

# NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

## LEADERSHIP THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

by Ade Omooba MBE

The call of the National Church Leaders Forum (NCLF) is to be an authentic voice of the communities they serve, as a true leader becomes a voice of those they steward. A forum indeed, where leaders seek to cohere for the common good of humanity, as guided by education and revelation through the Word of God.



The NCLF Newsletter in some ways is a personal letter within a public space, conveying news that is relevant, timely and practical to enhance and inform greater collaboration between the UK Black Christian leadership and the communities they serve.

As Chair of the NCLF, I appreciate the privilege to serve in this role and commit to listen more, care more and love more. My stewardship is what truly authenticates my leadership. To my co-labourers in Christ, I appeal for your partnership in stewardship and leadership, and seek more fellowship with you all to strengthen our relationship. Mark 9:33-35 (KJV) states, 'And He came to Capernaum, and being in the house He asked them, "What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?" But they held their peace, for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And He sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all."

The essence of this conversation between Jesus and His disciples, who in turn would lead many, remains a strong,

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## NCLF NEWS



We welcome **Ms ELSA CALEB** as NCLF Trustee and Treasurer, replacing **Dr Michel Sacramento** who recently stepped

down. We extend much appreciation to Dr Sacramento for his years of service and we pray God's blessings upon him and his family.

## NATIONAL MENTORING ACADEMY



The National Mentoring Academy (NMA) is being piloted throughout the church network, providing an online mentoring platform for volunteer mentors to support millennials and development of the younger generations.

In addition to mentoring, the NMA will also undertake projects of benefit to the community, churches or charitable organisations. Churchgoers will be encouraged to volunteer one hour a month as an Academy mentor. Phase I is planned to be rolled out across the church network in 2022, with subsequent phases to be extended to the wider community thereafter.

NCLF Director, Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, stated, "Mentoring features prominently in the recommendations made in our current manifesto. We therefore encourage church leaders to support the NMA initiative."

Shermara Fletcher (CTE) declares, "Mentoring is a powerful weapon the Church can deploy to redress the rise in social issues and underachievement in our communities."

**Please contact Paul Johnson (pictured) at [nationalmentoring.academy@gmail.com](mailto:nationalmentoring.academy@gmail.com) for more info.**

**Do you have any upcoming special events or stories of interest? Then please email us at [info.nclf@gmail.com](mailto:info.nclf@gmail.com) or connect with us on social media. We'd love to hear from you.**



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## Congratulations



The NCLF wishes to congratulate **Rev Ronald A Nathan** for his recent appointment (on June 1, 2022) as the World Politics Editor of his denomination's newspaper, *The Star of Zion* — an award-winning newspaper and journalistic media organisation, published by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ). *The Star of Zion* (whose Editor-in-Chief is Mr Darin Kent) is the official organ of the AMEZ and has been continuously published since 1876. It is one of the oldest Black publications in the US and is distributed worldwide to a global readership of 1.2 million AMEZ members.

*The Star of Zion* is guided by the core values of truth, faith and love, and seeks to raise the consciousness of readers with news that is current, relevant and dependable. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church dates from 1796, and was also known as the Freedom Church, due to its historical commitment to ending slavery.

**Rev Ronald A Nathan** is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Christian Leaders Forum, and is based in Barbados, West Indies.

THE STAR OF ZION

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foundational and guiding principle as we journey and navigate a very complex and perhaps complicated world.

As Christian and community leaders, we do well to embrace serving God as an act of worship, that is, doing what we do as an act of worship to God, reverencing our Lord and Saviour as we engage and serve those He has given us to disciple — whether people, institutions or systems, for all three make up any nation.

My friends, to seek to lead without serving is destructive deception to any generation, and nothing short of ruling tyrannically or despotically. I am convinced that within the Black Christian community our experiences and skills are rich and varied and, as in Romans 8:19 (NIV), 'For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.' **Let us then together complete and not compete, but be a united servant leadership that strengthens families, building communities and depleting our common adversary.** Your revelation is necessary for someone's fulfilment, so let's get serving.

I pray for us all as we journey together, for great grace and pace for the race ahead.

It's a privilege to serve.

Congratulations **LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR** 40th Anniversary

NCLF would like to congratulate LCGC on their 40th Anniversary. For details of their celebrations, go to: <https://lccg.org.uk/auction/>

## LIFE RADIO UK



### A NEW CHRISTIAN RADIO STATION FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The global pandemic has affected all parts of society, including churches, which had to switch to online platforms. **Life Radio UK** is a new Christian radio station, founded by Mike Johnson (pictured). It was launched to meet the needs of Christians who weren't ready to rush back to in-person services. Mike Johnson says, "**Life Radio UK** is a collaborative platform, working with community organisations, churches and creatives to deliver spiritual content." It broadcasts online, via Radioplayer app and on DAB Channel 9A (Birmingham).

