

MESSENGER

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

ADRA-UK Afghan Refugee Appeal



by Raafat A. Kamal
ADRA-UK director

THE NEED. According to the United Nations, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is a place that makes sub-Saharan Africa seem relatively well off. Three-quarters of the nation's 26 million people cannot read and an equal number have no safe drinking water.

Afghanistan has few hospitals or schools and one in four children dies

before the age of 5. In addressing its many problems, an official of the World Bank recently gave the perfect description, 'Afghanistan is rocks and stones; you name it, they need it.'

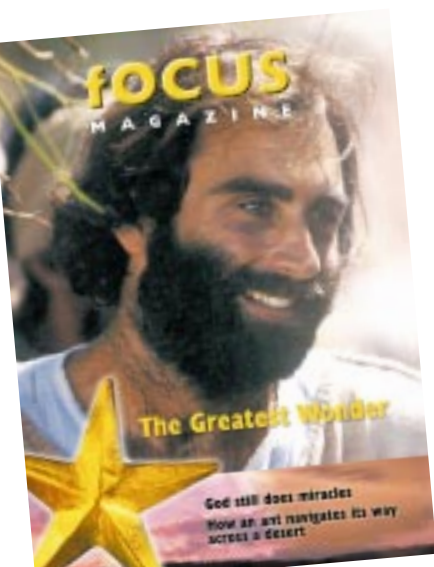
The present war is just one of the many reasons for the suffering of the Afghan people. Afghanistan has

suffered a three-year drought that has been largely ignored by the Western media, where five million Afghans depend on food aid. There are reports of people subsisting on locusts, animal feed and grass. In Islamabad I spoke to an Oxfam worker who had recently been evacuated from Afghanistan. 'The

greatest fear for the majority of Afghans is not bombs, but lack of food,' he said. When an Italian reporter asked one little girl in an Afghan refugee camp what she most wanted in life, she just said, 'bread'.

On 4 September, before the dramatic developments of 11 September, the United Nations had already issued a report entitled 'The Deepening Crisis'. This report highlighted the needs of the five million people who were already severely affected by three years of drought and many years of fighting, and emphasised the desperate and worsening humanitarian situation faced by Afghans across the country. The horrific events of 11 September undermined the relief efforts which were already under way, and today the survival prospects for millions of Afghans are

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Peace on Earth

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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS JESUS!



Adventist talks to Muslims about Second Coming

by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

On Sunday 28 October Pastor Peter Roennfeldt, Ministerial and Global Mission director at the Trans-European Division, presented the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the doctrine of the Second Coming at a Muslim inter-faith seminar held at the Islamic Centre of England in Maida Vale. The seminar was entitled, 'Second

Coming – The Return of Christ and Mahdi', and speakers were invited from Evangelical, Jewish, Anglican, and Muslim, as well as Adventist traditions. Among the lecture topics were: 'The Signs of the End of Time', by Hojatol Islam Val Muslemin Shirazi, and 'Global Peace at the Time of Christ and Imam Mahdi', by Ayatollah Araki.

Adventist representation had been invited several months ago by seminar organiser Professor Ali Haydar, who is a director of the Department of Interfaith Dialogue at the Islamic Centre of England.

In his thirty-minute presentation on 'Adventists and the Second Coming of Christ' Peter Roennfeldt highlighted the history of the Adventist Church, includ-

ing the Great Disappointment. 'Our beliefs are based only on the Holy Books, the Torah, the Zaboor, and the Injil,' he said. 'If we can all work from the word of God, as revealed through His servants the prophets, we will have a sound basis for further discussion and dialogue.'

Pastor Roennfeldt then went on to quote freely from the New Testament (the Injil). 'We are told that we will have wars, famines, and earthquakes,' he said. 'There will be hatred and wickedness and we will see the appearance of the antichrist. All of these are signs, but they are not the 'sign' that Isa, may peace be upon Him, was referring to. No, the ultimate 'sign' is Isa appearing personally in power and great glory, in the clouds, surrounded by countless thousands of His angels.'

The 200-strong, mainly Muslim congregation had already heard presentations on the Muslim understanding of the Second Coming, where Jesus will be accompanied

by the Imam Mahdi. However, having heard several presentations from radically different viewpoints, they were gracious in their acceptance of Pastor Roennfeldt's words. 'I respectfully submit to you,' he continued, 'that in the writings of the Injil there is no reference to another person present at the second coming. Isa alone is the Saviour.'

