

# MESSENGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

## ADVENTIST DISCOVERY CENTRE SPECIAL

# FOCUSED ON PROPHECY

by Mike Stickland, principal



every student who had graduated from a Bible course during the last five years but who was no longer active with us. This involved sending out about 800 letters of invitation, and we were pleasantly surprised that our 290 enquiries have produced 175 students active in this course. Many of them are so enthralled by the course that they return lessons almost as fast as we send them out. As these are designed for use in small groups as well as for individual study, I want you to know that any member or friend is welcome to send for the course either to learn or to refresh the memory about these important prophecies.

FOCUS ON PROPHECY is a course we have purchased from the VOP in California. At the same time, we are working at introducing our own courses developed within the British Union. One special gift recently received has enabled us to purchase a colour laser printer. This will allow us to print lessons in-house on demand, thus saving the considerable outlay when we purchase sufficient stocks of courses such as DISCOVER or FOCUS ON PROPHECY.

This new printer will be put to use first with the revised NEW START IN LIFE course. Originally imported from Germany and known as Start Into Life, with fourteen lessons, we have enlisted help to translate the full set of twenty-eight lessons. We are currently working at presenting this in

plain, jargon-free English, and a graphic designer is standing by to do the layout. Given the resources (both human and financial), we hope to launch this revised course by about the end of the year.

We have had an Adventist artist design new letterbox leaflets to promote these courses. The leaflets have been designed so that we can produce them as economically as possible. One simple rule (having the response portion less than 25% of the whole leaflet) permits us to avoid having to pay VAT. We are delighted to announce these new leaflets at a cost of £12 per thousand.

These new developments show where your offering on VOP RALLY DAY will be used. Will

*Continued on page 8*

**D**uring the early part of August we received an inspiring letter from one of our students, which read:

'I found the prophecy of Daniel extremely interesting, especially what the ram and goat represent. I found the picture illustration very helpful and it made it very simple to understand, to the point that my 10-year-old worked with me on the quiz paper and we had a long conversation about the prophecy of Daniel. This also enabled me to minister to my son, not only concerning Daniel but also about how God is good all the time.'

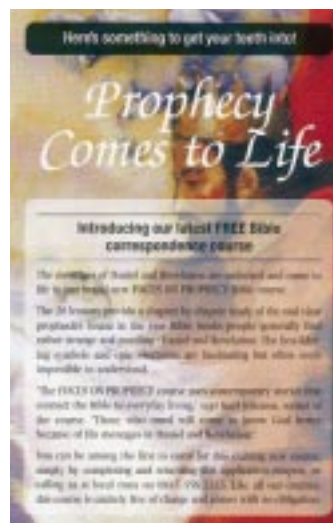
'My son lost his father when he was only 7. When he heard his father had passed away, his first question to me was, "Why didn't God help him so that he would still be with us now?" He was very angry with God at the time. Thank you that your Focus on Prophecy lessons have helped me to minister to my son in such a positive way.' (Croydon.)

A few days later we received this letter from another student:

'I thank you very much for the blessings of the heavenly God that you have made known to me in the Bible lessons. I am happy to tell you that I was baptized at the SEC Camp Meeting in Wales on 7 July 2001. I thank God and praise Him for all the staff at the Bible School in Watford.' (Hounslow.)

We are especially pleased for the positive impact that our newest Bible course is having. Called FOCUS ON PROPHECY, seven lessons study the book of Daniel and thirteen lessons study the book of Revelation – all in a wonderfully open and understandable style.

One of the first things we did to promote this course was to write to



## StAMP team begins VBS programme in Albania

by Gary Wynne

On Monday 20 August the St Albans Mission Project (StAMP) team began their first day of activities for the children of Ali Demi, a poor suburb of Tirana, Albania. The local church in Tirana has spent considerable time establishing links with local parents and children and has already run some limited Sabbath School programmes. They have now been able to purchase a small, run-down and neglected bungalow in which to create a local church. This building has been the base for the StAMP programme which includes a 'Kids' Club' in Vacation Bible School format, arts and crafts, puppet and music workshops, and even English language and employment skills workshops. The StAMP team has also been allowed to use a nearby school gym to run sporting activities such as football coaching.

The StAMP team, consisting of twenty-four people (twelve adults and twelve youth), spent the last few days before the programme began frantically buying and setting up all the resources and equipment they needed. The days have been long and hot (Monday saw a 5.30am start and team members were still up at 1am the following morning), but all the hard work, planning, pressure and

excitement has paid off as around fifty local children, plus some parents, joined in all the activities. The reception has been tremendous and the local church members have been impressed. We even managed to hold an open-air café to encourage members to mix with locals and get to know one another better.

Local assistant pastor, Steve Wilson,

## Largest ever Camporee for SEC

by Catherine Anthony

From Sunday 5 to Sunday 12 August, 505 Adventurers, Pathfinders and club leaders, co-ordinators and directors gathered together to fellowship both spiritually and socially at the largest ever Pathfinder Camporee to be run by the South England Conference. The Camporee was held at Blackwell Court, Bromsgrove in the West Midlands.

The nature of Pathfinding is one of movement, and this was reflected in the numerous recreational activities planned during the week, including outdoor activities such as archery, swimming, orienteering, drilling and marching, aerial

was amazed that after just one day of programmes at least six parents expressed a keen interest to attend church services. The main challenge for the StAMP group is to keep their stamina in the heat and to adapt to the Albanian way of life, which has meant things taking two or three times longer to do than planned.

runway and the water slide, and indoor pursuits like badge making, glass painting and music and drama workshops.

The title for the Camporee was 'A servant of God' and was centred on the theme of Elijah, 'a Tishbite and a servant of God'. Even the arrangement of the stage was an artistic representation of Elijah on Mount Carmel.

The guest speaker for this special week was Pastor Oliver Archer, the youth pastor at Pioneer Memorial church on the campus of Andrews University. Although he appeared very young, his messages each night reflected his spiritual maturity.

