

NEWLIFE SDA
CHURCH, NAIROBI

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THE NEWLIFER

A Publication of Newlife SDA Church, Nairobi



Chosen for Mission

How various departments of the church are getting involved in winning souls for Christ

FROM THE EDITOR



Jason Nyantino - EDITOR

Chosen for Mission

This edition of *The Newlifer* celebrates the hope that is a function of God's matchless love. As you read it, a large slice of your attention will be drawn to the visit by the General Conference President Pastor Ted Wilson and his wife Nancy earlier this year. The three-week African tour saw the GC President visit Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo to familiarize himself with the operations of the church in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa. He prayed for rain and encouraged Christians in Africa to let their focus remain on Jesus Christ. To spice this up, we have rich experiences shared here about the recently concluded Newlife SDA Church's 2023 Vacation Bible School program for our children, dubbed "Mission Safari".

Around the world, and Kenya is not an exception, Christian families face myriad challenges. Parenting issues, separation or divorce, pressure at work or school, unemployment and financial problems, illness or disability of a family member, death of a family member, alcoholism, drug and gambling addiction, to name but a few, have wormed into the family home. This was the focus during the Newlife SDA Church's Family Life Week of Prayer presided over by Pastor Elizabeth Mokoro. Read how she encouraged families in Adventist churches always to put God first if they have to successfully confront contemporary spiritual, social and economic challenges facing modern society. To crown it all on matters family, there is an eye-opening piece by one

of our church members on what the Kenyan law says about formalizing your marriage. You don't want to miss that.

As is tradition, our menu is not complete until we get down to a one-on-one discussion with a key church member. This time round, Pastor Paul Mawutor from Ghana, shares interesting insights about his family and ministry. It will be interesting to know what he makes of Kenyans as he smarts from conducting a successful 3-week evangelical campaign in Newlife SDA Church that saw dozens wade into the baptismal pool. A moving narration from one of our young professionals who joined her colleagues for an Easter retreat is the icing on the cake as we prepare for Christ's second coming.

In every crisis in the Bible, when people trusted in God, He honoured their trust and provided for them. Read about Newlife's indefatigable Adventist Women Ministry and what they are doing in schools and prisons taking the message of mercy to a fallen and rebellious world not forgetting the impressive drive by our church's Public Campus Ministry into our universities and colleges. The Children's Corner is still alive and kicking in this edition with activity-driven Bible stories and incredible action displayed by our children during the Induction Sabbath. But you will find the show-stopper on the health and nutrition page where interesting things have been said about the watermelon fruit!

Have an interesting read.

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THE MISSION OF SAVING

SOULS IN PRISON

Scores of Inmates Give Their Lives to Christ as 2023 Newlife Prisons Ministry Camp Meeting Ends

By The Newlifer News Team



Dozens of inmates from Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Prison have been baptized after Newlife Church's week-long Prisons Ministry Camp Meeting ended.

The 198 inmates who were baptized on the camp meeting sabbath are all members of Newlife SDA Church's 750-strong Prisons Sabbath School under the stewardship of Elder Bernard Manani.

The baptism was conducted by Newlife SDA Church's

Senior Pastor Jacob Akali, Pr. Samuel Mwangi (KNH District) and Pr. Kennedy Ombati (Prisons Headquarters) as guest choir from Karura SDA Church ministered to the congregants with great tunes.

"It is amazing to see nearly 200 inmates giving their lives to Christ during this year's camp meeting. I am humbled. It is my prayer that when they leave prison, they will carry on with the mission of saving other souls," Manani told *The Newlifer*.

"This year's camp meeting has been rigorous. Besides daily sermons, we undertook several activities with the inmates such as devotion, bible

Camp
devo
and C

study, health, prophesy and Christian ethics. I thank Pr. Polycarp Nyang'au, Pr. Samson Onyancha, chaplain Dickson Yego, elders and deaconry for putting in their best," added Manani.

While presiding over the divine hour, Pr. Samuel Mwangi reminded the inmates, who turned out in large numbers to listen to his sermon, that they must do something deliberate to receive Jesus Christ in their lives.

"Salvation is free, but it is not cheap. We must all keep the

my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words".

Pr. Mwangi went on to speak about how God chose King Saul but he ended up being rejected by God because he disobeyed Him.

"Your background doesn't matter. When the Lord says, it will happen and that is why Saul who hailed from Benjamin's clan which was the smallest, became King," he said.

In 1 Samuel 9: 21, Saul doubts the Lord's call to become king. He says 'But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin?'

He was likening the inmates' current situation to that of Saul. Pr. Mwangi encouraged them that they could be destined for big things when the Lord says so. But he urged them not to go against God's will like Saul did.



meeting activities included: prayer, bible study, health, prophecy and Christian ethics.

"The Lord's commandments to enjoy His kingdom's fruits," Pr. Mwangi thundered.

Citing John 14:15, where Jesus talks about the consequences of disobeying the Lord's commandments, Pr. Mwangi urged the inmates always to follow what the Lord commands them to do and the Lord's favour will come their way.

In the said verse, Jesus says, "Those who love me will keep my word, and

6 *////////// The Newlifer*

In 1 Samuel 13: 13-14, Samuel rebukes Saul after he disobeys God's commandment symbolizing the consequence of rebellion:

"That was a fool thing to do," Samuel told Saul. "If you had kept the appointment that your God commanded, by now, God would have set a firm and lasting foundation under your kingly rule over Israel. As it is, your kingly rule is already falling to pieces. God is out looking for your replacement right now."

"Let us always embrace God's commandments in totality so that salvation comes our way," Pr. Mwangi concluded paving the way for the

baptism of promising young souls.

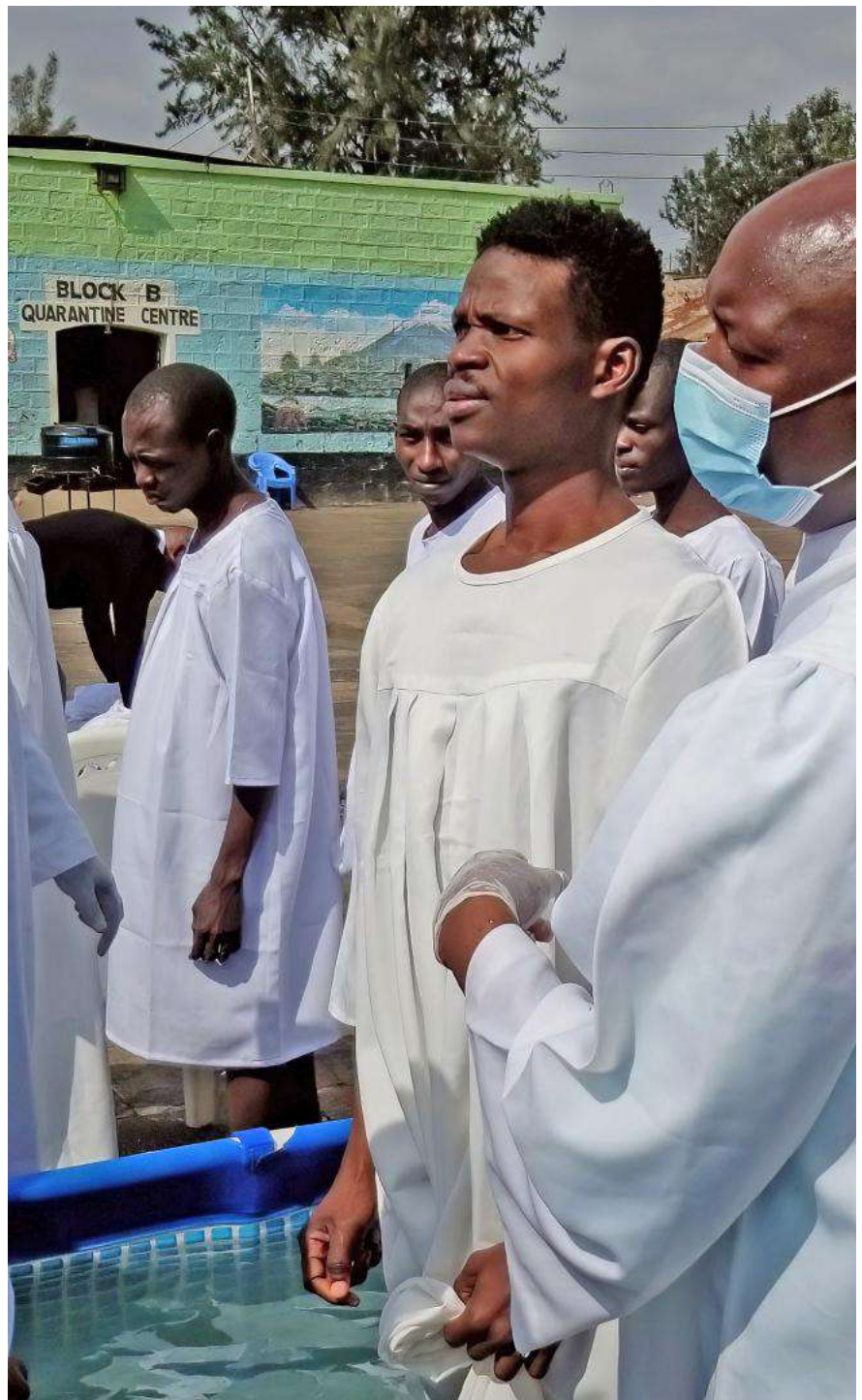
Wycliffe Mogeni, 40, was all smiles as he came out of the baptismal pool. He told The Newlifer that Newlife SDA Church gave him a family during difficult days. He confessed that prison is the only place where you get the Lord's word 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a scenario he says has worked to his advantage.

"I not only want to share the positive message of Jesus Christ to others, but I also want to continue with what Newlife SDA Church is doing so that other inmates can benefit," said Wycliffe, a member of the inmates' choir.

For Daniel Njenga, 36, who heads the baptismal class in the correctional facility since his baptism in 2022, he can't wait to finish his sentence.

"I have been incarcerated here for 6 years and I have another 2 years to go.

***I sincerely thank
Newlife Church.
Before I came
here, I was a
nobody, but
Newlife gave me a
life.***



But since Newlife SDA Church came into my life here in prison, I am yearning to train as a pastor to save other youth getting lost out here,” Daniel recounts. Indeed, the pastors and church elders mentoring Daniel confirmed to The Newlifer that upon completing his sentence, he is headed to Bugema University, Uganda, to study Bachelor of Theology.

“I sincerely thank Newlife Church. Before I came here, I was a nobody, but Newlife gave me a life. When I

leave here, God willing, I will visit the church to thank the members,” a cheerful Daniel concluded.