A number of Seventh-day Adventists attended the seminar, including ministers, lecturers from Newbold College, and students on Newbold's Islamic Studies course. Dr Ron Emmerson, a member of the Newbold church, said, 'This was an excellent conference, I have learned so much. At this time of tension between Islam and Christianity it has also provided a great opportunity to break down barriers and build bridges.'



Hojatol Islam Val Muslemin Ahmad Vaezi, one of the conference organisers, standing on the front steps of the Islamic Centre of England, with Pastor Peter Roennfeldt.



Dr Erich Metzging, lecturer in New Testament at Newbold College, and Dr Ron Emmerson, talk with Ahmad Vaezi.

Healthwise

Nitwits! Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Nits are making the headlines again (no, not the ones at Westminster!), and have even been described as 'The war we cannot win'. It seems that nits have been outwitting the various measures taken through the years to eliminate them. Head lice, *pediculus capitus*, now affect one in five British children.

Strictly speaking, we should only use the term head lice and not nits when describing hair infestation as nit is the name given to the empty lice egg casing. Head lice love hairy surfaces and the underlying blood supply, so these lice move from head to head regardless of whether their surroundings are clean or dirty.

Many people itch at the thought of head lice, but itching associated with their presence is said to affect only about 30 per cent of infested people. Lice live for about two weeks, going from the nymph to the adult

stages in around six to seven days when they are capable of laying eggs and moving on to pastures new.

Gone are the days when 'nit nurses' attended schools, combing for evidence of a head lice epidemic. Now parents rely on strong chemical preparations to kill the lice. The three most used in the UK are:

- ★ **Prioderm** – Containing the insecticid malathion (an organophosphate which replaced DDT), pine needle and citrus-peel oils.
- ★ **d-phenothrin** – Chemicals of the pyrethroid family.
- ★ **and permithrin** – These have an 87 per cent failure rate.

The preparations are extremely unpleasant to use; need to be used according to the maker's instructions; and, in the light of their

failure rates, need repeated applications. The timing of the treatment is also critical. If the process of cleansing is too soon the eggs will hatch another batch of nymphs and complete another cycle.

Repeated applications of the insecticides may build up a resistance that help the lice to outwit their elimination.

Approximately \$250 million is spent worldwide on head lice prevention measures. Part of the problem in dealing with the persistence of head lice is that the drug companies are not interested in products that will gross less than \$600 million, so it looks as if the head lice will keep their head-start for some time yet.



Wake up to the evil that has always been with us

Martin Samuel, who writes in the *Daily Express*, says that nothing has changed since 11 September. He discovered that his wife had ordered Highland Spring with her silver top and told her, 'While the Muslim population of Great Britain is pulling its water from the same well as us, you would have to be hotfoot from the planet Dopey to sling anything down there in the name of Allah just yet.'

That's what Samuel wrote a month ago. If his wife had waited a couple of days, she might have ordered surgical gloves for use when the postman came, not bottled water from the milkman. No one would be 'loony' enough to loose Anthrax on the population, said Samuel. No, really? While the population was still tucking into its cornflakes, while newspapers still gave more space to a new haircut on *Friends* than to a downed Siberian jet, and while the ratings of 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' were as high as ever they were, nothing had changed, argued Samuel.

If your man had aimed his satire at the tens of thousands who had responded to the international crisis by ordering World War II gas masks, I would have taken his point . . . er . . . up to a point. But as it stands his argument reminds me of the nothing-can-really-change mentality that people hold on to – almost in desperation – because they know, deep down, that things can change out of all recognition in an instant.

Time magazine tells how only the far-gone druggies in the US do not share in the national paranoia. And the impact of the A300 on Queens did nothing to help that! The world has become a big, scary place, and we are poorer, too. Ask anyone in the industries related to aircraft, including tourism.

