

Messenger



Hang on to it!
The enclosed information sheet is intended to build your awareness and confidence for the new ADRA Ingathering Campaign.
Be Prepared!

Azerbaijan:

Ingathering makes the difference

by Mark Castellino, Programmes Officer, ADRA-Azerbaijan

Ganja is a town in the north-west of Azerbaijan. Driving through Ganja you get an idea of the difference between Azerbaijan and, say, Birmingham, my home town. In Birmingham you would go to the butcher or supermarket to buy your meat. It would come in carefully wrapped and sealed packages, and you would charge it to your credit card. In Ganja sheep are slaughtered in the mornings on street corners and hung from hooks where, as the day rolls on, their blood drains and customers choose which cut they want to contribute to their meagre daily diet. By the evening flies swarm round the depleted carcass, and the price drops to only a few pennies a kilo.

What has Ganja got to do with anything? I wondered that until I got the chance to participate in a summer

internship with ADRA. Arriving in Azerbaijan I was struck by the vastness of the gap between our standard of living and life expectations, and those of the inhabitants of one of the poorest countries in the world. By the time I left Azerbaijan at the end of the summer of '99, I had decided what career path I would follow after finishing my degree: I would work in development with ADRA. Now I am back in Azerbaijan working through ADRA International's internship programme.

During my first stay in Azerbaijan I wrote a proposal for a vocational training centre in Ganja. This would provide valuable skill-building classes in welding, computer skills, English language, cosmetology, needlework, knitting and dressmaking. It also included classes in business training and accounting, providing students with skills that could

help secure them a small enterprise loan from another development agency working in Ganja. The proposal was aimed towards internally displaced

people who had located in Ganja to escape the war between Azerbaijan and neighbouring Armenia over Nagorno Kharabakh. These people had fled their homes, jobs and old lives and resorted to living in camps and government

Continued on page 8, column 4

Youth learn welding in the Ganja vocational training centre.



Adventist musicians organise

by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

On 26 January an invited audience of over three hundred attended the launch of the Adventist Musicians' Association at Newbold College. Those invited were chosen for their interest and involve-

ment in the world of Adventist music and many present were either professional or semi-professional musicians.

The programme itself was held in Salisbury Hall from 6-8pm and included introductions, explanations, performances and audience participation.

The AMA launch began with a keynote address from TED president Dr Bertil Wiklander. An accomplished musician himself, Dr Wiklander revealed to the audience that he also had

an interest in composing and, were it not for the fact that God had led him to serve in an administrative capacity in the Church, he might well have found himself involved in music ministry of some kind.

BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry attended the AMA launch, together with his wife, and afterwards commented on the breadth of talent which the artistes represented. 'We have much to be proud of in the Adventist Church in the British Isles,' he said. 'The British Union is happy to join the TED in sponsoring an event like this and we hope that it will lead to even more musical excellence in the future.' TED Communication director Pastor Miroslav Pujic was the main driving force behind the launch, and has been holding preliminary commit-



Professional violinist Chris Rogers.

tees and organisational meetings for over a year in preparation for the event. 'We are hoping that AMA will become a successful organisation right across the Trans-European Division,' he said.

Hosts for the evening were Joann Kristensen and David McQueen, and together they introduced a wide range of music to the audience as well as a number of speakers who presented the

Continued on page 8, column 1



Ken Burton, a nationally-known musician.

ADRA-UK Goma Volcano Appeal

by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

On Monday 21 January, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provided emergency relief items in response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano near Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Lava flows caused widespread damage in Goma, destroying the homes of 12,000 families. Among the thousands of buildings that were destroyed were three Adventist

churches, Adventist Mission offices and many homes belonging to our church members.

The ADRA office in Rwanda despatched trucks with emergency supplies to the border area, providing food and cooking utensils to 13,000 homeless people. The food supplies included beans, maize meal, salt and oil.

UNICEF has asked ADRA to assist with the immediate needs for continued education of the students of



Goma. According to UNICEF and ADRA sources, forty-two schools were completely destroyed, leaving 23,000 students without the possibility of continuing their education.

ADRA would like to give high priority to helping the children of Goma by providing fourteen temporary schools, complete with furniture and school materials. Water and sanitation needs for these schools will be provided in co-operation with OXFAM and the International Red Cross. This project will enable thousands of students to continue their studies, the total cost of which will be £80,000. We in ADRA-UK would like to make a significant

contribution towards the work.