The Newlife SDA Church Sabbath School Nairobi Remand & Allocation Prison was incepted in 2012 to evangelize and support the inmates to lead more productive lives after prison as committed Christians. So far, this ministry has ministered to over 5,000 inmates; out of this number, about 2,000 have been baptized.



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Hundreds of Children Drawn Closer to Jesus Christ

Vacational Bible School is a fun-filled Christian program where children learn about the Bible through fun, age-appropriate activities.

MISSION SAFARI

By Jason Nyantino

Hundreds of children recently experienced the grace and glory of Jesus Christ as they embarked on Newlife SDA Church's 2023 Vacation Bible School program, dubbed "Mission Safari". Over the six-day program, nearly one thousand children participated in activities designed to instil God's grace, compassion, mercy and love in them, focusing on becoming committed Christians.

Themed after the story of Paul as narrated in the book of Acts and other Biblical references, the children experienced the life-changing Grace of God as exemplified in the life of Saul of Tarsus, who was later transformed into Paul by God's amazing grace. The program was divided into sub-topics that included "Meet the Man Saul", "From Saul to Paul", "Paul a new friend", "Paul the missionary", and "Paul Pays the Price".

Mrs Mary Nyarega, the VBS deputy leader at Newlife church, explained that the program was broken down into learning stations, including a





Safari Temple station for Bible study, a Safari Park station for games, a Safari Food kiosk for snacks, and Safari Workshop for crafts. Junior youth and high schoolers aged between 13 and 18 had special classes, including Music and Meditation stations.

Several activities were incorporated to ensure that the children revealed God's image of grace, including community service in Nairobi's Kamiti Youth Correctional Training Centre, a luncheon for the high schoolers for social empowerment, healthy choices empowerment on topical issues affecting young people, and learning about God's grace through food, games, and crafts activities.

Debby, one of the children in the Primary class, shared her experience, saying, "Sin is evil because it hardens a person's heart. I look forward to another VBS next year." The program also had positive feedback from the teachers. Teacher Peruce Nyang'ara, who handled the Primary C class of ages 8 and 9, said, "Our children are interested in learning about God and are very inquisitive. Their role models are we, the teachers".

On the last day of the program, the sermon focused on how Paul was cheered, comforted, and grateful for God's wondrous provisions for him in heaven after a life he described as "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the

faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Mrs Nyarega reiterated that VBS is an exciting way for children to learn about God's love for man and that it ensures that children understand that they are not less human in the kingdom of God. She urged parents to sign up their young ones for VBS, saying it is a powerful tool for reaching out to children for Jesus. "We look forward to a time when all children will attend VBS whether the parent/guardian can afford it or not," she concluded.



Getting involved in the end time work

“God has chosen certain people like the Biblical Joseph, Esther, Daniel and others, to lift the vision of a country.”

Pastor Wilson and his wife Nancy were accompanied to the State House by senior government officials led by Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo, former Chief Justice David Maraga, Chairman Geothermal Development Company Walter Nyambati, among other leaders.

Local Adventist church leaders led by President of East-Central Division Pastor Blasious Ruguri, President of East Kenya Union Conference Pastor Samuel Makori and President of West Kenya Union Conference Pastor Samuel Misiani were also present in State House.

He also paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Nakuru County Susan Kihika whom he described as a vivacious person.

“I thank the Governor of Nakuru County, Honorable Susan Kihika for the warm welcome in her office at City Hall. We felt honored by the incredible welcome we received from her,” he said.

He thanked all political leaders and other Adventist leaders for supporting the church in its mission to prepare the people for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

USE YOUR POSITIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

GC President Tells Local Leaders

By Jason Nyantino

The General Conference President Pastor Ted Wilson has told local political leaders to use their positions to serve the Lord and mankind.

Pastor Wilson, who was on a recent tour of Africa, specifically thanked President William Ruto for being a God-fearing leader who puts God

first as he leads the people of Kenya.

“It was a great privilege to be hosted by President William Ruto in State House Nairobi upon our arrival from Zambia. He was so gracious in allowing us time to be with him,” the GC President said, adding that State House Nairobi is one of the nicest places he has seen in his entire life.

“I thank all our members of parliament, security chiefs, and other leaders for your spiritual influence. Please use your positions to the glory of God,” he told the congregation in Nakuru’s ASK showground, urging them to pray for our leaders.

“God has chosen certain people like the Biblical Joseph, Esther, Daniel and others, to lift the vision of a country. Please be guided by the holy scriptures in Micah 6 verse 8 which says the Lord has shown you what is good. He requires you to act justly, loves mercy, and walk humbly with Him,” Pastor Wilson told Kenyan leaders.

The Nakuru ASK showground service was attended by several political leaders such as Homabay Senator Moses Kajwang, Ruaraka Member of Parliament Tom Kajwang, and immediate former Kisii Senator Prof Sam Onger, among others.



‘In a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize’

‘Run the spiritual race to get the crown from our Lord Jesus Christ that will last forever’ - Pastor Ted Wilson

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS CHRIST

By Jason Nyantino

Christian faithfuls across Africa have been urged to keep their eyes on Jesus Christ and His truth as they face their time’s social, economic, political and environmental challenges.

This was the main message Pastor Ted Wilson, the General Conference President, delivered in several African countries during his recent tour of Africa.

Accompanied by his wife, Nancy, Pastor Wilson asked all Christians in the African continent not to take their eyes off Jesus Christ and the wonderful word of God, which is the Bible.

“Athletes take time to practice. They focus on the finish line. They don’t look behind lest they lose the race. Like those athletes, let us all be focused on serving the Lord,” the GC President told a mammoth crowd that welcomed him in ASK Showground in Kenya’s fourth largest city, Nakuru, on Monday, 6th February 2023.

He reminded Christians that they should run the spiritual race to get the crown from our Lord Jesus Christ that will last forever. He drew

Pastor Ted Wilson Tells Africa



the inspiration of his sermon from 1 Corinthians 9: 24-25, which says:

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get one that will last forever.”

Pastor Wilson hailed the East-Central Division led by Pastor Blasious Ruguri for taking the total member involvement campaign to a new level.

“The East-Central Division of our church has over 5 million members, the highest in the world, and now you want to double your membership by 2025. I want to say here that I will be part of this magnificent initiative to serve God,” he said, reminding the East Africans not to be distracted.

“Let us be united in the spirit of the church. Don’t be distracted by other people’s opinions. Don’t allow tribe, creed, or race to divide you,” said the President of the Seventh-day Adventist church with a message that we should not only prepare ourselves but also rally others back to the call of God.

The Adventist church global head said that the devil has a mission of distracting Christians from serving the Lord. Still, God wants us to take charge of our lives despite the socio-economic and political challenges facing the world.

Pastor Wilson demonstrated that no one ever trusted God in vain. He told the SDA faithful drawn from the East Kenya Union and West Kenya Union Conferences that whenever you battle for the Lord, prepare yourself for great things.

“It is marvellous to see you turn up in large numbers to worship God on a Monday. What a wonderful



“Let us be united in the spirit of the church. Don’t be distracted by other people’s opinions. Don’t allow tribe, creed, or race to divide you.”

opportunity to be part of God’s church. I pray that God sends rain on the continent of Africa,” an elated Wilson said, calling for God to intervene to end the long spell of drought that has ravaged several parts of Africa, including Kenya.

His wife Nancy told the worshippers that coming back to Africa to worship the Lord is always wonderful.

“There is something very special in Africa that you need to share with the world,” Mrs Wilson told the masses in Nakuru.

Pastor Wilson thanked the President of East-Central Division, Pastor Blasious Ruguri, the President of East Kenya Union Conference, Pastor Samuel Makori, the President

of West Kenya Union Conference, Pastor Samuel Misiani – who were all present in Nakuru ASK Showground – and all other church leaders and faithful for the warm welcome they had accorded him and his wife, Nancy.

“I also thank our Master Guides, Pathfinders, the possibilities ministry and other church faithful who welcomed us, not forgetting our great choirs who have sung powerfully to the glory of God,” he said.

The three-week African tour saw the GC President visit Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo to familiarise himself with the church’s operations in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa.

GOD IS WORKING

Pastor Ted Wilson Praises ‘The Newlifer’ Magazine

By the Newlifer News Team

General Conference President Ted Wilson has described The Newlifer magazine as a fantastic piece of work that will make a significant contribution to the furtherance of God’s work.

While delivering his sermon to thousands of Adventist faithful in Nakuru ASK showground during his recent tour of Africa, Pastor Wilson hailed the work done by the Newlife SDA Church in preparing people for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

“I was given a beautiful magazine done by Newlife SDA Church in Nairobi. It has a photo of baptism on the front cover,” Pastor Wilson said as he lifted the second edition of The Newlifer.

“This magazine demonstrates that every local church needs to be driven by the wonderful understanding that God is working in a marvelous way to bring about the conversion of His people,” he said.

The Newlifer magazine was handed over to Pastor Wilson by Pastor Samuel Makori, the President of the East Kenya Union Conference, where Newlife SDA Church falls.

Newlife church’s Senior Pastor Jacob Akali hailed the Newlife Communications department for flying the flag of the church high.

“I commend the communications department in our church for doing a fantastic job producing The Newlifer magazine. Getting a special mention by our GC President is no mean achievement. We are very proud of

that recognition as a church,” Pastor Akali said.

Newlife church’s Elder Paul Wangai also echoed Pastor Akali’s words for the fantastic work the communications department had done to catch the eye of the General

Conference President.

“The communications department in Newlife has made us proud. Keep up the good work,” Elder Wangai observed after watching Pastor Ted Wilson’s Nakuru sermon, which was beamed worldwide by Hope Channel Kenya and other media outlets.

Now in its third edition, The Newlifer, a bimonthly publication of Newlife SDA Church Nairobi, is issued every three months in print and electronic formats. Designed to be a strong pillar for the church’s evangelism mission, The Newlifer is expected to build the capacity of Newlife SDA Church as it ventures into new avenues of ministry through literature evangelism.

God is working in a marvelous way to bring about the conversion of His people



WHO IS PASTOR TED WILSON?



Photo courtesy of Review & Herald Publishing Association

Wilson was born in Takoma Park, Maryland on May 10, 1950 to Neal C. Wilson (GC president: 1979–1990) and Elinor E. Wilson. He and his wife, Nancy Louise Vollmer Wilson, have three daughters (Emile Louise, Elizabeth Esther, and Catherine Anne) and eleven grandchildren.

Wilson's education includes his receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree (religion and business administration) from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University); a Master of Science degree (public health) from Loma Linda University; a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (religious education) from New York University.