But there is a sense in which the *Express* columnist was right. The terrorists who scored a partial success on 11 September would have been terrorists still if their efforts had ended in failure. The world was a profoundly evil, scary place *before* 11 September. The CIA believed that the greatest threat to the peace of the world came from the Russian mafia, and delinquent regimes believed to have access to nuclear and biological weapons. The CIA was wrong. The greatest threat came from Al-Qaeda. But the Russian mafia and those rogue regimes have not gone away since 11 September. Nor has the number or virulence of terrorists been diminished by the attacks on Afghanistan or the fall of Kabul. The wealth of the world was concentrated in the hands of a tiny percentage of its population, while a far larger percentage starved and looked on in envy *before* 11 September. And if you weren't worried about that it was because you weren't paying attention.

The danger of the nothing-can-change mentality is that it flies in the face of history. ♦ The majority of the British population refused to believe the stories of what Hitler was doing in the death camps, until those camps were liberated in 1945: *it couldn't happen – but it did*. ♦ Many refused to believe that Stalin had liquidated twenty million of his fellow countrymen in the 1930s until the evidence was incontrovertible: *it couldn't*

happen – but it did. ♦ Before 11 September few would have believed it possible that one Saudi billionaire and his terrorist network could strike at the heart of the American government and economy: *it couldn't happen – but it did*.

Ours is a fear-filled world, and Western hearts are failing because of what may be coming upon the world. Two years ago I preached a sermon on the Second Coming in the course of which I mentioned the possibility of nuclear and biological weapons falling into the hands of terrorist networks and delinquent regimes. I even mentioned the possibility of men like Osama bin Laden holding the West to ransom. At the end of the service some of my friends, embarrassed, avoided shaking my hand at the door. One, who did shake hands, reminded me that I was meant to be a scholar but that, that day, I had sounded as if I had seen too many James Bond movies. An honest sceptic asked me where I came by such fanciful ideas. One day the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens. . . . *It cannot happen – but it will*.

Strange things can aid the spread of 'this Gospel of the Kingdom'. Colin Morris, a former head of BBC Religious Broadcasting, says, 'We now all share the vulnerability of those in the richest country on Earth who can no longer get on an airliner, go to a prominent building or even handle a letter without fear.' The consequence of this? Even in so-called post-Christian Britain, people 'who aren't usually religious' were seeking 'a place away from the remorseless battering of disturbing news' – *in church!*

Were these just 'crisis-Christians', like those who filled the churches immediately after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales? Colin Morris indicated that that rather depended on what the visitors found in the churches. . . .

Meanwhile, the New Testament continues to make uncomfortable reading alongside our morning newspapers. We can love our enemies and still insist that they receive their just deserts for breaking the law. But is the war against terrorism only about justice?

Jesus said some uncomfortable things about turning the other cheek, walking the second mile, giving our shirt to the man who steals our coat and praying for (not bombing) our enemies. It's in times like these that the teachings of Jesus appear downright disturbing. 'Purblind utopianism', say the sceptics. 'Society would end in chaos if we followed ideas like that.' Dare I mention here that the alternative course being followed by the politicians is not exactly proving outstandingly successful?

'We have nothing to fear but fear itself,' said F. D. Roosevelt. Fear itself is what the teachings of Jesus strike at. In its place Jesus offers those of us caught up in the crossfire a peace that the world neither knows nor understands. Let's grasp it and invite others to receive it.

Irish Mission Session

by Douglas McCormac,
Irish Mission Communication sponsor

I know that some people will think that I am completely nuts, but I think that Mission sessions don't come around often enough. A session is one of the few occasions when we hear about what is going on in other parts of our small island from the people who are making the changes.

And so it was that on a weekend in October delegates and visitors began to gather in Belfast for their triennial session, a weekend of spiritual revival, fellowship, reports and stories of miracles in people's lives; a weekend of reflection – all this and more as we celebrated what God had done through His people in Ireland over the past three years.

In what were his final duties as Mission president, Pastor Alan Hodges opened the meeting on Friday evening, welcoming all those who had already arrived and introducing his old friend and colleague Pastor Paul Clee. Pastor Clee is the Sabbath School director for the Trans-European Division. Present from the British Union were Pastor Cecil Perry, Pastor Eric Lowe, Victor Pilmoor and Dean Papaioannou. Pastor Clee opened God's Word that evening.

Sabbath

As the sun shone down on Sabbath morning many more members had arrived for the weekend, and the day's programme began with a lively song service just to wake everyone up.