The young people did appreciate the thought-provoking sermons as well as the worship and praise sessions led by Davis Dean and Sean Mitchell.

Sixty guests joined the Pathfinders over the weekend. Pastor Steve Palmer, NEC Youth director, and Ken Burt, Pathfinder co-ordinator for the West Midlands, were among those present. Pastor Eglan Brooks, SEC Pathfinder and Teens director, also welcomed Pastor Cecil Perry, the re-elected president of the British Union Conference and his family as specially-invited guests to the event.

Appreciation should be given to Pastor Eglan Brooks and Claudette Simon, for much preparation and hard work in the planning of the event and to the club leaders and Pathfinder co-ordinators for running such a well-ordered and efficient Camporee.

### NEWBOLD COLLEGE

#### Genius Wanted Immediately

Newbold College is looking for a brilliant writer/photographer to take up a Student Missionary post as Marketing and Public Relations Assistant. He or she must have excellent design qualifications and/or experience and the ability to work wonders, using modern computer software. Duties include preparing brochures and newsletters, conducting interviews for articles, writing and designing audio-visual presentations, updating web pages – a range of activities from the humdrum to the breathtaking. If you think you have the necessary training, imagination, commitment, flexibility and stamina, send your CV now to: Velda Cox, Advancement director, Newbold College, St Mark's Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4AN. Email: [vcx@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:vcx@newbold.ac.uk).



# The Achan Factor

Achan's story (Joshua 7) is one of those we would rather pass over. Recently I have been involved with another Adventist publishing house in the production of a book of Bible stories for children. When the authors reached the Achan story they were so embarrassed that they fudged most of the details, including Achan's punishment.

What is it that makes us uncomfortable about Achan? Is it because God comes over as being very particular? Would we be better pleased if He had not taken such a hard line?

Perhaps we need to recap on the story.

Jericho had fallen. All precious metals from the city were meant to be taken to the tabernacle. Achan decided to appropriate some gold and silver plus a 'costly robe of Shinar' for his own use and to bury them beneath his tent. Doubtless he was thinking that, once the Israelites had settled in Canaan, he would liquidate his assets and build a big house.

But God – who is particular about possessions as well as about days of worship – took exception. The result? The first time Joshua's army met a Canaanite army in open conflict Joshua was humiliatingly defeated. Asked for an insight into His thinking, God told Joshua what had happened and how He wanted it dealt with.

The Israelites were to be given a day's notice for a full assembly of the people. They were to assemble in tribal units. God would choose the tribe, then the clan, then the family, then the culprit. The people were to be made aware of the procedure in advance.

It was not a detective strategy. God had *seen* Achan running off with the plunder. He knew who the culprit was. So why the rignarole?

Joshua had taken the defeat at Ai very badly. He accused God of desertion and grovelled on the ground, face down. I like what God said to him – 'Get up, man!' – before explaining that the presence of sin in the camp had led Him to withdraw His blessing. Was God too tactful to say that, in addition, He would have appreciated a little consultation from Joshua in advance of the attack on Ai? What He *did* make crystal clear was that the Israelites could expect no blessing until the evil among them was rooted out.

'Will a man rob God?' Malachi was to ask, centuries later. Achan had robbed God of the first fruits of the land of Canaan. And, as bad, he had taken a robe with evil associations that God had indicated should be left to burn with Jericho, a city whose wickedness had to be purged from the face of the Earth.

God gave the Israelites notice of the holy convocation, and went through the identification of tribe, clan, family and culprit to give Achan plenty of opportunity to repent. Did he take it? Achan did not confess until the finger of God actually singled him out. The game was up. Might as well admit it.

Even in his admission Achan gave no sign of sin-sorrow. Indeed, at that late stage he was tactless enough to announce in the face of God and all the people that he had taken a 'goodly Babylonish garment' (Joshua 7:21). How different Achan's perceptions were from God's! To Achan the scam had been 'goodly'; in conversation with Joshua, God had, on four occasions, called it 'the accursed thing' (verses 11, 13, 15). In God's final use of that expression He included in it Achan and his entire family and possessions.

One thing that Achan's admission did do, however, was to

identify the sin that had led to his theft: *covetousness* (verse 21). Ellen White describes this as 'of all sins one of the most common and the most lightly regarded. While other offences meet with detection and punishment, how rarely does the violation of the tenth commandment so much as call forth censure. . . . Covetousness is an evil of gradual development. Achan had cherished greed of gain until it became a habit, binding him in fetters well-nigh impossible to break.'

How does covetousness work these days? Aspiring after the trappings of a standard of living beyond the reach of our income – big houses, sporty cars, the latest in entertainment and IT equipment? You tell me! 'Everywhere its slimy track is seen. It creates discontent and dissension in families; it excites envy and hatred. . . . And this evil exists not in the world alone, but in the church. How common even here to find selfishness, avarice, overreaching, neglect of charities, and robbery of God "in tithes and offerings". Among church members "in good and regular standing" there are, alas! many Achans. Many a man comes stately to church, and sits at the table of the Lord, while among his possessions are hidden unlawful gains, the things that God has cursed. For a goodly Babylonish garment, multitudes sacrifice the approval of conscience and their hope of heaven. . . .'<sup>2</sup>

Throughout our history Adventist authors have made the point that 'we as a people are repeating the history of ancient Israel'.<sup>3</sup> Hence the incidence of those wanting to profit from their connection with the Church – some by embezzlement of funds – should not take us too much by surprise.

Achan and his family were stoned and then burned in the Valley of Achor (trouble). 'Have you considered why it was that all who were connected with Achan were also subjects of the punishment of God? It was because they had not been trained and educated according to the directions given them in the great standard of the law of God. Achan's parents had educated their son in such a way that he felt free to disobey the word of the Lord. The principles inculcated in his life led him to deal with his children in such a way that they also were corrupted. . . .'<sup>4</sup> I would infer that a reckoning day is coming for those parents who believe that it is wrong to discipline their children.