**LIFE RADIO UK**  
WHERE IT ALL BEGINS  
[www.liferadio.uk/](http://www.liferadio.uk/)

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## PENTECOSTAL CREDIT UNION LAUNCHES GIFTBOX A Financial Solution for Pentecostal Millennials

On 22nd April 2022, the Pentecostal Credit Union (PCU) launched **GiftBOX** – a fully integrated brand extension of PCU that serves as a platform or space from which millennials can engage with us in a way that best suits them.

We are building a vibrant community of financially astute young people in our Pentecostal church family to become more structured in their planning and more fluent with their finances.

This is important to us because – as is the case with all finance houses – PCU are, and always have been challenged regarding engagement with young people.

Ours is a Windrush development story, which we are incredibly proud of, because a high proportion of our members are from the Windrush generation. We need to attract more of their descendants, however, not only their children but their grand- and great grandchildren. Financial empowerment of our communities is part of the mission of PCU and if we're going to do that long term, we have to capture our millennial generation.

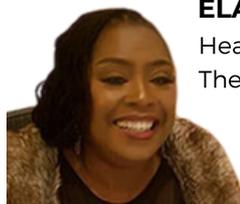


So **GiftBOX** is aimed at millennials in the 25 to 40-year age bracket. We're not too prescriptive about this, but we want to capture those who are starting to go out into the world to build their lives: getting married; having families; buying homes; starting businesses, etc. Those stages of life are when maturity develops and when money really matters.

**For more information, please email us at: [Hello@ThisIsMyGiftBox.com](mailto:Hello@ThisIsMyGiftBox.com)** or click on the logo.

### ELAINE BOWES

Head of Marketing & Communications  
The Pentecostal Credit Union



## The Killing of Dea-John Reid, 14

Dea-John Reid was a 14-year-old schoolboy from Kingstanding, Birmingham who was chased and stabbed in the chest and later died in May 2021.

The 15-year-old who stabbed Dea-John Reid was convicted in May 2022, not of his murder but of his *manslaughter*, and is expected to spend less than three years in custody. His four accomplices were also found not guilty of murder.

The family of the murdered teenager said the system is not "geared up to give Black people justice."

With many Black bystanders of other cases being prosecuted under joint enterprise, it beggars belief how the four accomplices have escaped the same treatment. For further info on this case, click [here](#).



### Conference

A one-day event on the importance and application of an intercultural approach to church, equipping you with biblical convictions and best practice. Click image for info.

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For readers who may not be aware of the background to Fred Williams' article (below), **DEBORAH SAMUEL** (pictured) was a Christian student at the Shehu Shagari College of Education in Nigeria, who was murdered by a group of Muslim students.

In the light of this, Mr Williams gives an impassioned plea as to what our response should be as Christians...

If you would like to know more of this story, please visit: [Daily Mail](#), [BBC](#), [The Guardian \(Nigeria\)](#), [Punch \(Nigeria\)](#).

*Click for more*

The **Black Equity Organisation** was launched recently, with the aim of fighting for equal rights for Black people in the UK - economically, legally, socially and politically. Visit <https://blackequityorg.com/> for info.

**Windrush Day Grant Scheme:** 35 projects across England, including a Windrush Choir, are being given a share of £500,000 funding to help commemorate **Windrush Day 2022** which takes place on Weds 22nd June. **Windrush Sunday** is on 26th June.

New project by Christian charity, **Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility**, aims to work with Black Majority church leaders to help Christians connect their faith, values and finances. Focus group takes place **Thursday 16th June**.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

This is the big question we should be asking ourselves.

**Do I care enough to step up to the almost insurmountable challenge of engaging the increasing radicalism, injustice, and the associated heart-wrenching realities of terror, hatred, banditry and confusion inspired by religious bigotry?**

The self-serving political pragmatism of the international community has once again responded in an almost deafening silence, while the ruling class in Nigeria has once again failed to protest and uphold the sanctity of human life. Deborah Samuel was brutally slaughtered in Sokoto State, Nigeria, accused of disrespecting Islam in a statement she posted on a WhatsApp chat.

As harrowing as this situation is, we must ask ourselves the difficult question: What would Jesus do, or, better still, what would Jesus

have *me* do? Does He want us to respond like a Stephen, who cried out for mercy and restorative justice as he was being stoned to death? Or should we be more proactive and challenge governments at home and abroad to rise up and do their jobs?

Can we possibly stand for truth and yet love our enemies, but protect our lives and property? Or are we too busy - or too traumatised - by the frequency of the carnage that we have given up every hope of making a difference?

It is deeply instructive that Stephen demonstrated such a high level of selflessness when he pleaded and interceded for the eternal well-being of his attackers, overlooking the injustice meted upon him by looking over to Jesus (Acts 7:58-60). Is this example relevant to the challenge we are facing today?

**FRED WILLIAMS**

Creative Director, Loveback Project  
<https://iloveback.org/>

Email us at [info.nclf@gmail.com](mailto:info.nclf@gmail.com) or connect with us on social media



**TO DONATE TO NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM (NCLF):**

Barclays Bank PLC | Account Number **43197174** | Sort Code **202963**

*Thank you!*