Wilson began his church career as an ordained minister in 1974 as a pastor in the Greater New York Conference and later as assistant director and director of Metropolitan Ministries there (1976–1981).

He then worked in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division of the SDA Church (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire) until 1990, serving as a departmental director and later as executive secretary. After a two-year term as an associate secretary of the GC in Silver Spring, Maryland, Wilson became president of the Euro-Asia Division (Moscow, Russia), 1992–1996. After serving as president of the church's Review and

in Hagerstown, Maryland, he was elected a GC vice president in 2000.

At the 59th GC Session (2010) in Atlanta, Georgia, Wilson was elected to replace Jan Paulsen as president of the GC. He was re-elected at the 60th GC Session (July 3, 2015) in San Antonio, Texas. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 61st GC Session (scheduled for 2020) was postponed until 6–11 June 2022 and held in St. Louis, Missouri, where Wilson was again re-elected for another five-year term ending in 2025.

During his presidency of the GC, Wilson has been engaged in various denominational controversies over biblical, theological, political, and lifestyle issues, including the writings of Ellen White, creation-evolution, spiritual formation, last-generation theology, the ordination of women in pastoral ministry, and human sexuality.



YOU WILL NEVER GO WRONG WITH GOD

Christian Families Are Told

‘In the modern world, everyone has their standard of morality. The Christian family has taken a see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil stance...’

By The Newlifer News Team



Families in Adventist churches in Kenya have been urged to always put God first if they have to successfully confront contemporary spiritual, social and economic challenges facing modern society.

This was the clarion call during Newlife SDA Church’s Family Life Week of Prayer, presided over by Pastor Elizabeth Mokoro. Armed with the theme ‘Stand, See, Ask and Walk’, Pastor Mokoro was worried that the modern Christian family set-up had become a source of concern.

“In the modern world, everyone has their standard of morality. The Christian family has taken a see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil stance and this has multiplied sin in the world today, causing a lot of confusion,” the articulate and straight-talking evangelist told over 5,000 congregants at Newlife and hundreds of online viewers.

Urging Christian families to mainstream God in all their plans, Pr Mokoro told congregants that they should not compromise the stand of God no matter the circumstances.

“The misery and desperation we see in our families demand that we now go back and ask ourselves what God’s plan was in the beginning. Time has

come to stop everything and ask ourselves if we are on the right track,” she thundered as she based her sermon on Jeremiah 6 verse 16, which says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls”.

She said that the path the modern family has chosen

‘In the modern world, everyone has their standard of morality. The Christian family has taken a see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil stance...’

has so much emptiness, which is not working especially for the children. Parents should therefore stop at the crossroads and ask themselves hard questions in line with the Biblical teaching in Jeremiah 6:16.

“If your finances are in ruins. If your parenting is not yielding fruits and the children are difficult, take a break and analyse the situation. Tie the knot and hold on,” Pr Mokoro continued advising parents that they should not make hasty decisions when things get touched. Instead, they should take a breath and reflect, seek God and their families will be saved.

“Many parents are making hasty and harsh decisions blindly because they are following the so-called majority. They are so selfish that they don’t even care that they have children

to bring up,” she said, citing the underlying consequences of this approach as captured in the book of Jude 1 verse 7 which says:

“And don’t forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and served as a warning of the eternal fire of God’s judgment”.

Pr Mokoro told parents that with the challenges facing our children as they grow, they must talk about sex and sexuality to their children.

“Let us face the harsh reality. Cases of homosexuality and lesbianism are increasing among Adventist children in Kenya. Let us intervene and invite God to reign supreme in our families,” Pr Mokoro advised with a rider that the responsibility of developing a fire-proof character in our children squarely rests on the parents.

“When pushed to a corner, a responsible parent will take time off and re-look at the prevailing circumstances knowing that our help only comes from God,” Pr Mokoro quipped.

“Why do we stress ourselves because of each other’s weaknesses? Ra-

chel was beautiful but with no children whereas Leah wasn’t as beautiful as the sister but was blessed with children,” She reminded her audience that we all have weaknesses and no one has it all.

As Pr Mokoro concluded her week-long sermons on the need to strengthen the modern Christian family, she told parents that families would continue to suffer until they deliberately welcomed God’s intervention.

“We must purpose to do His will. Not just walk in it. You will never go wrong when God is in charge of your family,” she concluded, alluding to Psalm 121:1-2 which says: “I lift my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth”.

Pastor Elizabeth Mokoro is a Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor serving as an Administrator in the West Kenya Union Conference. An eloquent and charismatic software engineer by profession, she has become a source of inspiration to several young people on matters of family and marriage.



Communication Department Urged

**Utilize
Your
Full**

POTENTIAL

**for God's
Glory**



WE HAVE A MISSION

by Lenin Were

The Newlife Communication team has been urged to prayerfully and diligently discharge its duties of communicating God's word to the world.

Delivering a sermon during the Newlife Media Ministry retreat at the Nairobi Club on March 11, 2023, Lynnette Otworu said that at the time when Covid-19 ravaged the world, the church fully handed over its services to the church's media and communications team.

Mrs Otworu, an evangelist and lecturer at the Kenya School of Government, reminded the media team that the church's communication goes beyond live streaming and that if the crew fully embraces its duties as required, other church departments will not be overburdened.

"Can a visitor locate Newlife SDA Church from Kenyatta National Hospital or from town? Is there proper signage within the church? Who manages the church's notice boards and do you even know what's therein?" She challenged the communications department.

"I have also observed that printing of church workers' tags has solely been left to deaconry," she added, reminding the communication department that they should be



at the centre of all branding and communication needs of the church.

Reading Matthew 28:19, she reminded the team that it may not be possible to physically travel across the world in a bid to make disciples of God's Kingdom, baptising and teaching them to obey the commandments of Jesus. However, God, in His wisdom has provided an online platform by which His precious people are reached and ministered to.

She commended the church for coming up with the Newlifer magazine to report on its mission and activities adding that the quality attracts many to reading it hence meeting Christ through the print media.

'...when Covid-19 ravaged the world, the church fully handed over its services to the church's Media and Communications team'

The Studio Pulpit

The team was also reminded to use one special studio pulpit that the church has.

Speaking to the Newlife SDA Church media crew, veteran TV Journalist Laban Cliff Onserio said the Newlife SDA pulpit has been built to the TV studio standard and this should be for God's glory.

Laban however, observed that the pulpit remains unutilised the whole week urging members of the church in liaison with the Newlife media team to take advantage and create good Adventist content that will win souls to Christ.

"Christian poems, narratives, skits and Bible trivia for both children and adults can be considered and the content be uploaded on tik tok and reels to advance God's Kingdom," he said.

It may not be possible to physically travel across the world in a bid to make disciples of God's Kingdom, baptising and teaching them to obey the commandments of Jesus. However, God, in His wisdom has provided an online platform by which His precious people are reached and ministered to.

Laban revealed that as youth are busy dancing on tik toks, spreading hatred and creating explicit content, members of the church should look for ways and means by which to counter the worldly content in furtherance of God's work.

"Don't worry about the followers, heaven will rejoice over one who shall have watched and genuinely turned towards Christ," he concluded.

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By Moses Osani



TO THE WORLD

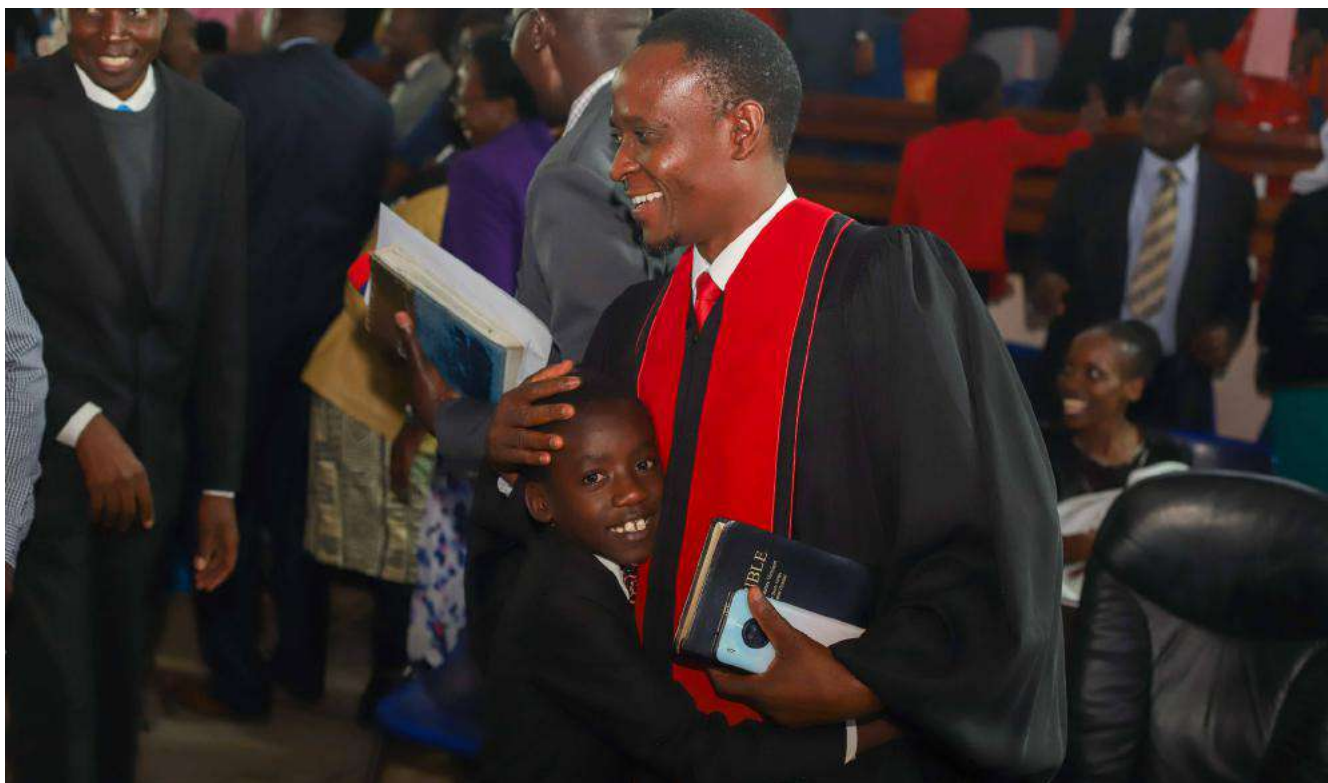


When the Evangelism department sat down to organize this year's evangelistic campaign dubbed Facing Eternity and invited Pastor Paul Mawutor as the main speaker, they probably did not know that the campaign was not going to be just another calendar event for the church.