There, in the Valley of Achor, a monument was erected to the memory of Achan's terrible deed. But in the Valley of Achor, the Valley of Trouble, there is something else. When Hosea took back his prostitute wife Gomer, God led him to find in the 'Valley of Achor . . . a door of hope'. (Hosea 2:15.)

In the Valley of Seriously Messed-up Lives there is a door of hope. Gomer the prostitute went through it and was saved. Achan, who stole what was the Lord's, did not go through it and was lost. Why? Hosea took Gomer back and she repented. God gave Achan every opportunity to repent, and he did not. Sin-sorrow, repentance, is God's condition for passage through the Door of Hope in the Valley of Seriously Messed-up Lives. God can only mend our lives when we acknowledge that they are broken beyond our powers of repair, that we are desperately sorry for having pursued a course of action that has led to such a breaking – and that we want God to make us again, brand new.

<sup>1</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 496. <sup>2</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 497-498. <sup>3</sup> *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 160; Morris Venden, *From Exodus to Advent* (SPA, 1980), page 8. <sup>4</sup> *Child Guidance*, page 234.

## Sick days, sick people

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) estimates that 6.5 million sick days are taken every year due to stress, at a cost to the companies concerned of around £10.2 billion. It is reckoned that about 500,000 people suffer from work-related stress or depression in the UK. Each day, 270,000 of these take time off as a result of their illness. Around 150,000 workers will have taken at least a month off because of their stress-related sickness.

Sixty-five per cent of the top 112 UK companies cite stress as the major ill-health factor in their organization. With statistics for job-stress running so high, the HSE is urging companies to treat stress as seriously as other health hazards in the workplace.

It would appear that both male and female workers in the 35-44 age range suffer the effects of stress the most. They are typically non-white teachers working in London or Wales and have been a long time in their posts. While it is possible to draw this profile from the research, a wide range of people are affected, including:

- teachers generally
- nurses
- managers
- other professionals, educated to degree level and earning more than £20,000 a year
- social workers
- road transport operatives
- police and prison officers.

Naturally, depending on their circumstances,

anyone can be affected by work-stress, with their absenteeism causing stress in others as colleagues 'hold the line'.

A spokesperson for the HSE says, 'A burnt-out workforce is an unproductive workforce.' The HSE recognizes that there is a vast difference between a worker who thrives on the adrenaline surge and those who are not able to cope with the demands made on them. They list the following signs that all may not be well with the worker:

- rapid weight loss or gain
- sleeplessness
- stomach disorders
- extreme irritability
- depression.

There may well be other reasons for these symptoms than job-stress but, even so, workers exhibiting them may not be as productive as they would be otherwise. The HSE advises that a risk assessment be carried out on all workers, but *especially* before imposing any extra burdens.

Apart from anxieties associated with particular jobs, the increase in work-stress has been attributed to greater job insecurity and longer working hours, especially in the UK which has the longest working hours in Europe and the second longest in the developed world.

It has been suggested by one psychologist that the UK workforce should receive more praise and reward for achievement rather than

punishment for failure, which has led to a climate of fear in the workplace.

Short-term stress has its place and the majority of workers thrive on it. However, for those who cannot cope, or for those who face continuous pressure, there is a health-price to pay with heart-disease, high blood pressure, and gastro-intestinal disorders topping the list. Whether it is in these conditions, depression or breakdown, leaders in business are seeing ever more clearly that if the stress situation is not carefully monitored they will have wasted costly investment in people and lose their skills to the business if these workers are forced to retire through ill-health. A Scottish study showed that heart attacks were more likely to occur on Mondays. Was this caused by an overindulgent weekend or the thought of returning to work on Monday?

The Christian works within the same stress parameters as do other workers. The difference is that the Christian has a resource outside of himself or herself. Paul's reminder to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:7) comes just as timely to ourselves: 'For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead His Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.'



## Scottish Mission Sports Day

The annual sporting event for the Scottish Mission met on Sunday 24 June at Crieff, Perthshire, this year, and once again proved a great success. Teams from the Crieff, Dundee and Edinburgh churches gathered under blue skies in the wonderful Perthshire scenery.

A great day was had by all as male and female, young and old (as young as 7 and as old as 55) participated in the same events, which included running, three-legged race, rounders, indoor hockey, basketball and football. Edinburgh took first prize this year in a very close-run competition, with only three-and-a-half points separating the four competing teams. Special thanks are due to Pastor Gordon Smith, Scottish Mission's Youth Sponsor; and to Andrew Logan, who organized and refereed all the games and ensured their smooth running. Lots of fun, new friendships and a pleasant atmosphere made for a perfect day.

AUDREY OGILVIE

## Brixton: Baptism and farewell

On 26 May Sister Ursula Sharpe was given the Brixton pulpit to deliver her final message before returning to her homeland, Jamaica. Her admonition was direct: 'Always exhibit a spirit of unity and love within the church.'

Sister Sharpe has been Brixton's Bible worker for six years. She delivered a baptismal sermon on her last Sabbath. There were three baptismal candidates with whom she had studied: Sarah Etudos, Micheline Jonzac and Marlene Campbell.

Dr Eric L. Henry, the Brixton pastor, immersed the candidates. Dr Henry, who has served Britain as a conference officer, and the Church as a theology professor, pastor and evangelist, is also contemplating retirement.

