyl congregation celebrated the completion of significant refurbishment works during the 4th quarter. Extensive and costly repairs to the church's walls, grounds, kitchen, hall and vestry have transformed the premises into a modern, multipurpose facility. This upgraded space is now better equipped to serve both the congregation and the wider community.

A photo of the completed multipurpose hall

Strategic Objective #2 - Empowered members and pastors

Reflecting Hope Weekend 22-24 November

It was encouraging to see several members and pastors from across the Welsh Mission attending the Reflecting Hope Weekend in November, showing their commitment to reaching their communities for Christ. Pastor Adriana Fodor, as the Personal Ministries Sponsor, coordinated the report that was given for the Welsh Mission.



A more detailed report of the weekend can be found at:

<https://buc.adventist.uk/news/%E2%80%98equipping-disciples-for-mission%E2%80%99-reflecting-hope-training-weekend>

Videos from the weekend presentations and further resources can be found at:

<https://reflectinghope.org/sda/>

Youth Empowerment

Swansea church gives many opportunities for its youth to develop into future leaders. Two teenagers are members of the church board, and one of them is an elder in training. Members are very supportive of young people preaching and on 9 November, Hana Adamovic who is 16, preached for the first time,

Strategic Objective #3 – Disciple-Makers

Youth & Personal Ministries

On 9 November the Personal Ministries and Youth leaders and representatives from the churches met together for an Advisory meeting to discuss plans for 2025. The theme was “Mission Outreach Wales 2025 – Leading from the Front”. They looked at how to make disciples and how to reach out in their local communities.



On 9 November the Newport church Sabbath School department held its Guest Day. Members were encouraged to invite their non-SDA friends and family. Four new people attended, as well as a family of five who had been invited for the second time to church. This family are now part of the baptismal Bible study lessons. A fellowship meal gave the members an opportunity to get to know the visitors.

The Carmarthen Personal Ministries department organised a Discipleship programme presented by Pastor Daniel Ebenezer, the Associate GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director, on 23 November.

Swansea Breakfast Club



Every Thursday the Swansea Community Team serve a free breakfast to everyone who comes through the doors of the church. During breakfast time police and local councillors run their surgeries. Periodically, guest speakers present on various topics. After breakfast Jackie runs exercise classes for the elderly.



Raising Funds for Charity

Swansea church member Eduardo Jesus participated in a 24-hour challenge during November to raise money for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre. Eduardo did 24 hours of cycling and running, raising around £2,000.



Llandudno Junction church has been blessed to have several students with musical talents who actively contribute to the church's worship and outreach initiatives, including a concert held on 2 November to raise funds for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA UK). This event not only showcased the talents in the church but also raised nearly £300 to support ADRA's transformative work in health, education, livelihoods, and emergency response worldwide.

Pathfinders and Adventurers

Cardiff district Pathfinder clubs were invited to take part in the Remembrance Day service and parade in Swansea. Accompanied by the drum Corp, the Pathfinders marched alongside the ex-soldiers and community residents. This was an opportunity to be a witness to the many local people of God's loving grace.

Cardiff district Pathfinders conducted an outreach programme in the city centre of Cardiff. Both churches came together with the drum Corp to march from Cardiff Castle through the town and give out tracts and meet and greet the shoppers. The Pathfinders were able to give words of encouragement to several people.



On 30 November, Newport Pathfinders and Adventurers had their annual banquet with 14 Adventurers, 17 Pathfinders and 10 youth helpers in attendance. Sister Chipo and Amanda Ndebele did a fantastic job of transforming the youth hall into a banquet hall for the children. The children and youth came dressed in beautiful outfits and were served the meal by the youth helpers, thus giving the youth an opportunity to be of service to the children.

Presidential matters

Regional Day of Fellowship and Gift Aid Consultation – West Wales

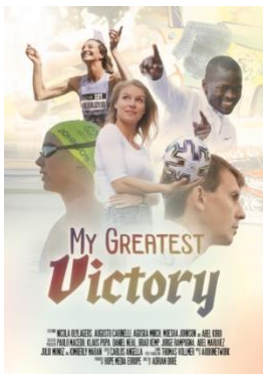
On 12 October the WM Officers attended a regional day of fellowship in Swansea for the west Wales churches. In the afternoon they presented about Gift Aid and the proposed change to the use of the Gift Aid tax return. This was followed by a Q&A session.

New website <https://wm.adventist.uk/>

In November, the BUC and its various entities launched new websites which are user friendly for non-Adventists. Pastor David Mano, in conjunction with Paula Carillo, the BUC IT Director, spearheaded the work for the Welsh Mission website, assisted by Pauline. Hearty thanks are due to David and Pauline for the many hours they spent ensuring the website was ready to launch.

GAIN Europe conference

Pastor Adriana Fodor, travelled with Pauline and me, to the Global Adventist Information Network (GAIN) Conference held in Budva, Montenegro in



November. A highlight of the conference included the launch of *My Greatest Purpose*, a global Seventh-day Adventist church project exploring life's purpose, made possible by partnership with Hope Media Europe. The initiative includes three documentary series, a narrative film, and an upcoming book, developed over two years by media centres and church entities worldwide.

<https://mygreatestpurpose.org/>

Adventist Mission in Orthodox Cultures

Pastor Adriana also accompanied Pauline and me to the *Adventist Mission in Orthodox Cultures* conference held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria during November. This was the first of its kind. Through various presentations and discussions, we explored ways to connect with those from Orthodox cultures, building bridges to enable us to share our Adventist doctrines in a contextualized and sensitive way. Pastor Adriana comes from an Orthodox background

<https://ted.adventist.org/news/adriana-fodor-my-story/> and has recently baptized a Romanian lady in Carmarthen who was also raised in the Orthodox faith. Three of the presenters at the conference were Adventist pastors who were formerly Orthodox priests so they were able to share some deep insights into how we can more effectively witness to those from an Orthodox background.

Further information about the conference can be found at <https://ted.adventist.org/news/adventist-mission-in-orthodox-cultures-conference/>



Farewell to Pastor David Mano

At our pastors and sponsors December Christmas meal, we bade a sad farewell to Pastor David Mano who is returning as a pastor to his native country of Portugal. David joined the Welsh Mission in January 2022 and has served the North Wales churches for 3 years. We wish him God's blessing in his new pastoral role.

Graham Allcock
Welsh Mission President