This weekend was an opportunity for outgoing Mission president Pastor Hodges, and his wife Thelma, to say one last farewell, although it would surely not be the last time they would be in Ireland. Alan and Thelma have served in the Irish Mission for thirteen years. But Ireland was not unknown to them before that period. Thelma was born and raised in this great land. Her mother and family still live here. Alan is now the Ministerial director for the BUC.

The New President

It was also a chance for Pastor Hodges to introduce his successor, Pastor Curtis Murphy and his wife Vickie. Curtis and Vickie are coming to Ireland from the North England Conference, where Curtis was the pastor of the Camp Hill church and Vickie taught at the Harper Bell School.

Pastor Murphy was born in St Vincent. His mother's roots were in Scotland. His father's in Ireland, hence the Murphy. But the family came to England at the start of the 60s and his mother, being an Adventist, took the family to the Camp Hill church.

Curtis and Vickie were married in June 1973 at Camp Hill and they have three grown-up children: Adam, Lydia and Abigail. Curtis at first worked in the commercial world. By 1980 he responded to the call of ministry and began attending Newbold College. In 1985 his ministerial internship began in Manchester. He has served as Sabbath School, Youth and Communication sponsor for the NEC and been district leader. He has also been guest speaker and padre at many camps and weeks of prayer in various parts of northern Europe.

Curtis and Vickie Murphy will be bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Mission office, and we welcome them both to Ireland, God's own country. At the same time we want to say one last farewell to Alan and Thelma and wish them all the best for their future.

Divine Service

The task of uniting the people through God's word on Sabbath morning was given to BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry, who did not disappoint. Pastor Perry reflected on the events of 11 September and their consequences, and spoke about the finite nature of the world in which we live. In a rousing sermon he concluded with the great hope that we all hold as Adventists – that we are no longer aliens, strangers or pilgrims in a foreign land, but are citizens of the Kingdom of God.

A fabulous Sabbath lunch was prepared by the ladies of Belfast church and due to the numbers present lunch was served in the church hall that lies behind our own building and is owned by the Presbyterian Church.

Singing

The afternoon session began with a rousing song service led by Pastor

Murphy. He was assisted by Ian Irvine, a member of the Belfast church. Even Pastor Clee was roped into helping out when Pastor Murphy played on the guitar and harmonica to close the song service.

Pastor Clee spoke to us from the



book of Acts in a talk that was entitled, 'We all want our church to grow'. Using the Acts model for Church growth, he encouraged everyone to work together, to encourage one another as we seek to be used by God in fulfilling the Gospel commission.

'Evangelism! Evangelism! Evangelism!'

Before business got under way on Sabbath evening, Curtis Murphy had his first opportunity to break God's word with the people of the Mission as we brought the Sabbath to a close. He took Luke 5:1-11, the story which tells how the disciples were fishing but with little success until Jesus taught them an important lesson regarding their real work. Harking back to the Election slogan 'Education, Education, Education', Pastor Murphy reminded us that the mission of the Church was 'Evangelism, Evangelism, Evangelism'.

Session Business

After prayer and a short break, it was given to Pastor Murphy to open the Irish Mission Session for 2001. He invited the delegates to pray for God's special blessing on the work



Top: Belfast pastor Dr Mart de Groot welcomes the Sabbath morning congregation.
Left: Outgoing Mission president Pastor Alan Hodges introduces the new president and his wife, Pastor Curtis and Sister Vickie Murphy.
Centre: John McNamara speaks for Galway.
Right: Pastor Paul Clee helps Pastor Murphy play two instruments at once!



work, thanking him for all that he had done. Many of the delegates stood and thanked Alan personally for the way he had touched their lives and for the special blessings they had received from his ministry in Ireland.

The arduous, but thankfully swift task of selecting the Recommendations committee was done: Pastor Perry (chair), Lorraine Broomfield, Mariann Cully, Raymond Doherty, Mike Logan, Tony O'Rourke, Lyn Sharpe, Betty Sisson, Evelyn Wilson.

Sunday Session

In the morning the report from the Recommendations committee was brought before the delegates and the committees were presented and voted on.

Nominating committee: Alex Hill, Edward McKee, Paul McCandless, Raymond Doherty, Oliver Martin, Nathaniel

Broomfield and Paul Nesbitt.