We have, therefore, launched the ADRA-UK 'Goma Volcano 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 'Goma Volcano Appeal'.*



Left behind?

Tim LaHaye is US fundamentalism's answer to J. K. Rowling, creator of *Harry Potter*. LaHaye's novels have sold millions of copies and spawned a series of movies. Central to LaHaye's plots is the idea of a 'secret rapture.' There are great dangers implicit in this teaching . . .

M4 westbound at 10.30am. Cars are smashing into crash barriers and one another. Why? They are driverless! Other vehicles – with drivers – are weaving around frantically to avoid collisions.

As they pass the Heathrow junction the road hazards are compounded as attention is attracted skyward. Jumbo jets are plummeting earthwards.

Is this the substance of my nightmares? No. It is the substance of a new genre of American movie*. The magazine *Christianity Today* identifies the backers as evangelical Christian organizations and the specific inspiration as the novels of well-known evangelical writer Tim LaHaye.

Most of you have, I imagine, already worked out what's going on. Tim LaHaye and his long-purse backers represent the American equivalent of the well-intentioned, British-based group who go around scaring the pants off those who attend their programmes by their highly-specific, tabloid, conspiracy-theory-inspired version of end-time events. Tim LaHaye and Co, not being Adventists, have the secret rapture centre stage. The danger of futuristic sensationalism, whether Adventist or non-Adventist inspired, is that, though it gives people a sense of urgency short-term, it • deflects attention from the biblical picture; • ignores the Gospel; • does not take account of the bigger picture that is already taking shape around us; • and, by being too specific, causes people to abandon faith when things do not pan out exactly as per prediction.

A large sector of the American evangelical movement takes the secret rapture very literally. They believe that born-again believers will be raptured 'when the time comes', leaving vehicles driverless, planes pilotless, children parentless, and husbands wifeless. Where did they get that idea from? J. N. Darby (1800-1882) and his *dispensationalist* view of history and prophecy must accept much of the blame. Darby's views, however, have been significantly amended – as well as sensationalized – by Tim LaHaye.

The Bible verses on which the secret rapture view is based are Matthew 24:40, 41 and Luke 17:34, 35: 'Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. . . . ' The movies featuring the rapture provide us with an opportunity not to come in with an alternative sensationalist view but to explain what the Bible really says [see *Issues* on page 7]. The two things that are clear about the texts are these: • Matthew 24:40, 41 and Luke 17:34, 35 are about two groups, one 'taken' and the other 'left'; • that these two groups represent the two opposite destinies for humanity, the saved and the lost; • that the lost do not remain alive on Earth but are destroyed. Thus any idea of a 'secret rapture' is unbiblical.

In a special issue of *Adventist Review* (published 29 March 2001) Professor Jon Paulien of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, highlights a series of deep theological problems with the movies:

◆ *Textual gymnastics*. No theology should be built on a stray text here and a stray text there. If we attempt that, then the primary relationship between the texts will be something from the interpreter's mind. 'The safest approach to the Bible is to ground your understanding on the clear texts and on the broad reading of whole Bible books,' writes Paulien. 'When you read biblical books from beginning to end, the biblical author is in control of the order and flow of the material. When the biblical author is allowed to lead you naturally from one

idea to the next, your exposure to the Bible is much less likely to be controlled by pet ideas from your own background.'

◆ *The secret rapture*. Paulien challenges anyone 'to read the entire Bible from end to end and find a single text that clearly teaches that there will be two distinct comings of Jesus – a secret one such as the one portrayed in the movies, followed by a public, visible one that will be seen by all'. 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9 infer, says Paulien, that a 'counterfeit' of the second coming of Jesus will be attempted by Satan before the real coming occurs.

◆ *The nature of the end-time deception*. The picture of the end-time deception, argues Paulien, comes from Revelation 13:12-14; 16:13-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; and Matthew 24:23-27. The picture that emerges from these verses? Signs and wonders used to deceive the people and a representation of an antichrist. Interestingly, says Paulien, while the movies claim to portray an end-time deception and to expose an antichrist, they do not refer to any of these vital biblical passages. The antichrist of the movies is a political figure; each of the four portraits of the antichrist from Scripture is of a spiritual leader more than a political or economic figure. In Revelation 13:1-5, say Paulien, it is evident that the end-time deception has a *Christian face!* The same picture emerges from Revelation 16:13, 14; the three 'spirits of demons' are the evil counterparts to the three angels of Revelation 14:6-12. The true Gospel has a counterfeit: the message of the antichrist. The climax of the deception is associated with a place called in Hebrew 'Har-magedon'. This place is part of the Carmel range and recalls the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The inference is that the Mount Carmel experience – a showdown between false and true religion – will be replayed at the end.