JOAN REID

## Radio Ireland

For those of you who regularly tune in to Gospel 846 on the medium wave band each Sabbath at noon here is a short email that I received from Victor Hulbert regarding the programme:

*'I just thought you would like to know that I got a letter today from a gentleman in Harrogate, North Yorks, who listened to Network 7 News on Gospel 846 from a holiday location in Troon on the west coast of Scotland. He said the signal was strong and clear, and that he can also hear it in Harrogate although the signal is quite poor there (not surprisingly). He closes his letter by saying, "I look forward to hearing from you and to hearing the very professional Network 7 News via 846kHz in the future." I guess if folk can hear it on this side of the Irish Sea there must be a goodly number tuning in over where you are.'*

Also on 7 July, if you tuned in, you may well have recognized the voice of the person who closed the programme, then again you may not have. But Douglas McCormac, pastor in Dublin, was asked to do the Thought for the Day slot at the end of the Network 7 News. He was asked to comment on the events that had been unfolding in the peace process in Ireland and if there were any lessons that we could gain from these events.

As has been demonstrated, these programmes reach all the way into Scotland and can be found on the medium wave dial at 846kHz every Sabbath at noon. You can also listen to the programmes prepared by AWR at their website at: <http://english/awr.org/realmedia/n7n.html>.

IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION SPONSOR

## Pathfinder Day at Portsmouth



Sabbath 21 July in Portsmouth was a lively experience as the Adventurers and Pathfinders showed just how much young people were capable of doing in the service of their Lord. They ran the whole programme from start to finish with the theme, 'I will be a servant of God.'

The young people used their talents to the best of their abilities, whether in music (such as Kessia's violin solo), song or leading out. After a challenging lesson study conducted by three young ladies – Gaby, Jennifer and Stephanie – Miguel Martínez (age 10 – see photo) delivered the morning message in the divine service, a thought-provoking meditation on Jesus' sacrifice at the cross. The day was rounded off by a performance of 'The Jonah Experience' by the Hounslow Cornerstone youth group.

PASTOR DAVID FOSTER



## Greenwich Youth Day

They came from the east, south, north and west. The theme for the day – 'The time is now'. On 16 June the Sabbath school consisted of songs and sketches illustrating the times in which we live. Then came divine service when a powerful message was given by the visiting speaker, Alvin Whittes, based on Moses. 'Have you been called?' was the question asked. As we go, let us be more committed to our Christian journey. The day ended with a vibrant and interesting AYS programme arranged by the leader Shirley Grant.

JOYCE CERES

## Visitors' Day

Visitors and friends joined together for a day of fellowship at the Aylesbury church. The day began with a well-attended Sabbath school, with items rendered by our singing group and our children. The lesson as always in Aylesbury was interesting and thought-provoking. Divine service was conducted by our pastor, David Spearing. By this time more visitors had arrived. Pastor Spearing's sermon was delivered to an attentive congregation. After lunch, provided by the ladies of the church, we enjoyed a varied afternoon programme of song, study and fellowship. When the time came to leave many seemed reluctant to go, talking and meeting friends outside the church. Everyone expressed their thanks for a truly enjoyable and spiritual day and we looked forward meeting again.

JOHN DILLON

## Sister Newton's success

Congratulations go to one of our older senior members, Sister B. A. Newton of the Greenwich church. Once again she has been one of our highest Ingatherers for the tenth year in succession. There is no doubt that Sister Newton encounters negative responses; but they do not discourage her from continuing what she will say is 'the Lord's work'. Although Sister Newton didn't have the enthusiasm this year as other times (she usually takes five to six tins, but this year she only took four tins) she somehow managed to collect the splendid sum of £368.79.

JOY CERES



Telford youth visit the elderly.

## The Teddy Bear Lady

Did you know that one of our elders at Erdington has for some years been regularly visiting the Teddy Bear Lady of Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield? Senior elder Bernard Thompson first made contact with Dorothy Mills of Hart Drive, when she telephoned him after seeing a local newspaper report that our church in Erdington regularly despatched consignments of toys, food, clothing, medical supplies and other essential items to distressed areas around the world through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Mrs Mills informed Brother Thompson that she had already made a staggering 2,500 teddy bears in the past for children in need.

Brother Thompson was delighted to make contact with this wonderful lady and, since then, Mrs Mills has regularly donated to our church some hundreds of teddy bears which we, through ADRA, have been able to send out to children in our schools, missionary centres, hospitals and orphanages in Romania, Albania and Bosnia.

Mrs Mills, now in her 80s, started her hobby almost by accident. She was asked to make a teddy bear when she attended a lace class. The teacher brought in a pattern of a teddy bear and asked everyone to knit one for the deprived children in Romania. That was ten years ago. Since then there has been no turning back as far as Mrs Mills is concerned.

The Teddy Bear Lady regularly telephones Brother Thompson to tell him that she has consignments of teddy bears for him, sometimes about seventy-five in all. As you may imagine, Brother Thompson loses no time in visiting her with a view to collecting the teddy bears and packing them securely in boxes for immediate despatch through ADRA to children around the world.

Our members in Erdington have seen teddy bears being packed for despatch to Eastern Europe. Not long ago, there was a display of Mrs Mills' teddy bears at a museum in Stratford-on-Avon, which was an inspiration to all who saw it.

We thank Mrs Mills for her wonderful and inspired charitable work for children in Eastern Europe.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

Left to right: Bernard Thompson, Laura Grant, Iris Thompson, George Taylor, and Pearl Walker.



## Telford: Be-Attitudes

At Telford in the Welsh Mission the AY programme occurs in the morning and Sabbath school and divine service in the afternoon. On Sabbath 11 August AY lasted all day – and began with a visitation of the elderly members by the youth.

Roshay Hemmings, 11, superintended Sabbath school which utilized drama presentations to illustrate the 'Be-Attitudes' of Jesus.

In divine service five youth from the Telford church presented: 'Attributes of Attitudes', Devon Osbourne; 'Psychology of Attitudes', Alison Taylor; 'Lessons from nature', Lystra Wilson; 'Attitudes towards worship', Mitzy Hemmings; and 'Bringing something to the table', Martin Taylor. These presentations were geared towards highlighting the 'Be-Attitudes' or those attitudes that we should endeavour to have as Christians and how these attitudes benefit us. Interspersed between the various presentations were musical items from the children's Chorale in addition to a puppet show entitled 'Promises'.