Pr Mawutor wasn't just a preacher; he was an inspiration. He spoke fine Swahili with no West African accent to the amazement of many faithful. His pulpit humour effortlessly brought out laughter even from the stingiest church members. Moses Osani, The Newlifer's Managing Editor, sat down with Pr Mawutor just to find out what made him tick.

Pr Paul Mawutor's Evangelistic Campaign in Nairobi

'Facing Eternity' was a two-week Newlife SDA Church's 2023 evangelistic campaign which ended on 15th April, 2023 when hundreds of people gave their lives to Christ.



SOMETHING SPECIAL

IS IN NEWLIFE

Moses: You've been conducting this evangelistic campaign in Nairobi. Please tell us a little bit about it and the main aim of this campaign.

Pr Mawutor: Thank you so much. The title or the theme for this crusade, is Facing Eternity. The goal is two-fold. As we are waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ, how do we expand the kingdom? And for those who are already Kingdom citizens? How do we motivate them to work and put them in shape while they wait and work? So yes, we want to reach more souls so that they join the kingdom

and become disciples of Christ. But we also want to rejuvenate and motivate the members already in.

Moses: You have been here for three weeks now. What has been your experience?

Pr Mawutor: Fantastic. I've got a team that knows their work very well. They've got the skills and the passion. You talk about communication; you talk about the deaconate, you talk about the pastoral

team. Everybody in Newlife SDA Church is passionate about doing something. I mean, the experience has been fantastic and fulfilling. I look forward to having this experience again in the future.

Everybody in Newlife SDA Church is passionate about doing something.

Moses: How did you end up in Newlife for this evangelistic series?

Pr Mawutor: It is God's providence. There is a song that says anywhere with Jesus, I can safely go. That's my mission. So, I see this as God's invitation and Him wanting me to experience something new. It is God wanting me to come over here and be used by Him to win souls.

Moses: Is this your first visit to Kenya?

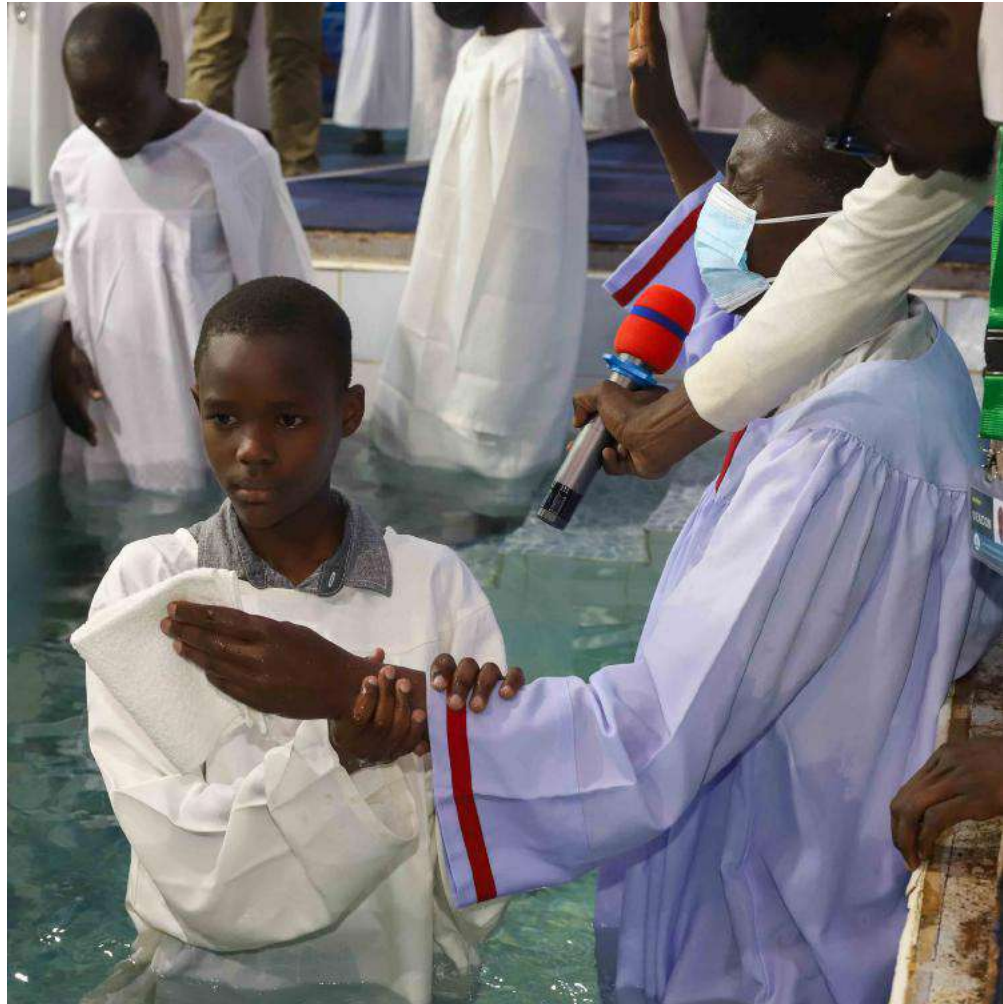
Pr Mawutor: No, no. Probably this could be the fifth time. I've been here as a student and as a chaplain at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, which enabled me to know and interact with many Kenyan cultures and peoples. I have friends here and I look at Kenya as my second home. I've got two families here that have permanently given me rooms in their homes.

Moses: What stands out for you in Kenya, given your experience and interactions?

Pr Mawutor: Three things. Number one, the passion for doing ministry. People here are thirsty for the word and this word must be taken to them. Your team, including the senior pastor, are very eager and passionate to do God's mission. Inviting someone like me from a faraway

37 people were baptized at the end of the 2-week evangelistic campaign that was attended by thousands of faithful.

I see this as God’s invitation and Him wanting me to experience something new. It is God wanting me to come over here and be used by Him to win souls.



land to come and support ministry is testimony to this fact!

Number two. I’m a vegetarian and your food here is amazing, especially the vegetables. Whoosh! I think that will keep me coming over and over and over again. If someone lives in Kenya and they have challenges being vegetarian, I don’t know where else they can succeed. I’ve lived in South Africa for nine years, but I can’t compare what they have with yours. Number

three. The warmth. Kenyans receive people so well. You don’t fear spending on guests and yes, you don’t discriminate. I feel very comfortable when in Kenya because of these things.

Moses: You talk about that passion for ministry and our Newlife SDA church has really grown to become one of the largest SDA churches in Africa with more than 6,000 members. What will you advise the church as far as ministry

150 people were attended to in the Medical Camp organised by Equity Afya & Gertrude’s Children Hospital while over 500 members collected TMI cards to use in personal evangelism targets.

and evangelism are concerned?

Pr Mawutor: I think you have formed a very solid foundation for ministry. And if you continue with what you are doing right now, I am afraid to say that probably your membership might triple in the next three to four years. Probably what you need to emphasize more is to break down the process of total member involvement (TMI), and empower smaller groups. The church should now focus more on the cell groups of even 5 members with goals to meet. Also, instead of expecting the entire 6,000-strong congregation to be in the church

‘Empower smaller groups. The church should now focus more on the cell groups of even 5 members with goals to meet. invite people to meet them in their homes and listen to the same message.’

auditorium every time a message is preached, the church members should organize themselves into groups of two to three and invite people to meet them in their homes and listen to the same message. With this approach, new souls will be brought to church. I am happy that your church is already thinking in that direction.

There is something else that I need to mention here. I like how Newlife church is taking ministry to the schools through the Chaplaincy ministry every Sabbath. I think you minister to about 12 schools in and around Nairobi city and these are all centres of influence where the Adventist church is being heard. Please continue doing these great things for the glory of God. I’ve also realised that your viewership numbers are very impressive

From Ghana with Love



globally. What you may not know is that even this coming Sabbath, many people may be baptised in their various churches around the world just because of this evangelistic campaign that we are doing here.

Moses: You have mentioned your home church. Tell us a little bit about your service in Ghana.

Pr Mawutor: I'm currently a pastor at Aflao Central Seventh-day Adventist church located in Ketu South Constituency of Volta Region. I am in charge of the Aflao District of Seventh-day Adventists, comprising six churches which are all under the Southern Ghana Union Conference.

the way you carry yourself around, the way you send messages, and so on has a bearing on how the word of God is received. This kind of environment motivates me because those who finally get converted to Christ are very dedicated to serve. They become Christians completely. In Ghana, especially in the southern part where I come from, voodoo is an everyday phenomenon. In this place, you are either a full Christian or devil worshiper. There is no middle line and this keeps people on their toes. They are always very prayerful and sincere with their faith because the moment you drift a bit, you find yourself on the wrong side of the devil. The people in my district

because I just enjoyed preaching. I fancied becoming a televangelist, radio evangelist, but not a full-time minister. I didn't like it. I saw pastors as poor people.

Based on a vision revealed to my family at birth that I should become a pastor, my mother would not let it go. She never accepted gifts from me when I was working as an entrepreneur. I had money, but my mother wouldn't accept any gifts from me. She said, 'You better become a full-time gospel minister then, you can give me money that is paid to you through tithe and offering that way I'll be happy'.

It is my mother's prayer that made me become a pastor today, together with support from my dear wife and entire siblings and elders who guided me while growing up.

I am married to Pauline. We've been married since 2001. We have three children, the first one is 20 years, the second one is 18, and our last one, probably until God decides to add, is 14 years turning 15 in September.

Moses: Anything else you would like to add?

Pr Mawutor: I want the world to learn from Newlife SDA Church, Nairobi. Just imagine where we have about 1000 churches across the world

operating the same way and taking the evangelistic mission to this high level across the world. Just contextualise what that would be.

I thank the Newlife Pastors, Pr Akali, Pr Nyanoti and Pr Aloo, for giving me this opportunity. I want to thank the elders, the departments and everyone who has made this possible. I just want to thank God for allowing me to be part of this ministry here in Kenya. God bless you so much.



Moses: What do you like about your ministry in your country, what really motivates you to do ministry each and every day?

Pr Mawutor: Let me begin with the district where I serve, which is about 40 to 46 years now. It is located in a place where the gospel is antagonistic to the culture, traditions and beliefs of the local people. So, for ministry to thrive there, one must put many things in place and

are also very warm. Ghanians are generally very warm people. You will be forgiven for thinking that Kenya and Ghana share grandfathers.

Moses: Tell us about your family and what drove you to ministry?