The key to unmasking the 'counterfeit coming' of Jesus before the end (Matthew 24:23-27; 2 Thessalonians 2) is to know that it will not be universally visible like the true coming of Jesus. 'If anyone tells you, "Hey, he's in the desert," don't go out, or "Hey, he's in some secret place," don't believe it, for as lightning comes out of the east and shines even to the west so will the coming of the Son of man be.' (Matthew 24:26, paraphrase.)

Paulien concludes: 'The tragic thing is that for believers in the rapture concept of *Left Behind*, the very deceptive events portrayed in Matthew 24:23-26 will seem to be evidence that their reading of the Bible was correct. . . . Many sincere people will be convinced by events that Jesus has somehow already returned to Earth. But that return will be a deception. How will you know? Matthew 24:25: "Behold, I have told you ahead of time". . . . It is, therefore, my fear that these movies could be part of the greatest setup in human history (totally contrary to the conscious and sincere intention of their producers).'

How do we tackle those who, perhaps influenced by the movies, argue the case for a 'secret rapture'? We study carefully the key passages of Scripture, we pray day by day for the Spirit's guidance, and, when the opportunity arises, we explain calmly what the biblical position is.

On the day He comes 'every eye shall see Him.' (Revelation 1:7).

*Three videos in the series were for hire last week even in the small-town video store near my home.

The New-Adam

It has been known anecdotally for some time that there is a link between alcohol and drug use and crime, but until recently there was no established data by which this could be verified and monitored. The Home Office has introduced the NEW-ADAM project to remedy the situation and set a baseline by which reduction targets can be set and measured.

NEW-ADAM (New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) personnel interviewed 1,511 arrestees during 1999-2000, in eight police custody centres on a rolling basis, and will continue to collect material for a number of years. The data showed that, of those interviewed,

- 51% were aged 17-24 (range 17-59 yrs)
- 87% were male, and of these 82% were white
- 95% provided urine samples for drug testing

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

- 65% tested positive for one or more illegal drug
- 30% had a positive for two or more substances

A target has now been set to reduce drug-using in arrestees to 26%.

The type of drug used seemed to be linked to criminal activity, with heroin and cocaine/crack users being responsible for more than 60% of the reported illegal income. The income averaged around £15,000 for the heroin and cocaine/crack users, which approximated to the amount spent on their habit. Most admitted to having spent £290 in the seven days prior to arrest compared with the other drug users' spending of £169 a week for their drugs.

Although drug taking consumed so much money, only 40% of the arrestees acknowledged a link between their drug taking and their crime. Yet in personal interviews 53% of the arrestees reported having committed

acquisitive crimes in the preceding twelve months; this figure rose to 62% for those people using heroin and/or cocaine/crack.

The report introducing the NEW-ADAM research has not stated how it is going to achieve its target for reduction; it is content for the moment to collect its data. It is likely that the approach will be to frighten off drug users so that they will not re-offend, or they might use *methadone* where appropriate. If the latter is used, the offences committed may be reduced but as far as the drug-taking is concerned the cure could prove as harmful as the drug. The only permanent solution is for the arrestees to have a life-changing encounter with the real NEW-ADAM, the One who says 'Behold, I make all things new' (Rev. 21:5).





The photo by Stanley Maxwell shows Pastor Japhet De Oliveira with Patrick Sheehy, Daniel Thompson and Jason Poddar.