The Licences and Credentials committee: Pastor Eric Lowe (chair), Pastor Curtis Murphy, Eileen Irvine, Eddie MacCullagh and Pastor Alan Hodges.

Plans committee: Pastor Paul Clee (chair), Victor Pilmoor, Curtis Murphy, Robert McCormac, Lorraine Broomfield, John McNamara, Niall Sisson, Douglas McCormac, Rudika Puska, Anita Chiper, Nathan Stickland, Mike Logan, Francis Moody, Evelyn Wilson, Mary Lynch, Mary MacCauley, Angela O'Brien and Dr Mart de Groot.

Sunday was a day of hearing the various department reports and thankfully we didn't have to endure them all being read verbatim. Brief statements were made by each department, and it was deemed more beneficial to give the maximum time for questions and discussion. Some sponsors were questioned more

than others. Overall the mood was optimistic, the discussion was constructive and the participation of the delegates was energetic.

By lunchtime the delegates had worked their way through all the reports, which left only the Plans committee and the Nominating committee to report on their work. The Plans committee met after lunch – and everyone was invited to join in! Pastor Clee suggested we split into groups looking at such areas as youth, administration and evangelism, and then have a short brainstorming session and come together at the end and share the ideas with the whole group.

After about thirty minutes, each group was invited to share its ideas with everyone. Many recommendations were suggested and will keep the Mission Executive busy for the next three years! One thing that came across very strongly was the need for a church in which members and pastors listened to one another. There was no shortage of enthusiasm or of people wanting to be involved. There was a very strong force seeking for the church to be proactive, dynamic and spiritual; a church that was reaching out to the community and ensuring that resources were there to fulfil this very important commission.

The Nominating committee was able to bring its final report to the delegates. The sponsors for the various departments were as follows:

Youth – Nathan Stickland;
Trust and Stewardship Services –

Reg Swain;
Communication – Douglas McCormac;
Children's Sabbath School – Ann-Louise McCormac;
Personal Ministries – Curtis Murphy;
Women's Ministries – (Northern Ireland Mariann Cully and (the South) Betty Sisson.

The Sabbath Sabbath was to be appointed by the Mission Executive.

The Executive Committee: Curtis Murphy (chair), Dean Papaioannou (secretary-treasurer), Nathan Stickland, Mike Logan, Lyn Sharpe, Anita Chiper, Francis Moody, John McNamara and Irene Dickie.

The Mission Session having completed its work, it was for Pastor Perry to register words of thanks for all those who had contributed to the weekend and to making it the success that it was; to the ladies in the kitchen, and especially to Ethel McCormac who had co-ordinated that work; to Ed Johnson who had brought the books over from the Stanborough Press; to Pastor Clee, who was the special guest speaker and chair of the Plans committee; to Alan and Thelma Hodges for the work and preparation that they had done (including a presentation of flowers to Thelma and accepted by Alan in her absence); to all who had helped with the wonderful music and the vast pool of talent that there was in the Irish Mission.

Pastor Murphy then brought the meetings to a close with a few short words and prayer.

Dublin Youth Weekend

Douglas McCormac, Irish Mission Communication sponsor

Dublin is a city of culture. It is also the city to which revellers from all over Europe come for a weekend of parties. It was partly in this spirit that Irish Mission youth, together with youth from England, came to Dublin in the last weekend in October.

A group of eighteen 20-somethings, plus some more who had not quite made it to 20, stayed over at the Dublin church. BUC Youth director Pastor Des Boldeau challenged the group with a radical vision for the postmodern era.

Social activities included a trek to the Wellington monument in Phoenix Park.



Irish Mission Youth Camp

by Douglas McCormac, Irish Mission Communication sponsor

Only six days after returning from Florida, Irish Mission Youth sponsor Nathan Stickland hosted the annual summer camp for the young people of Ireland at the Enniskillen Retreat Centre.

The small group of twenty young people, with nearly half of them coming from the Ballinacrow church, had the privilege of having Bob Holbrook, General Conference Pathfinder director, as their main speaker.

In addition to tackling some of the Pathfinder honours the group got stuck into some great activities. The Centre is a favourite haunt for campers and it is where we go to get a good soaking with canoeing and banana boating.

On Thursday evening the campers had a boat tour of the lakes, because Enniskillen lies in the heart of Ireland's lake district and a network of canals that takes you from the west to east coasts and from Dublin up to Belfast. But in the midst of the lake is Devenish Island. Legend has it that Jeremiah was buried there!