Pr Mawutor: Born an Adventist, I come from a very large family; 16 of us and I am the last born. When I was a youth, I wanted to be someone wealthy. I didn't like the idea of becoming a pastor

A FUTURE WALK WITH CHRIST

Why club membership is important for young Adventists

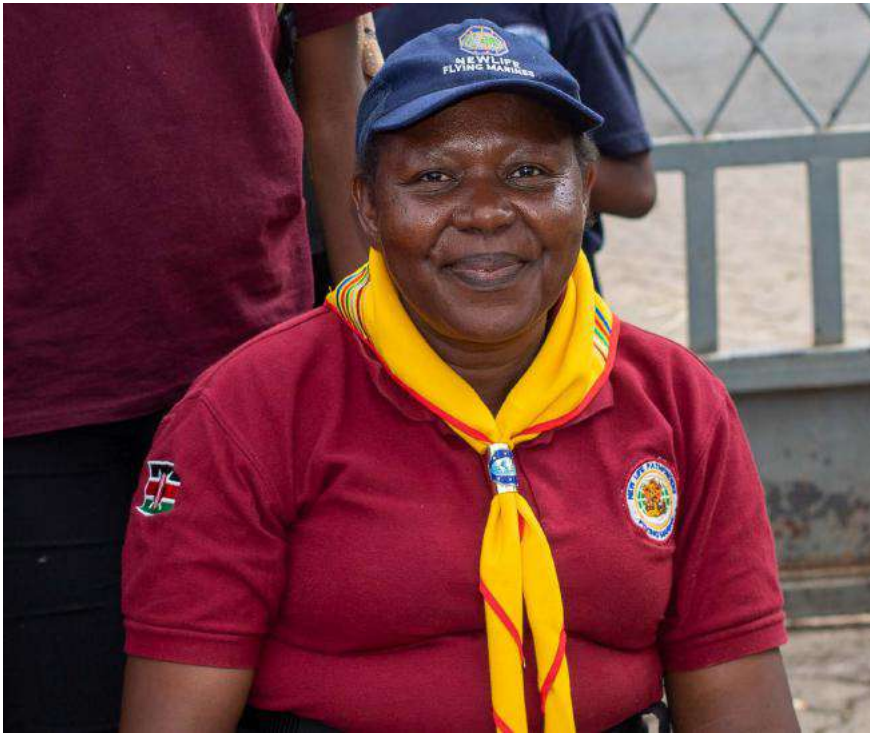
By Jared Ojuok

An interview with Jacynte Were, the Director 'Flying Marines' Pathfinders' Club at Newlife SDA Church.

The church compound is a bee-hive of activity. Adults and children alike are draped in parade dress uniforms complete with ribbons and badges signifying achievements accumulated over many years of dedicated service in the Lord's vineyard. The white shirt/blouse and the navy-blue trousers/skirt, burgundy scarf and navy-blue sash is the identity of the Adventurer. The Pathfinders, garbed in their trademark white shirt/blouse and green trousers/skirt, yellow scarf and green sash, are looking magnificent.

The youngsters are smart, confident and beaming with energy. It is a bright Sabbath morning; 11th February 2023 and there is a ceremony 'loading'.





SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

The ‘Flying Marine’ Pathfinders, the Adventurers, the Ambassadors, and the Young Adults Clubs of Nairobi’s Newlife SDA Church are lined up for the 2023 Clubs Induction Ceremony!

The Church is not only beautifully draped in the Youth Ministry colors of white, blue, green, grey, burgundy and gold, but the vitality of youth is seen in their disciplined marching. The air of expectation and excitement in the congregation is visible.

A smartly dressed lady with a broad smile is at the centre of these arrangements. She is teacher Jacynter Were, the Director, ‘Flying Marines’ Pathfinders’ Club at Newlife SDA Church. She is keen to ensure that everything goes as per the plan. The Newlifer’s Jared Ojuok approaches her for comments before she gets consumed in the day’s activities:

Elder Ojuok: What is the importance of the induction day to the Clubs?

Jacynter: The importance of the induction ceremony lies in the salient knowledge of enrolling a youth, especially the junior ones, into a life-changing program that will not only determine their future walk with Christ but also keep them alert and sensitive to their environment knowing that they are, but stewards and soldiers of Christ. Induction time is a great way of introducing, welcoming and admitting new juniors, teens, as well as adult staff into the local club membership.

Elder Ojuok: What are the preparations required to undertake the induction ceremony?

Jacynter: For a flawless, beautiful and successful program, much time and resources are invested into the preparation. The parents, instructors and club members individually and corporately play various roles: buying uniforms, registering club members, guiding and assigning roles, memorization of the roles as well as creating time for practice and a dry run of the program. Preparations also require human resources and items, including the



national flag, club emblems, flags, banners and accessories; candles in different shapes, heights, and colors, as well as refreshments to affirm the sweetness of the various programs in each club. In the main auditorium, balloon bouquets of different shades of colours decorate every pillar and every exit. At the pulpit, four mini portable flag poles stand erect, bearing the national Adventist Youth Society, Pathfinders and Adventurers’ Club flags.

Elder Ojuok: Why are candles essential in the induction ceremony?

Jacynter: It is not a must that

candles be used during the induction ceremony. Sometimes, the use of candles can be substituted with flags and banners.

However, the use of candles makes the induction ceremony more colorful. It helps the club members in memorizing the meaning of what the particular candle stands for, as well as the meaning of the club laws and pledge.

Elder Ojuok: What is the meaning of the pledge and laws in Youth Ministry clubs?

Jacynter: Just as every organization has a law by which it operates, each club of the Youth Ministry has laws that the club lives by. During the induction ceremony, high-ranking club members such as the Director, Deputy Director and Teachers who are mostly Master Guides, recite and explain the meaning of the law. By reciting and explaining the laws, the new club members who are either transitioning from one club to another or a class to the next being inducted into the club are made aware of the high standard, and rules that guide the club. The candidate being inducted must agree to abide by the club laws and agree to be guided by the said laws. Like the laws, a pledge is another code the club members live by. A pledge is an oath that upholds the club members' duty to God and their fellow man. It also makes the club member affirm their willingness to abide by the club law. Just like any oath, the pledge is not to be broken. The seriousness of the pledge and the club's laws is so serious that should any member fall out or leave the club, the uniform is to be returned to the club – because the member no longer wishes to abide by the laws and the pledge.

Elder Ojuok: What is the importance of discipline in drills and marching?

Jacynter: During the 2023 clubs' induction, the club members beautifully marched into and out of the church in a well-coordinated and orderly manner. Whereas marching is a very interesting, fun activity that promotes imagination, it essentially helps the club members be obedient, orderly and respectful. Drills also develop self-control and leadership skills in club members. The discipline acquired enables them to give orders, while having the humility of accepting orders and respectfully following rules and regulations as given by the Parade Marshall. Marching is one of the highlights of the induction ceremony. During the presentation of awards, the candidate beautifully marches and salutes the Director as they proceed with the assignment of the moment and salutes and marches back when complete; thus enabling the club member to have confidence and self-control while keeping them healthy physically, emotionally and spiritually.



SCALING SPIRITUAL HEIGHTS

By Rumona Apiyo

A young professional's journey with AYP: Three days at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro with the Adventist Young Professionals (AYP) of Newlife SDA Church



Three days at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro with the Adventist Young Professionals (AYP) of Newlife SDA Church was an experience of a lifetime! As a young professional passionate about Christ, I had been searching for a community where I could grow spiritually and connect with like-minded individuals. That search ended when I attended a dinner organised by AYP last year in October, and I knew I had found my safe space.

The subsequent meetings were nothing short of blessings, with each event designed to challenge us to grow spiritually and in all aspects of our lives. I will mention two speakers that struck me. The first was Millicent Onyonyi, who took us through an extensive money talk and helped us identify our money personalities. We also looked in-depth at the role of money in Christian dating and marriage, and we asked ourselves, 'Will you sign a prenup as a young Christian professional while considering marriage?'



The Wangai's, on the other hand, asked us, 'Are you an Editor (insert your profession) who is a Christian of the Seventh-day Adventist faith or a Seventh-day Adventist who is an Editor?' They shared their life experiences as professionals actively involved in missionary work. I like to refer to their rich experiences as modern-day mission work. The two have had a chance to meet Maya Angelou and talk to her about Christ while still in their professional line. We ended the meeting by asking another question: 'What is in your hand?' For Moses, it was a rod, and by the time he went to Egypt to confront Pharaoh, the rod in his hand shifted from becoming a shepherd's rod to God's rod.

I knew I had to participate when the AYP leaders organised an Easter retreat. As a fearful newcomer, I prayed about it before joining, but I'm glad I did because it was an unforgettable experience.

We played games, roasted fresh maize beside the bonfire, visited Amboseli Game Park, hiked to the Nalemeru River and took many photos to keep the memories in our hearts. "Budgeting was the most challenging part of planning the retreat, but thanks to prayers and dedicated effort, everything exceeded our expectations. Several members offered financial support

to those who couldn't afford the fee. Two of our council members even went ahead of us a day earlier to make final arrangements for our arrival," Isaac Nyangolo, AYP leader, said when asked about organising the retreat.

During the retreat, we had an encounter that showed us God's plan for our presence there. While taking a nature walk, we encountered a boda boda (motorcycle taxi) transporting a large sack of maize. Unfortunately, the rider lost control and the sack fell, trapping him underneath. Luckily, we were there, and we quickly came to his rescue. We helped him regain his feet, and he was not injured. It was clear that God had placed us there at that exact moment to help that man, and it was a humbling experience.

The AYP community is not just a

group of people focused on their careers and ignoring other aspects of their lives, for example, marriage. Instead, it is a community of young professionals dedicated to growing spiritually, succeeding in their careers and creating lasting memories. With exciting programs for married and unmarried young professionals, there is always something for everyone.

The retreat reminded us that we must remain active in our faith as young professionals and make memories while serving God. Money should not be the top consideration when attending such trips; instead, our willingness to go should be our first consideration. Elder Opere Nyaroya encouraged us to trust God in our lives, giving us various examples of his experiences: 'I even had a proforma to fundraise the money needed to go for a retreat in a faraway country,' he said. Some of our young professionals have even taken country living seriously, purchasing land in Oloitoktok and farming on them.

The AYP Easter retreat was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that challenged me to grow spiritually, connect with like-minded individuals and create lasting memories. I encourage every young professional in church looking for a community to grow spiritually and connect with others to join the AYP community. You won't regret it.