A returning prodigal tells his story

by Bronwen Atkinson

On 24 November three young men were baptised at Stanborough Park church. They were Daniel Thompson, 22, Jason Poddar, 16, and Patrick Sheehy, 14. Daniel tells his story:

'I was brought up as a Seventh-day Adventist by my loving mum. My sister is also an Adventist. Sadly my brother and dad aren't yet! Mum always took me to church without fail, but I never had a great connection to God really! I never read my

Bible unless forced to, and the prayers I prayed were mainly selfish ones. I attended Stanborough School, and planned to leave church after leaving there. Eventually I did – for five years. I still knew deep down that God existed, but succeeded in blocking Him out! Then, after discovering for myself what my dad's and my brother's lifestyles were like, I realised the grass wasn't so green on the other side. When I was about 20, Mum bought me a Bible – which

got thrown to the back of my bedside cupboard. 'I'm a bricklayer and, in my trade, if it rains we can't work outside. One day, rained off, at home and bored, I started reading the Bible. Wanting more from life, I decided to give the Bible a brief try – and then probably reject it. But it was interesting and so I read on. Gradually the walls built to keep God out came down; and I decided to give my life to God. I started praying again, but there was the Great Barrier of returning to church as I was shy and had no real friends in the church. I attended sporadically but wasn't keeping the Sabbath. I wanted Bible studies but too often before I had turned down invitations from people who wanted to give them. Then Pastor De Oliveira phoned – could he come round for a chat? I asked him for Bible studies, then started coming back to church regularly, but it took me some time to settle back in. . . .'

Jason has Adventist parents and, like Daniel, an Adventist sister. He said, 'I'm getting baptised because I love God and want to show everyone publicly.'

Patrick has an Adventist mother and a Catholic father who has given his wife every support in guiding Patrick and his sister towards spiritual concepts. Patrick said, 'It has not been hard for me to accept Jesus Christ as I have always believed He existed. What has been difficult is following Jesus. . . . I can say absolutely that Jesus has made a difference in my life; I know I can talk to Him. He's never let me down.'

Pastor Japhet De Oliveira studied with Jason and Patrick as well as Daniel and baptised all three candidates.

East Ham: Marathon man baptized

Families, friends, visitors, and church members from East Ham church witnessed the baptism of twelve people. It was a glorious ending to the campaign conducted by Pastor Greg St Ange from Toronto. Among those baptised was Luke Campbell. Luke went on to take part in the wheelchair section of the 2001 Marathon, where he completed 1.5 miles, alongside other children who were trained by his dad, Larry Campbell.

EAST HAM COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Gary Hillard of the Plumstead church with Pastor Brighton Kavaloh.

Plumstead baptism

Sabbath 22 December marked a special occasion in the Plumstead church. Members and friends gathered to witness the baptism of Gary Hillard. No stranger to Adventism, Gary had been walking with the Lord for almost three years, but felt it necessary to recommit his life. Pastor Brighton Kavaloh was the minister who officiated in the pool, and Thurdy-Ann Campbell and Hope Goodwin sang 'Amazing Grace' as a special request.

JACQUELINE BROASTER

Our gift for CLIC

(Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

December 19 found the Plymouth church packed with parents, friends and church members for the Fletewood School Carol Service. The children put on a delightful programme with music, songs, a story and the nativity scene. A collection was taken in aid of CLIC.

On Sabbath 22nd the church had their carol service, and all the members took part, contributing musical items, stories, poems and readings which made a very interesting programme.

Fletewood School kindly left their Christmas tree in the church, on which the members and children could hang little 'hearts' (given to them a few weeks before, to fill with their gifts of money for the children of Plymouth who suffer with cancer and leukaemia). Added to what was collected at the school's carol service, it made a total of £220.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Three present pupils of the school, with two former pupils.

AWR comes to Ipswich

The members of the Ipswich church took part in a specially-made programme by Adventist World Radio, recorded on Sabbath afternoon 3 November. Pastor Victor Hulbert, director of the English Language Services of Adventist World Radio (AWR), was guest speaker in Ipswich during the worship service.

In the afternoon he set up a radio station in the church where a programme was recorded featuring the Ipswich church choir, Nicky Saunders and other local solo artistes. In the course of the programme Victor Hulbert interviewed several of the members of the church about their Christian beliefs, experiences and hopes for the future.

Adventist World Radio is thirty years old this year. It started from a small studio in Lisbon, and now has a global church of 20 million listeners, broadcasting 1,200 hours a week in fifty languages from 1,000 transmitters throughout the world. Although traditionally AWR broadcasts on the shortwave frequency, they also broadcast on mediumwave and FM in various countries. Recently they have been able to broadcast on the Sirius satellite and on the Internet, too.

Victor Hulbert told the exciting

news that recently they had signed an agreement to broadcast from a state-of-the-art transmitter in the United Arab Emirates which will give them access to many Muslim countries such as Pakistan.

PAUL KING

Log on www.christ

Evangelist Errol Nembhard delivered stirring messages at Brixton Youth department's revival series, 8-22 December.