The week-long camp ended with two very special events. Firstly, the young people were rewarded for their hard work through the week and were invested with their completed honours. Also they were joined on the Sabbath afternoon by many visitors who had come along to witness the baptism of Antony Magee

and Lydia Hamblin. This special service saw the young people coming once again to the Centre. The baptisms were conducted by Pastor Mart de Groot, who is the grandfather of Antony. It was especially poignant for Antony as this Sabbath was also the birthday of his other grandfather, Gordon Magee, who died earlier in the year.



Baptismal candidates Lydia Hamblin and Antony Magee were immersed by Dr Mart de Groot.

Plymouth helps homeless

On Sabbath 6 October the members of the Plymouth church and the children of Fletwood School celebrated a great harvest festival.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit,

vegetables and other food products that had been very generously donated by the parents of the schoolchildren and the church members.

The service was mainly taken by the children, who put on a

very interesting programme with music, singing and readings. We also had a short talk given by a representative from *The Big Issue* (left in photo), on the work they do with homeless people under their care.

After the service the parents and church members spent a little while enjoying light refreshments and a chat with each other.

Later that day the food was shared among four Charities: *The Big Issue* for the homeless, the Ship Hostel for homeless people, the Chekina Mission for homeless people, and the Salvation Army Mayflower Care Home. In addition, several small parcels were given to members of the community.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Novel outreach in Bilston

We were faced with a challenge in the Bilston area of Wolverhampton. How could we as a church reach out to the community? Many of our outreach efforts met strong challenges. We decided that we would try something with the children, so planned to have a children's fun day to be held on August Bank Holiday. From past evangelistic outreach programmes we found that we needed to be able to speak the language of the community to befriend them. If they didn't know us, why should they come to our programmes?

One of our church sisters, Eileen McKenzie, decided to put on a hair show where the children could take part. This involved going onto the streets in the community. Stacy Walsh, one of the children from the community who regularly attends Bilston church, came with us. We knocked on doors and approached the children who were playing and asked them to take us to their parents, so we could ask if they would allow their children to take part in the hair show. We took thirty-five to forty names and phone numbers. A lot of interest was generated and the parents agreed. We then booked a local marching band called Cheeky Monkeys, realising that they would attract the community to the event.

The day finally arrived and we were blessed with sunshine as the community started to emerge. The jumble sale was well stocked, and supervised by Vanessa Walsh and Carol and Martin Louis. Bouncy castles were erected as the marching band tuned up. Joy Baily, who is an artist, did the face-painting; altogether she painted seventy-one faces!

The marching band set off around the streets surrounding the church hall, playing rousing tunes. Soon people came out of their homes, to be given leaflets informing them that something special was taking place. The band looked and sounded great.

By the time the band returned, children and parents were following it, and before we knew what was happening the crowds began to swell until the community outnumbered the church members. It was a sight to behold! By then we knew that the day was a success.

As the sun shone its warmth on us, a prearranged ice cream van pulled into the car park.

Musical items were then presented by the McFarquar family from Great Brick-kiln Street church, All Sounds of Melodies from Oxford Street, and Melanie Jeanville, daughter of Pastor and Mrs Jude Jeanville. These items were received with enthusiasm.

After grace, parents and children were led into our community hall, where they partook of the refreshments that had been laid on for them by Jenny Clark and her team.

The hair show took place after lunch, and there were →

Leytonstone: eight baptised



On 22 September eight people committed their lives to the Lord in the first baptismal service to take place inside the Leytonstone church. Previous baptisms had taken place at our sister church in Stoke Newington.

From right to left in the photograph: Dr Richard De Lisser, newly-baptised members Michael Marius, Michelle Lemonius, Reina

Monrose, Kyra Balcombe, Patricia Stephen (back), Selina Phillips, Anna Kakaire, Raquel Pollard Whyte with evangelist C. B. Ming and some members of the evangelistic team.

The baptisms were the fruitage of a two-week campaign led by evangelist C. B. Ming, entitled 'Family Affairs'. Dr De Lisser, our resident minister, conducted the baptism in a portable pool.

JEAN HERDE

Croscombe thanksgiving

Harvest festival was celebrated at Croscombe church in Somerset on 22 September.