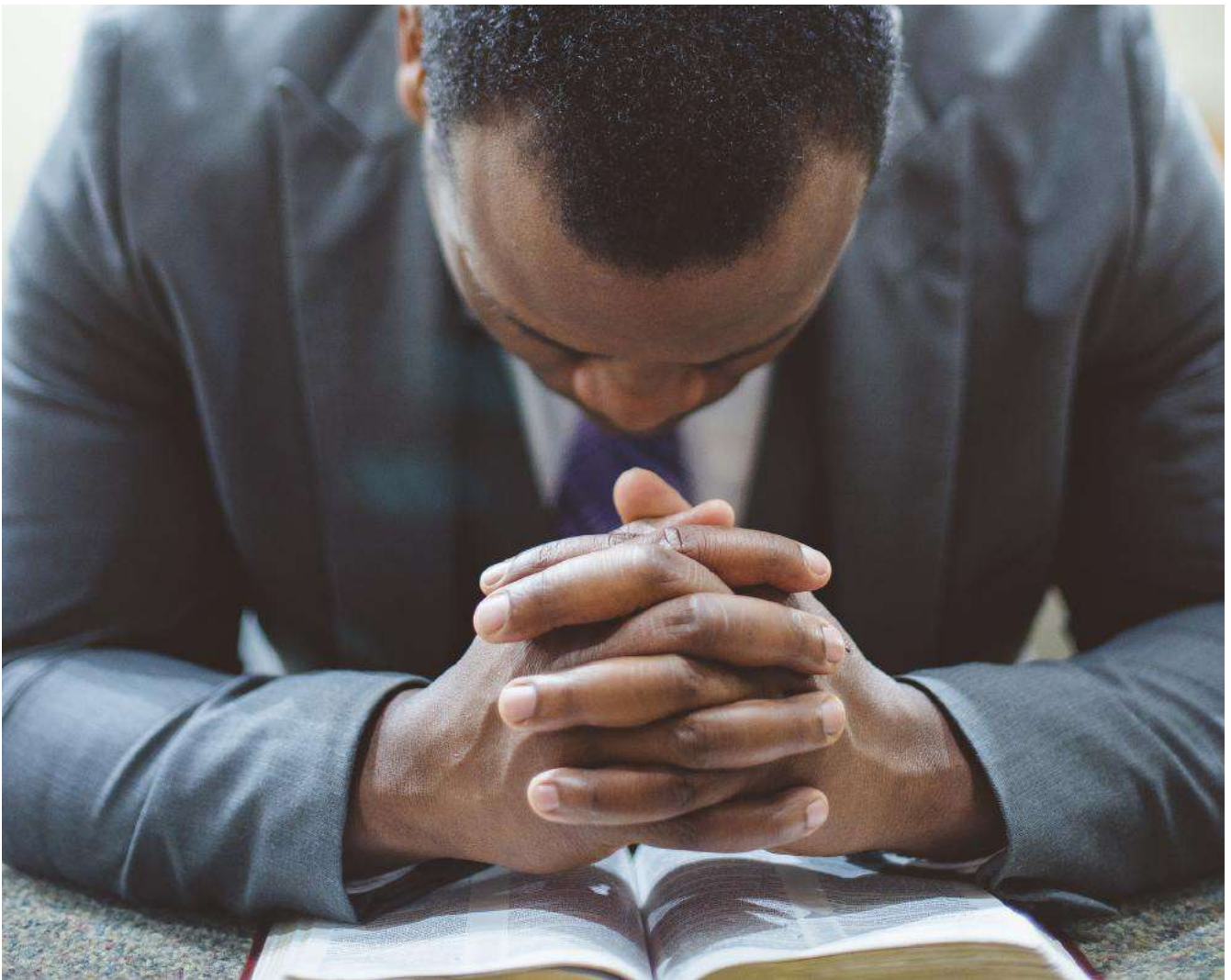


The AYP at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro experience during the Easter Retreat at the Amboseli National Park: The AYP is a community of young Adventists from 100+ countries who believe in a culture of collaboration, innovation, and ambition centered around Christ! Our resources, groups, and local chapters minister to our members with the whole person in mind. Get involved today!

WAR ROOM

By Henry Mogere

Public Campus Ministry is lighting the candle of Jesus in Universities and Colleges



Growing up, I was always very impressionable in the face of media - and over the years, I have picked up solid memories and lessons from Christian films.

Sitting down to write this article, I remembered my childhood experience - watching films such as 'The Passion of Christ', 'Moses and the Ten Commandments' and more recently 'War Room'.

I remember War Room most fondly. It tells the story of a couple, Tony and Elizabeth Jordan, who transform their marriage through prayer. In their

story, the couple encounters such turbulent winds in their marriage, within a perfect veneer of great jobs, a beautiful daughter and their dream home.

Their marriage was a war zone. Yet their story found a pivot when Elizabeth made a place of prayer - which she christened a 'War Room' - where she wrestled with God to bring



her family together. This room was the place where she built her family's prayer life.

I share this experience because the Newlife Public Campus Ministry, PCM, has built a larger version of this War Room. This PCM place of prayer has been a coming together of a community of Christians who bear burdens for the cause of the Gospel. In the Newlife PCM context, these burdens range from weekly campus ministries, week-long spiritual conventions on campuses, and campus missions.

In the PCM 'War Room', every Thursday 9-10 pm, we lay bare burdens such as comrades' welfare and well-being, we pray for God's guidance in leadership transitions in campus churches, we commit ministers in PCM-led sabbath ministries across campuses to prayer, and we agonise for the success of mission efforts pursued by various campus affiliated organisations.

Newlife PCM engages public campuses by leveraging Newlife SDA Church community to share speakers for sabbath ministries, offering mentorship and counselling support to students in various contexts and

supporting ministry in in-campus outreaches, fundraisings and missions. This is done to complete the cycle begun by the Newlife chaplaincy ministry in high schools, which gets advanced by Newlife PCM in campus communities to welcome these students into the Newlife Youth Ministry.

These noble activities pursued by the Newlife PCM are cherished, yet I am convinced that the ministry of Newlife PCM finds its most eloquent expression in the Newlife PCM place of prayer. For instance, Newlife SDA Church hosted the Multimedia University Week of Prayer from 9th to 15th of October 2022 which was a resounding success. Led by Elder Maxwell Ngala, the event had an excellent turnout with an average of 80 students attending every day and double that number on the concluding Sabbath.

The Friday Vespers of 14th October 2022 was a memorable event with Elder Daniel Kitur delivering a powerful message titled "Visions of the Invisible." The Technical University of Kenya SDA Church choir provided entertainment. The Sabbath program on 15th October was a rich blend of participants from various campuses in the city.

The main speaker Pr Jongimpi Papu, delivered a powerful message titled "Taking Life Seriously," which was a blessing to both students and the congregation. Pr Papu's wife, Mrs Papu, accompanied him. The Kenyatta University Heralds Ministers and Voice of Praise (VOP) Quartet provided musical entertainment. The afternoon panel discussion titled "Hope in PCM – A Fertile Training Ground for Church Workers," was insightful and engaging.

Pr Papu delivered the day's home thrust in his closing message "A Definite Aim." His thought-provoking and profoundly insightful message challenged and inspired students to excel academically, spiritually, and socially through focused effort, attention and faith.

The Department observed that campus students were generally warm and receptive to the invitation to join and participate in PCM fellowship at Newlife on Sabbath. It is the department's intention to invite more campuses for the next edition in June 2023, and a week-long ministry to a campus congregation that will precede the Global PCM Weekend for greater awareness and impact.

Newlife church has demonstrated its commitment to nurturing and growing the special relationship with university churches, as it packed a context and target-specific program for Sabbath. This aligns with its overall strategy of completing its chaplaincy loop by consolidating gains made in its trailblazing high school chaplaincy program.

The PCM Council 2022 expressed its commitment to making PCM a brilliant spot in the Church's ministerial and evangelistic portfolio. The department appreciates the pastoral and elders, deaconate, media ministry team, Pr. Papu, Mrs

Papu, and Kenyatta University and Technical University of Kenya SDA Churches for their support in making the event successful. Last year was particularly engaging in the 'War Room'. I recall, more precisely, my experience with the Newlife PCM prayer community. Starting in early October, we started praying for the end-year missions by all the campus churches. According to our data, most campus churches grappled with mission funding, logistics planning, public address systems and managing capacity due to an overwhelming interest in mission attendance. PCM leader Elder Teddy Onyango shared a map of 26 campus-affiliated organisations heading out on a mission. In our 'War Room', we prayed for them, consistently affirmed their progress and eagerly awaited their success stories.

Tragically, three students died in one of these

battlegrounds, the University of Nairobi mission, in a tragedy from which many are still trying to find solace. Many stories about this tragic mission and the three saints who lost their lives have been shared. I may not write another. In our PCM 'War Room', we have kept the University of Nairobi SDA community in our prayers. We are blessedly affiliated to them and are encouraged to see their members often join our prayers regularly.

The PCM War Room has therefore been a place to hear the stories that tell of the resilience of this community - of the growth of many students around the grief that threatened to numb them. It has been a place to see the student communities planning new missions - with an invigorated sense of purpose. It has been a place where we have shared the heartbreak of the past and pulled at each other to get involved to hasten His coming.

The PCM War Room has been a place to hear the stories that tell of the resilience of this community.





WOMEN ON MISSION

Touching Hearts in Schools and Prisons

As followers of Christ, we are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve a lost and hurting world. The Adventist Women Ministry's mission is to nurture, empower and reach out.

By Gladys Njiru-Gakinderu

The Newlife SDA Church AWM Department has always been in the business of seeking opportunities to touch hearts out there.

In this vein, April 1st, 2023, was not an ordinary Sabbath day for the indefatigable Newlife ladies. They embarked on a mission to Hotsprings Girls High School in Mai Mahiu along Narok road where they fellowshiped with the girls during the Lord's table. Hotsprings Girls High School was founded to rescue girls in the surrounding community from early marriages and other social dangers that threatened the girls' growth and development. Most of the students in the school come from humble backgrounds. Our fellowship with the girls was a blessing to all of us,





and we were blessed with great singing and testimonies.

During the fellowship, one of the girls shared a testimony of how she had a fatal accident last year and was told by doctors that she could not walk again. “I prayed and prayed, then I waited upon God for healing,” said the young woman. By God’s grace, she can now walk again and has joined the baptismal class that our church’s Chaplaincy department spearheads. One of their greatest needs is accessing textbooks, and the Newlife ladies donated all the books they needed and sanitary pads.

As part of the AWM outreach missions, a visit to the prison is critical and appears on our calendar of events. This is why on April 8th, 2023, the Newlife ladies visited the Industrial Area Remand and Prisons in Nairobi to

fellowship with the inmates. The mission was spectacular! It benefited not only the prisoners but also the ladies. We donated toilet paper and soap because this facility’s perpetual short supply of toiletries has been ordinary fare for a long time. The prisoners were happy and blessed.