The theme was 'Log on www.christ,' with www standing for 'World Wide Witness'.

The two-week event, which included a Revelation Seminar, saw a number of people requesting Bible studies.

On Sabbath 22 December twelve people accepted Christ: eight women and four men, including two teenagers from the Pathfinder department.

JOY MCCALLA

Sydenham organised

Nine years ago the Sydenham church began as a branch Sabbath school of the Lewisham church. On Sabbath 1 December SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane organised the company into a church. What began as a group of sixteen members had grown to a

Camp Hill baptism

The last baptism of 2001 for Camp Hill church took place on Sabbath 1 December, when Sabrina Smith, one of Camp Hill's youth, gave her life to Jesus. Sabrina is known as a quiet, loving and supporting teenager. Already active in the church and the Camps, she not long ago finished her Master Guide course. She was already having Bible studies but on Youth Day finally decided to take her stand for Jesus. Sabrina is currently studying to be a nursery nurse.

Sabrina was baptised by Pastor Alan Hush, and Pastor Cyril Sweeney spoke the words of encouragement.

LASSAL GORDON



Sabrina in the pool with Pastor Alan Hush.

church of forty-nine members.

'The barometer by which the people of the world measure the Church,' said Pastor McFarlane, 'is her kindness and love evident among the membership.'

Paul Day was appointed leader of the newly-organised church, Sister Clark was head deacon (!) and Sister Lorna Crooks was church clerk. Pastor Ellis Guthrie lifted the congregation to God in his prayer of dedication.

MALCOLM ANDERSON

Northampton baptism

The Kettering church made their building and baptism available for a Northampton baptism. Pastors Malcolm Watson, John Ferguson and Ron Edwards participated in the service and the four candidates were Gyles Fuller, Janine Fuller, Stacey Leslie and Tijay Mckenzie. In the period leading up to baptism all had had studies with Ingrid Sharpe and the writer.

ROBERT MCKENZIE

Canterbury: The Three Crosses

On the third Sabbath of November, a tableau called 'The Three Crosses' was presented at the church which was well attended.

Sarah Wilson played a leading role by depicting a young girl having a beautiful dream about the 'Three Crosses'. The first cross was embedded attractively with gold, diamonds, sapphires and other precious stones. While lifting the golden cross, she found it rather too heavy for her to bear. The second cross was tastefully decorated with beautiful

flowers, but when she bore it upon her frail shoulders the prickly and ugly thorns entwined between the flowers pierced and lacerated her skin and she was obliged to lay it down.

At the end of her dream, she passed by the third and last cross. It was an old wooden cross, with no special adornments. The plain simple word LOVE engraved upon it attracted her to it. At last she fell in love with this particular cross. Immediately, she picked it up and placed it upon her

Sarah Wilson (in white) holding the golden cross with other participating artistes (on the extreme left is the producer).



shoulders, and was more than pleased to carry it.

The well-known hymns, 'When I survey the wondrous Cross', 'Nailed to the Cross', and 'The Old Rugged Cross' were sung in clear unison. The entire tableau and programme was written and presented by the writer.

RONALD I. VALENS

Balham: Learning & Growth seminar

Where were you on 18 November? The Learning & Growth seminar, sponsored by Body Mind & Spirit Co., in collaboration with Balham church, gave a passionate call to action. Session one was led by Valerie Bernard, head of Behavioural Science Department, Newbold, under the theme 'Keeping it real within God's Will'. E-Strategist, Susanne Mornan-Vaughan, led Session two under the title 'The Job you will never lose'. The final session 'To Mate or Wait' by Pastor Eddie Hypolite provided life coaching with a difference.

A follow-up seminar will be occurring in April 2002, with dynamic speakers exploring relevant issues.

If, however, you would also like the Learning & Growth seminar to be available at your church, please contact Shanda (07960 056938) or Susanne (07773 325654).

Bristol baptism

On Sabbath 11 August, Bristol Central witnessed the baptism of Alexander Ross and his wife Sylvia from Trowbridge. Pastor Michael Mannix had received a call from a colleague to visit them. When he arrived, he discovered they knew a great deal as a relative had been sending them books and papers on Adventism for several months. After spending time in further study, Alexander, although disabled as the result of a stroke, was determined to join Sylvia as they gave their lives to the Lord.