In the final presentation, Martin Taylor sought to cook 'God's Remnant hot pepper church soup'. Select members were given various items of food representing the fruits of the Spirit to contribute to the cooking of this dish. The essence of the illustration was to highlight the importance of each member's contribution to the church and the need to work together so as to advance the work. The point was made in concluding that it is not enough for us to come to church expecting to be filled but we should endeavour to bring something to worship.

DEVON OSBOURNE II

## LACU congratulated

Conaccess, an independent monitor of credit unions in Britain, has just reported on their 2000 financial figures. From a sample of 120 credit unions, the London Adventist Credit Union (LACU) has confirmed its position among the leaders in Britain: The average withdrawal ratio (shares taken out) was 75.58% while LACU's was 28.41%; the average liquidity was 36%, LACU's was 72.4% (more than twice the average and 11% increase on the previous year). Administration expenses average was 4.7%, LACU's was 2.39%.

Our chairman, Dr Albert A. C. Waite, congratulated the Board on its achievement, before pointing out that the LACU is not healthy in all departments. He pointed out that while the average growth was 26.75%, that for the LACU was only 19.7%. Dr Waite then took the opportunity to introduce the new, glossy promotional brochure (jointly



## A chance meeting?

Two men set off one day in 1998 on an aeroplane headed for England. The plane was flying from Botswana. Neither of the men had met before, but both were heading for the same university, one to study pharmacy, the other to study network information management.

Sedumedi Pule, on the left of the photo, was about to embark on his first year of study in network information management. Thatayaone Didimalong, on the right, was starting his second year in pharmacy. The university was Bradford, West Yorkshire.

After a while the young men engaged in friendly conversation. Both were in their late twenties. They had things in common. However, the topic eventually turned to religion and it turned out that Sedumedi, although interested, didn't belong to any particular church. On the other hand, Thatayaone was very much a Christian. On landing they both stayed at the same hotel for that night and it was there that their differences in lifestyle became obvious. Sedumedi smoked and liked his beer. He said he couldn't get along without them, but at the same time he wasn't altogether happy with his life in general. He also noted that Thatayaone seemed very content with his lot and didn't need such stimulants.

Both men found lodgings in Bradford, but in different parts of the city and went about their business, though they met occasionally over the years that followed. Sedumedi met a young lady during this period and became very fond of her. She was a Christian and introduced him to her church family. Unfortunately the relationship didn't blossom; they parted and Sedumedi was very unhappy. He related this experience to his friend Thatayaone, who comforted him and gradually introduced him to his church. Having learned something of Jesus, Sedumedi was now willing to learn more. He had studies with our pastor, Graham Allcock. All the members were delighted to welcome Sedumedi into the Bradford church with the Right Hand of Fellowship. He no longer needs alcohol or the pernicious weed, but has a relationship with Jesus and is happy.

ARCHIE BLEVINS

produced by himself and Mr E. Scantlebury) as a means by which church members within the M25 motorway could become more familiar with and benefit from the Credit Union's activities.

ANNETTE ROBINSON, secretary

## Basil prepares for Queen's Jubilee

Basil Hyatt, retired teacher and architect, is as staunch a royalist as you will find in any Adventist

church. Basil is also the Communication secretary for his local church at Chalford, Gloucestershire, and frequently publishes features on church activities in the Gloucestershire newspapers.

Basil also writes poetry. In 1956 he prepared a book of poems – *God Sent* – dedicated to the young Queen. At that time he could not afford to have the book published. Now, in time for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, Basil has had his book published.

EDITOR



## Dublin baptism

Busi, originally from Zimbabwe, first heard the Adventist message when she somewhat reluctantly attended the NET '98 programme being broadcast, via satellite, in the local Adventist church in Soweto. During the series, she became convinced of the Sabbath and other vital truths. On more than one occasion she confronted her own pastor in the Pentecostal Church.

While continuing to study her Bible, Busi made contact with the local Adventist pastor and requested baptism. Around the same time she was offered a job in Dublin as a programmer for the Royal Bank of Scotland. But she wasn't to know how fast things were to move with the new job and, before she knew it, she was in Dublin and among a new Adventist family.

Before long she made herself known to Pastor Douglas McCormac and told him of her desire to be baptized. After studying with her for a number of weeks, Pastor McCormac had the joy of baptizing Busi on Sabbath afternoon, 5 May. Many of the church members returned to witness this special event. The service was conducted by Pastor McCormac, assisted by Pastor Alan Hodges. Before being baptized, Busi shared her testimony with the members, and special music was brought by Tracey who is also from Zimbabwe.

IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION SPONSOR

## Family Ministries stresses singles

July 14-16 was Lewisham church's Family Ministries weekend when the emphasis was on Singles.

The members were blessed by a lively and thought-provoking sermon by Pastor Nigel David, who highlighted that only when we have learned to love one another as friends and family can we hope successfully to offer love to a partner within a relationship. 'Eros'

## West Wales Pathfinders

What do you get when you combine fifty-six people, ages ranging from 6 to 99, a gloriously hot summer's day, beautiful surroundings, woods, gardens, food and games? You get a Pathfinder Fun day! June 24 was the day for the West Wales Pathfinders to invite members and friends to join them at Tyn-y-Coed farm for an afternoon of fun and fund-raising. They had been working hard for several weeks building pine cars to race, arranging food and collecting and making items for sale. Why? Although we live in a beautiful part of Britain, a long way from most other places, we are very much part of the wider world. This year, three of our number are volunteering to go to Romania on the youth project and the Pathfinder group are eagerly looking forward to next year's Camporee in Poland. All these projects require contributions from those involved and this was one way that they could raise money and give us all a good time into the bargain.

