



**REACH THE WORLD: DISASTER RELIEF IN THE  
COMMUNITY**  
(Sabbath School Program)

**May 8, 2021**

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Sabbath School / Evangelism / Missions  
British Union Conference

**SUGGESTED SONGS:**

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 367, “Rescue the Perishing”  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 182, “Christ is Alive”  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 189, “All That Thrills my Soul”

**SCRIPTURE FOCUS:**

Matthew 9:35-38  
2 Corinthians 1:3-5  
James 2:14-26

**PROGRAM GOAL:** To sensitize the members of the Sabbath School/church to the importance of serving the community, even in the midst of disasters, fears, and pandemics.

**OPENING STORY:**

[THIS CAN BE ILLUSTRATED BY A SHORT PLAY/SKIT]

I once heard a story about witnessing in a DISTANT LAND and it goes like this:

I thought that I needed to share God’s word, and I prepared to leave my home for a Distant Land. I packed my suitcase and walked to the bus stop. I needed to get to the airport to catch the next plane to the Distant Land.

As I waited at the bus stop, I saw a mother with her children walking by. She looked worried. I thought I could talk to her, but my bus was coming so I did not take the time to talk to her. My bus arrived and I paid my fare, eager to get to the Distant Land. I needed to tell someone that Jesus loves them.

Whilst I travelled along, I saw an old man appearing forlorn looking at a picture of a woman. Maybe she was his wife or someone he had loved. I should have spoken a kind word, but I needed to get to the Distant Land, and I had no time to stop.

At last, I got to the airport. I asked for a ticket to the Distant Land. I was directed to another queue. I hurried in the direction that said, “Distant Land” and stood in the queue. It was very long, but I had the time to wait. You see, I was going to that Distant Land.

It took several days to get to the front of the queue, and when I did the person behind the counter asked me where I was going. I eagerly replied, “To the Distant Land. I need to help someone and tell them Jesus loves them.” The person took my suitcase and told me that I would not need it where I was going. I was then taken to a room where the mother with her children and the old man with the picture were waiting. They were sitting below a sign that said, “Distant Land”.

We all want to serve God by introducing Him and His love to others. We need to realize that we have a role to play right here in our communities – on the job, at school, and even in our homes. We need to share the love of Jesus wherever we are. Our family, neighbors, and friends need to know about God too.

### **PRESENTER 1:**

#### *The Modern Day Enoch – Ministering During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond*

Enoch Kanagaraj of the Stanborough Seventh-day Adventist Church in Watford, England, took a hard look at his community and saw the needs through the eyes of Jesus. It was at that moment the idea of the ONE VISION project was born. According to Enoch, The Project’s vision is of a community where people come together to support the vulnerable, promote equality, and address injustice.

What is One Vision doing?

Enter the church building any weekday and you will find a hive of activity on the ground floor of the Stanborough Centre. Meals are being prepared in the kitchen, food parcels are packed and stacked in the Cedar and Sycamore Rooms, people coming and going donate food or distribute meals and food parcels. Enoch Kanagaraj reports, “One Vision has delivered over 100,000 hot meals and 15,000 bags of groceries before and during the coronavirus pandemic. Now getting geared up for Christmas, no one should sleep on an empty stomach and loneliness should not have a place to hide.”

And according to an article appearing on the *Watford Observer* newspaper website, “One Vision is currently providing more than 4,000 hot meals and around 900 bags of groceries per week to all Watford postcodes, its environs, and as far as London. It currently has almost 100 volunteers but urgently needs new volunteer drivers to help distribute food to those in need.”

Here is a YouTube video showing football (soccer) legend Luther Blissette sharing in and endorsing the One Vision program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqrG7TbHPgo&feature=youtu.be>

With Enoch’s concerns about loneliness in mind, various community leaders came together under the One Vision umbrella to commemorate World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2020. One Vision’s Mental Health Champion Rabi Martins, a Watford counsellor, has been foremost in presenting the problems with mental health resulting from the current pandemic,

including loneliness, isolation, job losses, uncertainties, and worries. To help broadcast the message that people should not suffer in silence and remember that old advertising slogan—“it’s good to talk”—One Vision has produced a 15-minute video dealing with the topic featuring messages from the General Conference, Trans-European Health Directors, and many community leaders. Here is the link for the mental health video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZGzIyJwCn0>

One vision is truly making a difference in real lives!

### **PRESENTER 2:**

According to Catherine Boldeau of ADRA UK/Community service, the Covid-19 pandemic has spawned many collaborations between charities, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and even government organizations. The Umbrella Project (UP) was birthed from this unique and agile collaboration. UP is a UK-based partnership between 73 urban community hubs, three small urban charities, eight civil society organizations, and a faith-based organization led by ADRA-UK through its *I AM Urban* initiative to address some of the issues caused by the fallout from CV19. These entities are working together to provide a multi-agency approach to address food security, physical and mental wellbeing, and sustainable livelihoods for some of the UK’s most vulnerable groups (homeless, refugees, unemployed, people with low incomes, people living with long-term chronic health conditions, BAME [Black & Ethnic Minorities], and people living with HIV/Aids) across key major cities in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

While in-person worship was restricted and church services were held on virtual platforms, “Church Without Walls” was active in community hubs throughout the UK being the hands and feet of Jesus to thousands of people who were hungry and in need of hygiene products, baby clothes, and food, as well as those who were concerned about their mental wellbeing. Food has been served, delivered, and distributed. PPE in the form of masks, shield equipment, and hygiene products have been made and distributed. Mental wellness initiatives have been conducted over Zoom, in-person, and on the telephone. A few of the key hubs will be addressing the need for sustainable livelihoods with the service users and beneficiaries, where applicable.

Stories have emerged of interest being sparked in the Christian faith and, in particular, beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from the interactions within the hubs. Beautine Wester, who is leading the Clapton community hub in East London stated, “in my 28 years of being an Adventist this is the first time that I have connected with my whole neighborhood in such a way where there is so much love, care, passion, and drive.” She continues, “I have never seen so many people come out of the church to support the vulnerable.”

These community hubs continue to impact the lives of those we may not have previously been able to reach with the Gospel. Covid-19 has enabled the Church to be more intentional in reaching society with the practical, caring, loving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In groups of three or four, discuss and share how the membership of your local SDA church can make a difference in your community.

Compile a practical list and implement as many ideas as possible considering your local situation, but do not limit the power of God.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Allow participants to pray in their groups for the needs identified.

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity” (Albert Einstein).

**CLOSING SONG:** *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 579, “Tis Love That Makes Us Happy”