It was also a day tinged with sadness as we said goodbye to our intern, Pastor Mannix and his family. Michael has left us after three years to pastor the Chingford and Hackney churches.

LISA SABADIN

Fishpool: Gospel concert

On Sunday 26 November the annual Fishpool Community church Gospel concert took place in what we hoped was the largest hall in Bury. The event took place in conjunction with Bethesda Pentecostal Church and involved the Manchester Adventist Gospel choir. The concert raised over £370 for Bury Hospice.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

Fellowship in Area 1

September 29 was a day to remember for the church members in SEC Area 1. Their Day of Fellowship was once again held in the stately Oldway Mansion set in the beautiful grounds that are a favourite for wedding photographs. Pastor Paul Clee was the speaker for the day, and he kept us all enthralled. His morning message of the loving touch of Jesus, and the afternoon

message of how we all need to use our spiritual gifts to help Church growth, was presented in his usual interesting and humorous manner. We were also blessed with the musical gifts of members of all ages from Devon and Cornwall, who made up a talented orchestra that filled the room with delightful music.

JEN READ

Welsh Mission: Women's Ministries

Seventeen women from the Welsh Mission and Border Counties churches met at Ty'r Morwydd in Abergavenney for the weekend of 5-7 October. The theme for the meetings was, 'Prayer changes things and people'. Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries leader, led us in our Friday sunset worship.

Throughout the Sabbath, when others joined us for the day, we fellow-shipped together, and women from some of our churches spoke about how they share their ministry with others, in practical ways and in small group studies. Rosemary Lethbridge led us through a structured and prayerful session. We prayed and thought seriously about the vital issues facing our Church in today's world. Pastor E. Picart joined us on Sunday morning and shared his experiences and strategies for soul winning and recovering former members.

Helen Lockham, Women's Ministries sponsor for the Welsh Mission, together with Heather Haworth, arranged and led a blessed and meaningful time of retreat. Women spoke of the blessings received, and we all left with renewed determination to work enthusiastically in church and community, and to combine prayer and

love so that changes could take place in our lives, and we can bring others to the knowledge of the love of God.

JOYCE PHILLIPS

Grantham baptism

Baptisms are always happy occasions for a church, and at Grantham a happy service of commitment and re-commitment took place on Friday evening 9 November.

Two candidates were immersed by Pastor John Ferguson: Paula Phillips of Grantham, and Stephen Pain from Skegness. Stephen's immediate family had travelled with him from Skegness, as had several members of the East Coast company.

Paula, who has been attending church since the age of 10 and is well integrated with the young people of the church, follows her mother, who was baptized several years ago.

For Stephen it was a decision to be re-baptized since he had been baptised in the Lincoln church in 1966. He had also attended Stanborough School, but had 'been away for a long time'. He said he had often forgotten God but God had never forgotten him. During his testimony, Stephen spoke of the encouragement the former minister of Grantham, Pastor Mick Smart, had given him and other members in the area, and this had helped to re-establish the Skegness company.

One of the elders of Grantham, Lee Gallaher, who had given studies to Paula, spoke of the suitability of the candidates to be baptised into the Church, and their determination to follow Christ. Stephen is a chiropodist and Paula plans to train as a midwife next year.