What better way to spend a summer afternoon is there than walking through shady woods, looking to find strange objects lurking in the trees and undergrowth, while chatting to your friends? For the more energetic, there was bobbing for apples, football, golf, skipping, walking on stilts, and the inevitable water fight. Everyone enjoyed the barbecue, the ice cream, the cakes and the talking. The pine cars raced (they were built for the Pathfinder honour), and a girl's car won! We owe a big thank you to our hosts, Glyn, Vi, Jon and Janet for the many hours of hard work they put into making the mystery walk, building the race track and clearing the barn in case it rained. About £240 was raised altogether, to be divided between the two projects. The Pathfinders raised their own money by making greeting cards, Welsh cakes (very popular) and their 'white elephant auction'. This was good, but the greatest benefit was in the fellowship we had together.

June 30-1 July was another busy weekend for the West Wales Pathfinders with a Master Guide training weekend and a camp at Tyn-y-Coed. Eleven Pathfinders found themselves heading for the countryside after Sabbath morning church, to enjoy the rest of the weekend together. Two leaders and nine trainees undertook the first weekend camp for level 2 leadership training. There was a lot to do, what with workshops, discussions, studying camp procedures, organization, siting, setting up and clearing away. They also enjoyed games and put their map skills to the test with an orienteering exercise.

Sabbath 14 July completed the trilogy of events for the West Wales Pathfinders. The Carmarthen church was host to family and friends of the Pathfinders on Sabbath afternoon. The investiture of four Adventurers (one Busy Bee, one Sunbeam, two Builders) with twenty-six Awards, and ten Pathfinders (one Friend, two Explorers, four Voyagers, three Guides) with fifty-four Honours, was the culmination of a year of hard work, fun and dedication by all the Pathfinders and their leaders.

Two special awards were given, the Cup for Adventurer of the Year was won by Vanessa Kidwell and the Cup for Pathfinder of the Year was presented to Martyn Latchman. The presentation of awards was made by our Welsh Mission president, Dr Brian Phillips. It was very interesting to learn that the Pathfinder motto and pledge that have remained unchanged for nearly a century were originally used by the great-grandfather of two of our present youth.

We enjoyed the music of Sojoya Paul, who played a selection of pieces on the harp. Three of our number, Sojoya, Lauren and Anne Marie, were presented with small tokens from the Society towards their expenses for the volunteer trip to Romania.

WELSH MISSION COMMUNICATION SPONSOR



can only flourish once 'agape' reigns. 'Singles' looking for partners were encouraged to listen to the Holy Spirit and to accept parental guidance. The advice was given to consider what each individual could bring to a relationship. Most importantly, however, it was emphasized that we should permit things to happen in God's time, and those seeking partners should be patient.

Members were encouraged to see that single men and women alike are able to lead fulfilled and focused lives, working effectively for God and contributing to church life.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## Choir sings at birthday celebration

On Sabbath 2 June Middlesbrough church was the venue for a surprise birthday lunch in honour of our deacon, Charles Coupland, on reaching the magnificent age of 80.

The lunch was prepared by the writer, along with the sisters and brethren of the church. The pastor paid tribute to Charles's many roles and especially his musical ability.

Charles reckoned there was 'nothing new under the sun' until our Zimbabwean choir sang for him. This was a truly blessed day of rejoicing and we give glory to God for enabling Charles and his wife Marian to be such assets to the Middlesbrough church.

MARIE SURREY

## Smethwick Community Prayer Band Day

Under the auspices of the Sabbath school department, 4 August was a memorable day for the Smethwick church. As a result of our promoting prayer bands in the community, God has blessed this project. Most community members report to the church of the joy they find in prayer, and give God special thanks for the part the church is playing in their lives.

We were blessed by the ministry of a visiting Methodist minister.

C. PERRY

## MISSING MEMBERS: Can you help?

The South England conference is anxious to trace the following members:

Mrs A. Simon (last heard of in Billericay); Miss A. Blackler (last heard of in Rayleigh); Mr N. Simpson (last heard of in Watford); Mr M. Bent (last heard of in N. London); Miss F. Target (last heard of in N. London); Miss F. Wilson-Rudd (last heard of in Wells); Mrs M. Brown (last heard of in Marlborough; believed to be in Trowbridge); Mr J. Lippincott (last heard of in Crewkerne).

If you know the whereabouts of any of these members please contact: Pastor H. Walters, South England Conference Office, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ. Phone (01923) 232 728. Thank you.

# The Mike Logan Story

by David Marshall

Mike Logan's father was a member of the IRA. He counts Gerry Adams among his relations.

Before Mike was as much as a twinkle in his father's eye, his father came to be involved in what the Irish call a 'midnight flit' - from Belfast, in Ulster, to Limerick, in the Irish Republic. There he met and married a Limerick woman and, in the fullness of time, Mike was born.

For a picture of his upbringing in Limerick, Mike refers us to the book (and the movie) *Angela's Ashes*. Poverty, alcohol and Irish nationalism were the principal ingredients of Mike's childhood.

Mike Logan intones the fluency, humour and soft consonants of the South, and his wit and extrovert behaviour do much to reinforce the stereotype and then some. Mike has not so much kissed the Blarney Stone as swallowed a large chunk of it!

Although he hit the bottle at an early age, somehow that did not prevent him from landing a good job and a beautiful wife, Evelyn.

His upbringing and schooling were Catholic. Mike's mother, who died when he was 18, had taught him to 'call on the name of Jesus' when he was in trouble. Wrapped around the fender of a truck - he had been driving when drunk - and pouring blood, Mike called upon the name of Jesus.

Later, in hospital, a Christian friend asked Mike, 'Were you ready to die?' That question troubled him a great deal for months. He moved away from his Catholic background and began the long search for truth, along with Evelyn. In their search they tried both the Pentecostals and the Brethren. At some point during this period they gave their hearts to the Lord.

But Mike had been Jack the Lad on the streets of downtown Limerick. Social life in the city did not necessarily include attendance at mass but it *did* include spending a major portion of one's income in the bars. Evelyn wept and suffered a lot.