In his address, Dennis Porter dwelt on man's dependence on God as Creator and Life-giver to sustain and bless human efforts in seed sowing that they might mature in due season and thus meet earthly needs. Our church was filled to capacity with members and family friends, plus many friends from the village.

As in previous years, the church was tastefully decorated on a mainly floral theme by Elizabeth Pugh, assisted by Anne Dutton. We have latterly concentrated on a generous offering rather than produce given and this

year the offering, which amounted to £155, was donated to the Society for Muscular Dystrophy.

The following Sabbath found us saying farewell to our pastor, Islwyn Rees. He and his wife Maureen were given gifts and our good wishes for his retirement. Since they will still be living in the district it was not really 'Goodbye'.

YVONNE BAXTER

Southall baptism

On 30 June Norwils Georges publicly gave his life to Jesus and was baptised at the Southall church. Church family, friends and relatives rejoiced as they witnessed his decision to allow the Lord to guide his

footsteps. Although Norwils grew up with his late grandfather, who was an Adventist, he struggled with his faith. But through the prayers of those he loves, his questions were answered. Pastor Valdeir Aguiar led Norwils into the baptismal water.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Obituaries

JOHNSON, Richard - d. 28 February. Belatedly we record the passing of Richard Johnson, a well-liked and respected member of the Chelmsford church, at the age of 85. In advanced years Richard was, nevertheless, a keen Bible student. He was Chelmsford's champion Ingatherer, regularly collecting in excess of £1,000. He consistently travelled twelve miles from his home in Braintree, come rain or shine, to attend church, often bringing a visitor along. In the 70s Richard taught Design

competition to see which child could bring the most friends and family. Christina Clark and Stacy Walsh won prizes, bringing between them fifteen people!

The event for the day was concluded with a puppet show, which was well received. The team behind the puppets included Kenroy and Wendy McKenzie, and Junior and Dennis Taylor. What an end to the day! The funds raised amounted to nearly £150, and we decided to give the money to three different charities: Sickle Cell, Haven Project (home for women and children of domestic violence) and ACCI (advice and counselling to people who suffer from mental health problems).

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



about thirty models. I would like to thank Shirley Finikin and

Linda Clark for helping with the hairstyles. There was also a

and Technology at Stanborough Park School. His wife predeceased him by many years. Pastor Paul Smith conducted the funeral on 8 March. Our profound condolences are extended to Richard's son and daughter. Richard's commitment to Christ was total. He rests in sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

GREEN, Adelaide Altha - d. 24 March. Adelaide was born in St Elizabeth, Jamaica, to Albert and Florence Deleon, one of fourteen children. She came to England in 1955 and married Carlyle Green in 1956. They were blessed with five children and eleven grandchildren. A faithful member of the Ilford church for over forty years, Adelaide served the church, holding many offices: Sabbath School superintendent, choir member, deaconess, and many more. During the building of the church Adelaide worked hard each day laying the foundations. Ilford will always remember her as a star Ingatherer, sometimes reaching the church's goal all by herself, and her fundraising idea, 'The Bamboo Fund', which raised vast sums for the building of the church. She even went collecting against the advice of family, friends and doctors when her health started to fail. Pastors H. Walters, R. Daley, H. Taffe, E. Picart and D. Burnett officiated at her funeral service on 4 April. Adelaide is greatly missed by all her family and friends. May God continue to comfort Robert, Carlton, Jacqueline, Jennifer and David as they look forward to meeting her and their dad Carlyle on the golden shore in that great getting-up morning.

JENNIFER RODNEY

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Closing date: 5 December 2001.

Congratulations to Lydia Gallaher of the Grantham church, on becoming a qualified solicitor. We wish her well as she continues in her chosen profession.