Jesus’ words tell us that in visiting the prisoner, one is visiting Him. Matthew 25:36 says, “I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick, and you looked after me. I was in prison, and you came to visit me.” Most prisoners are rarely visited by their families. Through our church’s Prisons ministry program that has been around for a decade, Newlife SDA Church has become the only family to many prisoners. The Prison ministry’s objective is to share God’s, unconditional love. May God’s work continue to grow in Hotsprings Girls High School and Nairobi’s Industrial Area Remand and Prisons to the honour and glory of His name!



Photo Highlights from the launch of New Classrooms in
Newlife Adventist School, Saikeri



CHILDREN'S CORNER

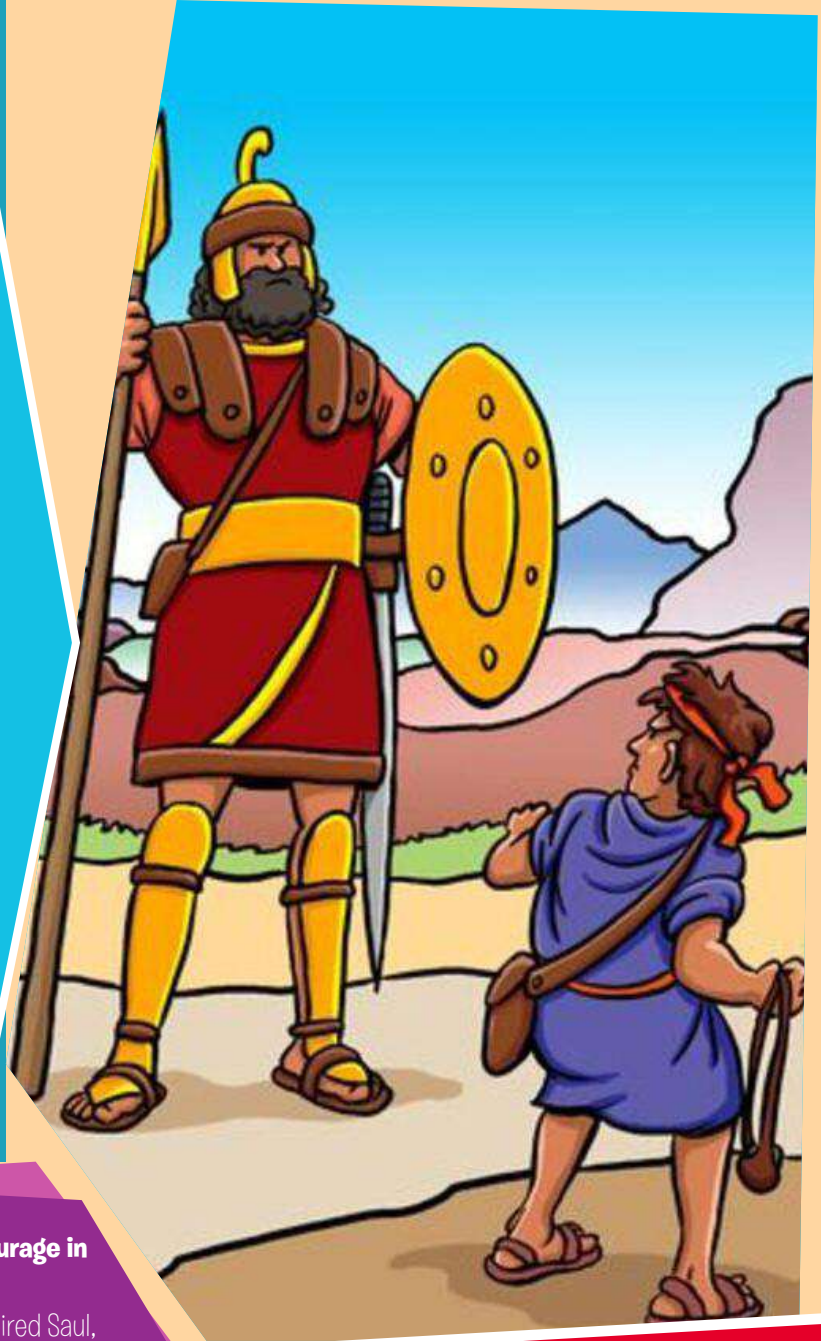
FIVE LESSONS FROM DAVID'S FIGHT WITH GOLIATH

BY ISRAEL JATHNIEL ONYANGO

Our story is from the book of 1 Samuel 17:1-58. In this story, the Bible records that for 40 days, Goliath challenged the Israelites to fight. No one dared to face him. Until a young boy named David came along.

FACING OUR GOLIATHS

In our lives, we face "Goliaths" too. The Goliaths we face can be in the form of trials, challenges and temptations. Here are five truths David knew that helped him defeat his Goliath. And they can help us defeat ours too.



1. Let nobody despise you because of your age

The Bible records that David's oldest brother, Eliab, mocked him saying, "I know how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." Also, Saul told David: "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

In the book of 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul advised young Timothy saying: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." This is the attitude we should have when people doubt us, and our abilities.

2. Inspire Hope and Courage in Others

Though young, David inspired Saul, saying: "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

In the face of danger, let's listen to Paul's advice to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7 which says: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" We must therefore show courage in the face of danger to what we believe.

3. CHOOSE YOUR WEAPONS WELL

The Bible says that "David took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Notice, not all stones are useful. David chose his stones carefully. In the book of Joshua 24:15, Joshua made the call "Choose for yourselves today," and we too must choose our weapons carefully in order to overcome temptations. In Ephesians 6:10-20, we are called upon to put on the full armour of God which include: Belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace; the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Let us Choose to go by the word of God in all our battles.

4. SHINE FOR CHRIST

The Bible records that Goliath “looked David over and saw that he was glowing with health, and was handsome.” When we live for Christ, even the enemy notices our glow. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, which says: “You are the light of the World”. Choose to shine for Christ daily, and do not hide your light under the bushel.

5. KNOW AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SOURCE OF POWER

David said to the Philistine: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

In the book of Psalms 121:2, David acknowledges his source of power saying: “My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” May we learn to acknowledge God in all our Victories.

AMEN.

This story was narrated by Israel Jathniel Onyango on the Sabbath of 24th December 2022 at Newlife SDA Church, Nairobi.



CREATION TIME!

BY RUMONA APIYO



HELLO CHILDREN!

Are you ready to learn about how God created the world? We're going to do a fun activity called "Creation Collage" which will help us appreciate all the amazing things God made.

1. First, let's read from the Bible about how God created the world. We'll read from Genesis 1:1-31. You can follow along in your own Bible or listen while I read.

2. Now that we know how God created the world, let's talk about all the different things He made. We can see the sky, water, plants, animals, and humans. These are all part of God's amazing creation.

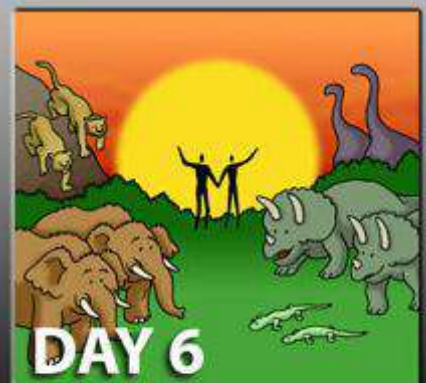
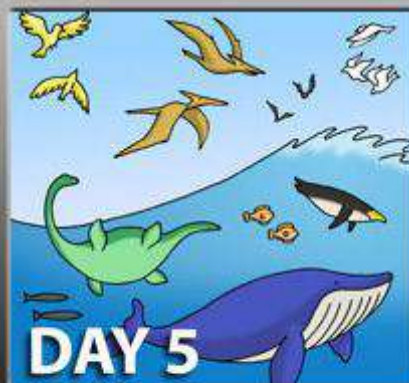
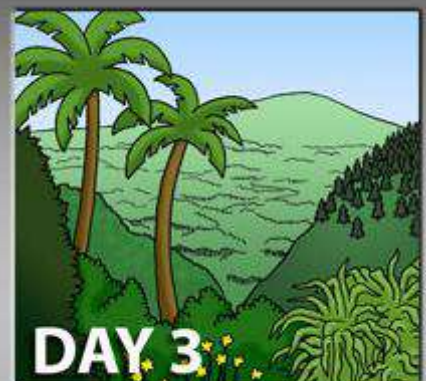
3. Next, we will create our collages of God's creation. We'll use magazines, newspapers, and old calendars to cut out pictures of animals, plants, water, sky, and other elements of

creation. We'll glue them onto a big piece of paper to create our creation collage.

4. As we work on our collages, let's consider how amazing and wonderful God's creation is. We can share our thoughts and ideas and talk about all the different things we appreciate about God's creation.

5. When we're finished, we'll share our collages with the group. We'll explain the elements we included in our collage and explain why we appreciate God's creation.

6. This activity will help us appreciate God's creation and understand the importance of caring for the environment. We can learn more about God's creation and how we can be good stewards of the world He has given us. Let's get started on our creation collages!





THE MARRIAGE INSTITUTION

IN KENYA:

What You Need to Know

By **Becky Arunga Omondi**



family as the natural and fundamental unit of society and the necessary basis of social order. The family

The formal recognition of marriages registrable in Kenya has rendered the presumption of marriage futile.

enjoys the recognition and protection of the State. This recognition led to the consolidation of the Marriage laws

The legitimacy of the marriage union is founded on Article 45 of the Constitution of Kenya, which recognises the

through the enactment of the Marriage Act of 2014, which recognises marriages concluded under any tradition or system of religious, personal or family law. As a result, all marriages (Hindu, Islamic, Christian, Civil and Customary) contracted in Kenya are registrable under the Act. These marriages are the only marriages recognised by law in Kenya. The Act defines the rights of parties in a marriage at, during and at the dissolution of a marriage. The formal recognition of marriages registrable in Kenya has rendered the presumption of marriage futile.

Cohabitation is a social problem that has gained traction in our time, and a laissez-faire approach towards it would result in injustice. Parties may cohabit for long periods and acquire property

without intending to contract a marriage. Hence, living under the same roof alone is not sufficient reason to draw an inference of marital status.

According to the Marriage Act, 2014, cohabiting means living in an arrangement in which an unmarried couple lives together in a long-term relationship resembling a marriage. Arguably, it is thus safe to say that any person living in a long-term relationship resembling a marriage yet to be registered under the Marriage Act is in a cohabitation relationship. It is noteworthy that though the Act defines cohabitation, it is silent on the rights, if any, that a cohabitee has or the legal protections in place when the long-term relationship ends either through death or separation.