Insecurities from her childhood resurfaced as anorexia. She would have loved to have had children, as would Mike. They prayed.

Overjoyed, as first Joy and then Mike junior were born, Mike and Evelyn moved to Shannon. Here Mike ran marathons - and encountered

20 and is bursting with health.

Progress through Newbold was hard work - for Evelyn, who slaved in the kitchen, as well as Mike. One day the bursar told them they must leave the college unless they could stump up £1,000 in back fees. On decision day a grant of £750 was awarded by



Mike and Evelyn Logan, centre. Left, Brid Hannigan and Gerry Bramble. Right, Roy Roberts and Zoë Trevelyan.

Seventh-day Adventists. The couple were baptized by Pastor Don Vollmer. Things were on the up. When Mike was acting elder of the Shannon church plant, Evelyn began to hope that he would begin to train for the ministry.

'The story of how Mike Logan gave up a good job to keep the Sabbath is legendary around here,' says Angela O'Brien, Shannon's current elder. And an erstwhile boozy Jack the Lad from the streets of Limerick was about to apply for ministerial training at Newbold College.

Then disaster struck. Five-year-old Joy was diagnosed with cancer - a tumour near her kidney. Joy lost her pretty golden curls to chemotherapy. There was an operation. The Shannon congregation prayed for God's healing. Mike and Evelyn anointed their own daughter. Today Joy has topped

the British government and a cheque for a further £370 arrived from a member who 'felt impressed'.

I first met Mike at an all-Irish shindig given in the home of Les Hill, whose parents, Captain and Mrs Hill, had befriended them in the days before Mike forswore the bottle. Mike told me his story.

How could either of us know that the story had scarcely begun?

What does God do with an Irish Jack the Lad who has been saved by grace and become a Gospel minister?

As Mike would say, 'Let's cut a long story short.'

Mike is working the streets of Ireland's second city, Cork. When he arrived there three years ago there were no Adventists in the city. In essential respects Mike's personality is unchanged, and God is using the extrovert friendliness to win souls. A

new spin on 'friendship evangelism', perhaps.


Mike, now ordained, first made contact with Morris and Mary Lynch and their three teenagers. Morris, a friendly taxi driver, was made elder at Cork as suddenly as Mike had been at Shannon sixteen years earlier. Mary, a social worker, teaches Sabbath school. Ray was already an Adventist when he came to Cork; but he married Caitriona, a local girl, who has been baptized. Before Roy Roberts was baptized he started his own house meetings in Mitchelstown, where he regularly has seven visitors. After Gerry Bramble had been baptized his girlfriend Brid Hannigan, who came from a Roman Catholic family, began to enquire about baptism.

God has fixed up His own 'coincidences'. One day, for example, taxi driver Morris gave a lift to Imelda. Imelda, who came from the Philippines, was complaining that she could not find a Seventh-day Adventist church in this large city. Morris immediately said, 'I'm a Seventh-day Adventist. . . .' Now Imelda provides the music for Sabbath worship.

And so it has gone on: Mike and Evelyn's neighbours and their children are regular attendees at the Sabbath morning worship, as is a keenly interested minister of the (Anglican) Church of Ireland.

There are now three groups, two in the city, one fifteen miles distant, all worshipping the Seventh-day Adventist way. Mike Logan has so many interests and is giving so many Bible studies that he has asked for help. Kevin and Vicky Wiley of Adventist Frontier Missions will arrive in October to provide this much-needed assistance.

God needed a modern St Patrick. And He has found an unlikely one! Mike Logan can still look like Jack the Lad - but the new birth has changed him. And God is using his irrepressible Irishness to reach out to those of his own nationality - and the church is growing weekly!



**HIV POSITIVE?**

- ♦ Are you HIV positive?
- ♦ Do you have a family member or friend who is HIV positive?
- ♦ Are you afraid you might be infected?
- ♦ Would you like to learn how not to get infected?
- ♦ Would you like to learn more about what HIV and AIDS are?

**If you have answered YES to any of these questions then POSITIVELY ADVENTIST is willing to help you by:**

- ♦ Providing non-judgemental and confidential support to people who are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ♦ Educating you on how to stop yourself getting infected.
- ♦ Teaching you ways of living positively with the disease.
- ♦ Facilitating the breaking of stereotypes and stigma within our church often suffered by people who have HIV/AIDS.

**SO WHAT NOW?**

- ♦ If you would like to receive confidential, caring, Christian support from fellow Adventists;
- ♦ If you would like someone to come and talk to your church members about this subject;
- ♦ If you would like to be part of a team of people who will offer this support;
- ♦ If you would like to meet fellow Adventists who are HIV+ for peer support and friendship;

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

Rachel Mandirahwe-O'Mard  
Tel: (01206) 853772/855902  
Mob: (07956) 631961  
Email: [rachelomard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rachelomard@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr Clemency Mitchell  
Adventist International Medical Society (AIMS UK)  
Email: [clemency.mitchell@talk21.com](mailto:clemency.mitchell@talk21.com)

- Currently 36.1 million people are known to be living with HIV/AIDS in the world (WHO - 2000)
- 21.8 million people are known to have died so far across the world of AIDS (WHO - 2000)
- It is estimated that more than 200 million people could be infected with HIV in 20 years if people do not take effective action (International AIDS Society's Conference - 2001)
- In 2000, in the UK, on average, a new HIV diagnosis was made every 3 hours (Public Health Laboratory Service - 2001).

## Feedback

- Contributors to Feedback should give their postal address and the name of the congregation where their membership resides.
- Short, specific letters are the most effective and have the best chance of being published.
- Letters reflect the opinions of their writers, not necessarily those of the Editor or the Church as a whole.