MIKE COWEN

Adventist Book Centre Stanborough Park, Watford Christmas and New Year Opening Times

16 Dec	10am-2pm
17-20 Dec	9am-8pm
21 Dec	9am-12noon
23 Dec	10am-4pm
24 Dec	9am-2pm
25 Dec - 1 Jan	CLOSED
2 Jan 2002	9am-5pm

ABC Book Sales

2 Dec	Sheffield	11am-1pm
	NEC Women's Retreat	
9 Dec	West Midland Centre	10am-3pm
16 Dec	John Loughborough	10am-2pm

Afghan Appeal
Continued from page 1

worse than ever. The children, women and the elderly are the main victims of recent developments. It has been estimated by UNHCR that if help does not reach the Afghan people soon, over 100,000 children under 5 will die of starvation and disease over the winter period. It is estimated that 7.5 million people are on the brink of starvation.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE (as of end of October 2001)? ADRA has begun to address the problems by sending funds to our office in Pakistan to distribute relief supplies such as tents, blankets, clothes, medicines, water cans, food containers and basic relief kits among the refugees. During my recent visit to Peshawar and Islamabad, I met with UNHCR officers and other humanitarian organisations such as Christian Aid to develop a working relationship on a joint relief operation. There exist urgent needs in the sectors of water, sanitation, education, health and community services. UNHCR will be allocating a number of sectors to ADRA to work in the camps. ADRA is in the process of opening an office in the city of Peshawar which will give us the advantage of operating close to the Afghan border.

WHAT CAN WE DO? ADRA-UK has been asked to send aid in the form of cash to help the recipient ADRA offices deal with this terrible situation. We have, therefore, launched the 'ADRA-UK Afghan Refugee Appeal' and would ask our churches and individual members to **send their donations to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. If possible, Gift Aid your donation.**

Please make your cheques payable to ADRA-UK.

Alternatively, you can make a credit card donation on our ADRA-UK website www.adra.org.uk or send your gift through the regular church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the 'Afghan Refugee Appeal'.

Thank you for your help. Our goal is to raise £100,000 from our supporters in the UK plus their neighbours and friends. For us to obtain two to three million pounds from certain government and United Nations agencies we require a 10% match for their grants. In other words, for every £1 that we raise we can get up to £9 from government and UN agencies. Other ADRA donor offices around the world are doing the same by trying to raise funds from their church members and regular supporters. We will keep you posted as the situation develops. (In keeping with accepted charitable practices in the UK, up to 5% of donations will be retained to help with administrative expenses and to generate further funds.)



ADRA-UK representatives visit Child Survival Project in Haiti

by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

On Sunday 7 October the writer, and Mrs Alva Davis, ADRA-UK consultant, flew to Haiti in order to visit organisers and beneficiaries of a major Child Survival Project. ADRA-UK has received considerable funding (£250,000) from the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) for this project, but it is also the largest project to be funded from this year's Ingathering campaign (£70,000).

Poverty has a new meaning in Haiti where 95% of the people lack the basic raw materials to run their lives. Food, water, sanitation, shelter – all are lacking. However, we were able to visit the Child Survival Project, and there we witnessed the wonderful work of forty-five dedicated health workers.

Targeting a population of 80,000 poor people in Diquini, on the outskirts of Port Au Prince, these workers are running vaccination programmes, health rallies, health education courses, school health education classes, feeding programmes, and clinical work.

To give you an idea of the need, we witnessed families living in cramped conditions in old abandoned factories with poor ventilation, no lights and poor sanitation. Each family of eight to ten members was living in quarters divided by curtains into just five square metres of space. In one area we saw the population of 12,000 fighting over the one water connection in their area. We witnessed forty schoolchildren crammed together in a hot, half-built 'classroom' of just six square metres, again with poor ventilation and no lighting. The infrastructure is in a terrible condition. The roads are almost non-existent and the water, telephone and electricity

systems are in poor condition. People have to buy their water at a high price and it is only available for the few.

Despite the difficulties, it was wonderful to see how our Church is flourishing in Haiti. We have 320,000 members and they are operating a hospital, a university, secondary and primary schools, a printing press and even an AWR radio station (on which I was privileged to speak). They are also helping out in the community of Diquini, particularly the ADRA Child Survival Project staff, who go out five days a week, at considerable personal risk, to meet the needs of the community.

We were invited to meet with a number of officials in the Diquini area as well as leaders of the

Union Conference and the Adventist Hospital. In partnership the Church, ADRA-Haiti, ADRA-UK, and DFID are giving hope to this community and beginning to address the actual needs of the people.



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SUNSET

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 30	3.56	4.08	3.53	3.45	4.04
Dec 7	3.52	4.05	3.49	3.40	3.59
14	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
21	3.54	4.06	3.50	3.40	3.59

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