The presumption of marriage out of cohabitation is the exception and not the rule. It can only be done under strict legal parameters enumerated by the Supreme Court of Kenya in MNK v POM [2023] KESC 2 (KLR), including the parties, must have lived together for a long period and parties must have the legal right or capacity to marry among many others. Therefore, the presumption of marriage out of prolonged cohabitation cannot arise where a person in a potentially monogamous union cohabits with another as he or she lacks the legal capacity to contract another marriage. It must always be remembered that marriage is a voluntary union.

In the face of these strict legal parameters, it is prudent to formalise any union that resembles marriage by having it registered under the Marriage Act 2014. A sporadic or fleeting relationship cannot lead to the presumption of marriage by cohabitation despite children being born out of such a union.

The second issue in cohabitation relationships is the fate of property acquired in such arrangements when the presumption of marriage fails. Since cohabitation is not marriage, the legal rules during a divorce do not apply to cohabiting couples. There is no special law relating to property shared by cohabitees any more than any special

law relating to property used in common by partners or members of a club. The Supreme Court of Kenya in the MNK case (supra) pointed out that when two parties by their joint efforts acquired a property to be used for their joint benefit, the court may impute a constructive or resulting trust. The constructive trust emanates from the common intention of the parties at the time of the acquisition of the property. Common intention can be



proved either by direct evidence or by inference from the action of the parties such as contributions (direct and indirect) to the deposit, the mortgage instalments or general housekeeping expenses. The legal owner is to hold the property in trust for them both. A constructive trust will thus automatically arise where a

person already a trustee takes advantage of his position for his benefit.

This approach was taken by the court in recognition that cohabitation is a social problem that has gained traction and can only be ignored at the risk of injustice. Though the court did not presume marriage out of prolonged cohabitation where a couple had lived together for twenty years; and even acquired property together, the court apportioned the beneficial interest in the property at 70-30 per cent in recognition of the contribution of the parties to maintaining and improving the property.

The doctrine of presumption of marriage that recognised cohabitees is on its deathbed in light of the changes to the matrimonial laws in Kenya. Any marriage that desires recognition and protection from the state must be registered under the Marriage Act, 2014 for prosperity and posterity. In any case, Proverbs 13:22 tells us that a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.

The writer is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

The doctrine of presumption of marriage that recognised cohabitees is on its deathbed in light of the changes to the matrimonial laws in Kenya.



Fun Facts About Watermelons

By Wilona Karimabadi

Watermelons are both fruit and vegetable.

While we tend to eat the inner, sweeter part of the watermelon, you can eat the entire thing.

Watermelons have that name because they are 92 per cent water.

Seedless watermelons are grown from seeds.

In Japan, watermelon growers have figured out how to grow them in different shapes. Have you ever seen a watermelon cube? It's a thing.



Bible Treasure

Then God said: ‘Let the land produce vegetation: seedbearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.’ And it was

SO. – Genesis 1:11, NIV

Let's Make a Watermelon Fan!

What you will need:

- White paper plates (the flimsy kind)
- Large popsicle/craft sticks
- Masking tape
- Paint (pink, red, green and black)
- Paintbrushes
- Cotton swabs (optional)



What to do

1. Turn your plate over so the food-serving side faces down. In a small bowl, pour a bit of pink paint and add a drop or two of red and mix to get close to the colour of a watermelon. Paint the inner circle of your plate with this colour.
2. Pour a little green into a small bowl and paint the outside (rind) with that colour. You will paint the part where the plate grooves are and leave a white ring between the pink and green sections.
3. Pour a little black paint into a small bowl and, using a cotton swab, “dot” the pink part with black paint to look like watermelon seeds. Set the painted plate aside to dry completely.
4. Once the plate is dry, fold it half with the painted side facing out. It'll look like a slice of watermelon. On the bottom, centre and inside, use the tape to fasten a large popsicle stick securely. This will be your handle. You can then close the “slice” over the stick and use more tape or a stapler to seal it shut. Now you have a watermelon fan to keep you cool in a hot place!

Spiritual Thought

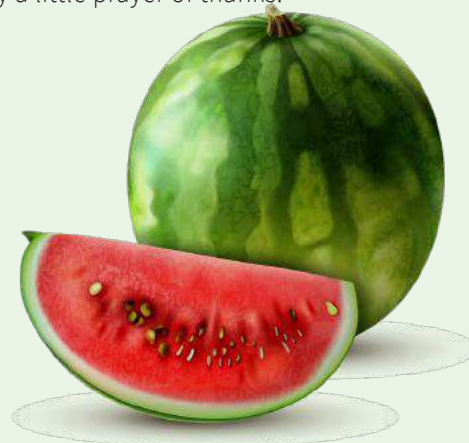
Though watermelons aren't mentioned specifically by name in the Bible, the verse we have chosen talks about these “seeded” foods that God made for us to enjoy. Watermelons are delicious and very good for us because of all the water they contain. When you are hot or maybe even sick with a fever, this treatment can help you cool down and feel better.

Do you like to eat your watermelon chilled from the fridge or at room temperature? Either way, they are a delicious and healthy treat for us! What a wonderful God we serve, who made foods for us to enjoy and provide hydration and nutrients.

Humans aren't the only ones who enjoy watermelons. Have you ever seen a hippopotamus crush an entire watermelon in its mouth? These animals have superstrong jaws and teeth to be able to do that. If you look around carefully, you will find many things in nature that God

made for us to enjoy — not just for their beauty but also because they provide things we may need to be well and strong.

So, the next time you use your watermelon fan or eat a slice of this juicy treat, remember the marvellous Creator who made so many amazing things to bless our lives with and say a little prayer of thanks.



This article was published in Adventist World magazine on 25th March 2023

PASTOR'S

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Let us evangelise and double our membership in Newlife

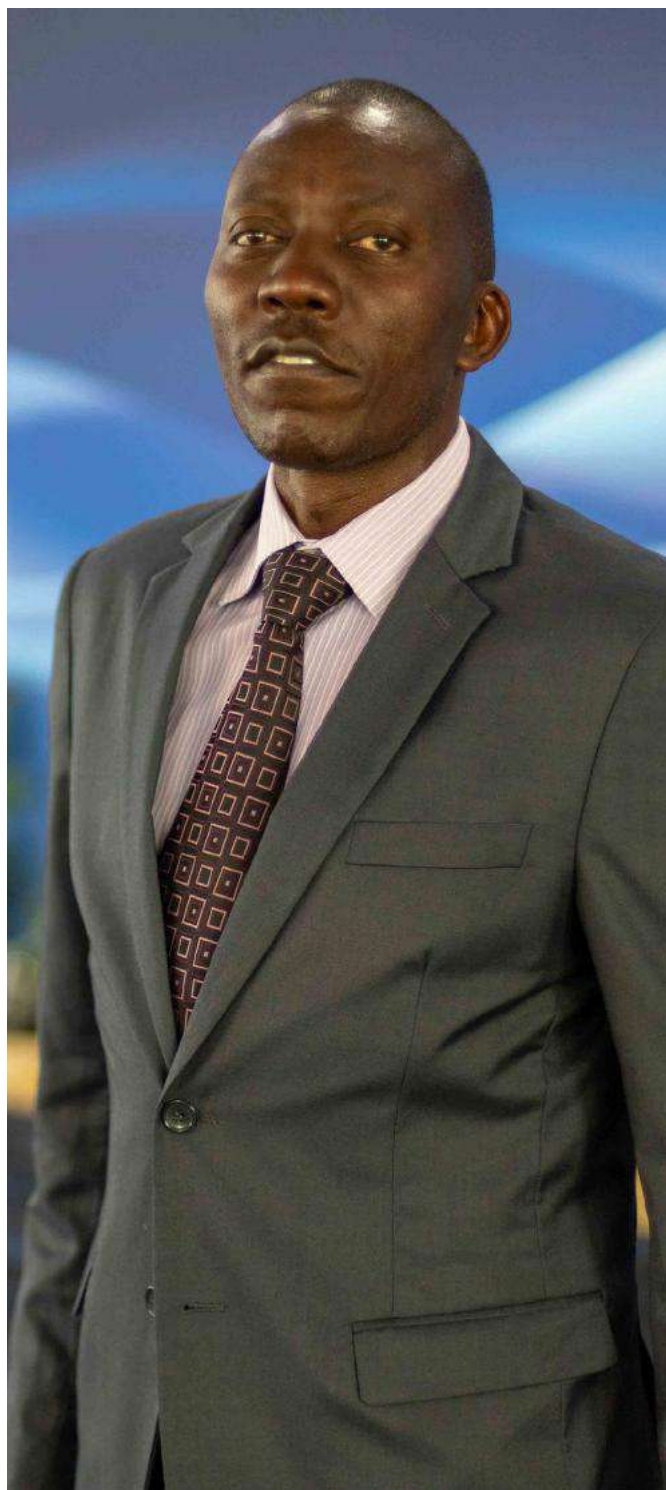
By Jacob Akali



In Luke 19:40 our Lord Jesus said to the Pharisees, “I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.” In this text, our Lord Jesus Christ guides that Evangelism which is publishing Him as the saviour, is such an unstoppable assignment that if humans won’t do it, the stones will. Guided this way as Newlife, we are carrying out the unstoppable assignment on evangelism inspired by the Seventh-day Adventist global church’s 2020-2025 quinquennial theme ‘I will go’.

I Will Go is the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s strategic focus for the 2020-2025 quinquennium. This experience is meant to involve all church members around the world in reaching the world. This initiative is also designed to inspire and equip church members to use their God-given spiritual gifts in witness and service for Christ.

Let us therefore do this unstoppable and joyous assignment of Evangelism inspired by this quinquennium’s theme “I will Go”. Let us evangelize in this quinquennial’s three remaining years 2023-2025’s inspired by the theme “Double our membership” and let us evangelize this year inspired by this year’s theme “Jesus is coming soon, Get



involved”.

As individuals, do the unstoppable work of evangelism in this remaining three years in the quinquennium and play a role in doubling our membership that was at 6,202 by close of 2022 to 12,404 by 2025. Be completely involved this year in the unstoppable work of evangelism and play a part in leading to 2,000 baptisms and more this particular year 2023.

Pastor Jacob Akali is a senior pastor at Newlife SDA Church, Nairobi

Highlights from 'Facing Eternity' Evangelistic Campaign Series



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The editor of The Newlifer magazine, welcomes well-researched articles, from church members or any other persons, to be considered for publication in our next issue. The articles can comprise news, features, events, stories, opinion pieces and any other relevant information promoting the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Your article should not exceed 1,000 words and must align with the mission, fundamental beliefs, principles, and policies of the Seventh-day Adventists. All submissions should include the author's name, profession/career, e-mail address, phone number and any other affiliations. Please send your articles electronically to: newlifermagazine@newlifesdanairobi.org by 30th August, 2023.