### CHURCH PLANTING

Dear Editor,

While out on a Sunday, I visited the historic Waltham Abbey. As I wandered through the sanctuary my attention was drawn to their notice board. On display were the various activities they are involved in as a church. I sensed a real community spirit within this church and there, staring at me, was a section of home groups (Cell groups)! Immediately, I felt impressed to go home and write a letter about my involvement with the new ministry of cell groups.

As an Adventist, I have been involved in the church plant in Ruislip and Northolt (Middlesex) for the last two years. I am an active member of the cell group and during this time my view on Christianity and evangelism has completely changed. I have come to know God better and my relationship with Him has deepened. I have learnt that being part of a cell group, meeting in a home once a week and in many other settings outside the weekly cell meeting, allows you to develop a close spiritual relationship with church members to whom you would only politely say hello on a Sabbath. As a student living in London it was very easy to visit many churches and even go to the same church and not be noticed. I had attended one church for around five years, visiting about once a month. Yet members would come up to me and say, 'Is this your first visit?' However, in a cell group you are accountable to each other; it allows you to build confidence, friendship, fellowship and trust with the other members, whatever the age difference.

## VACANCY

Key Stage 1 Teacher  
required January 2002

Harper Bell Adventist School is looking for a highly-motivated, caring and enthusiastic colleague with drive and commitment to join our dedicated and supportive team.

The Board of Governors invites applications from teachers who are sympathetic to the ethos of, and who have the ability to contribute actively to the full life of, our Seventh-day Adventist school. The successful candidate will demonstrate a sound understanding of the National Curriculum and will have the desire to promote work of high standard. This position will provide an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic teacher to play a leading role in the school.

Please send a current CV with supportive statement to: Mr O. Stewart, Headteacher, Harper Bell School, 29 Ravenhurst Street, Birmingham, B12 0EP.

Tel: (0121) 693 7742  
Fax: (0121) 693 0752

Email: [headteacher@harperbell.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@harperbell.freereserve.co.uk)

Closing date for receipt of applications:  
Friday 30 November 2001.

### IRISH MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

#### Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on the weekend of 13-14 October 2001 in the Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Delegates should note that registration will take place in the church foyer between 6:30-7:30pm on Saturday, 13 October 2001.

C. G. Murphy, president  
D. G. Papaioannou, secretary-treasurer

### ADC Special

Continued  
from page 1



you please give as generously as you can – if possible by Gift Aid. You may use the envelope provided with this edition of MESSENGER and send it directly to us at the Adventist Discovery Centre. In this case, we'll put you on the mailing list to receive our newsletter three times a year. Or you may send it to us via your local church treasurer. The monies thus received will enable us to keep pressing forward with existing students and to develop and release new courses produced for the people who comprise our Union.

Thank you for your continued interest, prayers and support of many kinds for the ministry of the ADC. Without you, we simply could not function at all.

'out there'. How can this deep community spirit develop if we meet only on Sabbath mornings? Our first priority should be to share with others the fun, love and friendship we have with Jesus – and then the specifics of our faith.

Sadly, the people of today are not moved by mere doctrines, but maybe they will be moved by the sacrificial love and friendship they experience from members of a cell group. We are still in the process of developing and learning about life as Christians in a cell group, so we welcome your prayers. Finally, the basis of cell groups is friendship. Ask yourself how many of your friends are non-believers.

PAUL GRAY, Ruislip church plant

### THE FORGOTTEN SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see the photograph and the articles by Mrs K. (Gilson) Williams and Pastor Roy Burgess in MESSENGER, 4 May.

Yes, I am the little titch on the front right of the photo! Others were correctly identified. However, my sister Lois was not identified. She is on the back row but one, the second in from the left, and two from Myrtle Richter, now Crocker. Lois eventually married Louis Normington

(assistant editor to Pastor W. L. Emerson), now Dr Louis Normington, retired after many years of teaching at Pacific Union College. Lois died in 1995. One correction – I was the fourth head of the Secondary School, following E. E. White, A.J. Woodfield and R. K. Syme.

Regarding the dating of the school and the picture: one of the writers suggested that the school moved from the hut to Sheepcote Villa in about 1927. It had to be later than that. My sister and I, and parents moved from Southampton to Stanborough Park (Sheepcot Drive) on 2 December 1929, two days before my sixth birthday. My older brothers had been at Stanborough for some time before. I was in the school in the old army building, in the shadow of the College, for the rest of that school year. I think that the school moved to Sheepcote Villa in the autumn of 1930, though it could have been a year later.

It is possible that the photograph was taken at the army hut school. I know we had a photograph taken in the field behind the Sheepcote Villa school, where the spinney made a pleasant background. However, there were some trees near the army hut school, so the picture in the article could well have been taken there.

WILFRED FUTCHER, Berrien Springs, MI.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
<b>THE FINAL JUDGEMENT Gospel Explosion</b>	Saturday night 22 September at 7.45pm	The Albert Hall Institute, North Circus Street, Derby Rd, Nottingham	The London Male Voice Choir with Wayne Williams and Godfrey Gayle and others	Contact: Kelly (0115) 913 7817 Tickets: £5 Conc/£6.50/£8.50 in advance (£10 on the door)
<b>NEWBOLD GRADUATION</b>	Sunday 30 September at 2pm	Newbold College Salisbury Hall (Seating limited, so ring soon!)	Dr John Walton Professor of Reactive Chemistry, University of St Andrews, Scotland	ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. First come first served. From: Principal's Secretary, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 4AN. Tel: (01344) 407 420
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the Newcastle church</b>	Sabbath 6 October	Newcastle Church, Cruddas Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Pastor M. Musgrave Colin Robson, organ	ritaarobson@hotmail.com Tel: (01207) 502 049, evenings 'Old' members especially welcome

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

## MESSENGER

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EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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## SUNSET

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 14	7.17	7.30	7.23	7.33	7.43
21	7.01	7.14	7.06	7.15	7.25
28	6.45	6.57	6.49	6.56	7.07
Oct 5	6.29	6.42	6.32	6.38	6.50

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