

Happenings at Balham - Dec 2016

Making a Difference in our Community



And that, knowing the time, that now is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Romans 13:11,12 (KJV)

I have recently watched and re-watched a film about how the Adventist Church began. The film is called 'Tell the World' and you can watch it on YouTube. It is a very powerful film that brings to life the story of a group of Christians from many denominations who, after studying the prophecy of Daniel 8:14, became convinced that Jesus was returning to this earth in 1844.

It is part of our Church history that makes some feel a little embarrassed because, of course, Jesus didn't come! At the time, this group of believers faced ridicule from many who didn't believe their prediction in the first place. Some of the group totally abandoned their belief in His coming, whilst others lost total faith in Jesus completely. Others went back to studying the prophecy again and concluded that the date was right but the event was wrong. In 1844, Jesus was not due to come to this Earth, but the date constituted a change in His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf.

What made the film particularly powerful was the conviction shown by those who believed Jesus was coming in 1844, and their dedication to telling the world to prepare for that event. Many gave up their land, jobs and even relationships as they looked forward to His coming. As you watch it, you cannot help but ask how much are we prepared, as modern-day Christians, to give up to be ready for Christ's coming and are we, like those in 1844, willing to make sacrifices to tell the world about it?

Maybe we don't believe Jesus is coming as much as we think we do, otherwise wouldn't this be reflected in how we live? If we believe in His coming as much as we say we do, wouldn't we be driven by the need to tell our friends, families and associates; in other words, our world, that they too need be ready?

Yes, the group were wrong to try and predict the date, as the Bible clearly states that no man knoweth when Christ will come (Matthew 24:36) but it is equally clear that he will come. Matthew 25 tells a series of parables and the message is that even some believing Christians will not be ready when Jesus comes and that is a sobering thought!

Just as in 1844 and maybe more so now, we face a secular and sceptical world who will mock the thought of Christ's coming. In fact the Bible predicts this in 2 Peter 3:3,4. Here it tells us that some will say 'you have been saying that for years! Where is He?' I wonder how those people felt after their disappointment in 1844, when they held onto their belief that Christ would still return in the future and were mocked for it?

If you have not watched the film 'Tell the World' yet, I strongly recommend it. Hopefully, it will inspire you to take your Christianity more seriously and be even more confident in Christ's return. We are not living in a film, this is real, and He will come. May God prepare our hearts for that time.

Looking Back at November 2016

Week of Prayer: Our annual week of prayer happened this month and started with special prayer sessions in Divine service. In the afternoon programme we prayed on different topics and areas of need and had the Word of God shared with us, complimented by musical items. During the week we held evening meetings, which were lead out by different Church departments. We ended the week with a Testimony service on Sabbath afternoon, where we reflected on God's goodness and how he still answers prayers.

Music ministry: Various Balham members were involved in ministering in other Churches this month including the Church Choir who sang during Divine Service for Stewardship Day at Hackbridge Church. A group sang at Youth Day at West Croydon Church and our Children's Choir and Balham Strings violin group took part in a Community concert at Mitcham Church.

SEC School of Evangelism: Balham Church continued to host this programme lead out by Pastor Mbui and included members from various churches around South London. This is a monthly programme that will end in May 2017.

Health Ministries Day: the Sabbath sermon was delivered by Joseph Clem as our Pastor was hit by flu. His sermon looked at the history of the Health message as received by the Adventist Church to present day health issues. The afternoon programme included a presentation on a Health Mission trip to Trinidad, which was funded partly by sponsorship by members and contributions from churches and a talk on Nutrition. The programme was followed by a juicing demonstration and tasting session

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Coming up - December 2016

Saturday 3rd: Street Witnessing, 10.15am - Join us as we hit the streets and share our faith through word and song to the Community

Saturday 3rd: Business Meeting, 5pm - Join us as we discuss the plans and progress of our Church.

Saturday 10th: Music Day

Always a special day in the calendar of Balham Church and this will be no exception as we highlight the role of Music in our Church. The day includes an Afternoon of Praise presented by the children at 4pm.

Saturday 10th: Soul Food 2, 6.30pm - Unfortunately, tickets for this event have now sold out! Please do not attend unless you already have a ticket ordered through Eventbrite, as there is limited space due to the size of the venue. To be updated for the next event please register your interest at www.soul-food.org.uk

Saturday 17th: Communion Our quarterly celebration of Christ's sacrifice and promise to return to this earth.

Saturday 17th: Leaders Training, 5pm - Pastor Mbui will be leading a session to further equip our leaders and others for service.

Saturday 24th: Visitors Day - Please invite your family and friends for this special day on the eve of Christmas.

Saturday 31st: End of Year programme and Social, 4pm - We will end the year with a programme of Praise and Thanksgiving followed by a social evening of fun and fellowship.