MIKE COWEN

JEFFERY, Brian John - d. 15 November. The Exeter church was full to overflowing when relatives and friends gathered to pay their last respects to Brian, whose premature demise resulted from cerebrovascular disease. The sixty-three years given to him by the Lord could easily have been cut short, even as a small child. He was born in the city of Plymouth, which suffered intense pounding by enemy aircraft during the Second World War; and, ironically, the family only just managed to get back from a visit to an aunt in Southampton before the aunt's house was bombed. From the age of 4 Brian spent his life in Exeter. An Adventist neighbour, Mrs Clow, introduced the family to her church and the cardinal doctrines became Brian's abiding passion for the rest of his life. He had hoped to take up full-time ministry but financial difficulties curtailed his studies at Newbold. However, he served the church as elder and lay preacher for more than thirty years, as well as holding other church offices. Thousands of copies of his booklet *The Words of Jesus* became useful witnessing tools. Brian loved young people and spent many summers assisting at youth camps. In fact, it was at one of the Oxwich camps that he met Stella Ruddick, his bride-to-be, and in 1982 Brian and Stella became the proud parents of twin daughters Hannah and Louisa. For eighteen years they were a close-knit family. Brian especially loved to hear music provided by his daughters on their cellos or the piano. As well as using his voice as a chorister in the Ottery St Mary Choral Society, singing duets with his wife in church, and lay preaching, Brian earned his living by talking. He became one of the most experienced refrigeration sales consultants in the South West, well respected for his integrity and hard work. You can only imagine his utter frustration when his illness deprived him of his speech. Even so, his friendly disposition kept him offering a smile or a handwave as people passed by his hospital bed. Matthew 24 and Mark 13, replete with promises of Christ's soon return, were precious to Brian towards the end of his life, and he fell asleep each night with his hand on his Bible. Eight people offered short spoken tributes to Brian during the funeral service, before the writer delivered encouragement from the Word of God. Brian has four brothers - Stan, Roger, Ray and Michael - two of whom were included in the eight just mentioned. Pastor A. Hodges dedicated the twins eighteen years ago, and the writer baptised them in 1998. It was rather coincidental that both men shared the funeral service. Another interesting coincidence took place when we arrived at the Cyst Honiton cemetery: Brian was laid to rest adjacent to his parents, who had been buried nearly thirty years previously. Can you imagine the overwhelming joy they will all experience when they wake up in such close proximity on resurrection morning?

PASTOR KENNETH CLOTHIER

Stella, Hannah and Louisa Jeffery would like to give heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards and letters of sympathy.

LAFLIN, Alice Annie - d. 27 October. Alice was born in 1903, the youngest of three children. She was orphaned at the age of six, separated from her two older brothers and given into the care of an uncle. Here she was treated more or less as a servant and carer of her many cousins. Alice had an indomitable spirit, however, which was not quenched by her early traumatic experiences. She ran away from her uncle's home when she was fourteen and joined her brothers who were in the care of an aunt. In 1927 she married Harry Laffin, and they considered themselves to be blessed by the arrival of four daughters, though one died in infancy. She became an Adventist in 1940 as a result of a campaign conducted by Pastor C. R. Bonney, assisted by Eunice Sundquist, and was a founder member of the Slough church. Alice loved Jesus as her personal Saviour and Friend, and trained up her daughters 'in the way they should go'. She passed away at Eton Residential Home, where she was lovingly cared for by a devoted staff. They will miss her smile and wit. She will also be sadly missed by her daughters, sons-in-law, twelve grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Her one great hope was 'to be in the earth made new', and one of her favourite hymns was, 'O Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end'. We feel that she lived up to that promise and did indeed serve her Friend Jesus to the end of her life. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor G. Marley with great feeling and sensitivity.

JOY LOWE, JUNE BARBER AND MARY DAVIES

The Secret Rapture
Some taken, others left - What does it mean? by Jon Paulien*

'Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.' (Matthew 24:40, 41, NIV; cf. Luke 17:34, 35.)

Commenting on the above passage, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* makes the following statement: 'Shall be taken. Gr. *paralambano*, meaning literally, "to take to oneself", used in the papyri of receiving to oneself articles that belong to him. *Paralambano* is used in chapter 17:1 of Jesus' taking to Himself Peter, James and John, and with them ascending to the Mount of Transfiguration. In Colossians 4:17 it is used of a Christian minister's receiving the Gospel

commission. In John 14:3 *paralambano* is used of Jesus' receiving to Himself the waiting disciples. By contrast, "took" in Matthew 24:39 is from *airo*, "to carry off", "to remove". The "one" of verse 40 is "taken" by the angels as they "gather" the "elect" (see on verse 31). . . .

'What Jesus meant by being "taken" and by being "left" is made clear by the context. Those who are left are the evil servants, who instead of continuing in their normal pursuits after a supposed secret rapture, are cut asunder and assigned their portion with the hypocrites (verses 48-51).' - *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, page 504.

I would add the following: In Matthew 24:40, 41 'left' [*aphiemi*] must mean one of two things: those 'left' are either abandoned to their fate or spared for salvation. The first meaning is a natural one in the New Testament and ancient Greek usage. The mugged man in the Good Samaritan story is abandoned half dead in the wilderness (Luke 10:30 - *aphentes*). Jesus refuses to abandon His disciples as orphans (John 14:18 - *apheso*). And in the nearby context of Matthew 23 Jesus abandons the temple to its future destruction (Matthew 23:36-38 - *aphietai*).

Although there is much to dispute about in these texts, two things are

absolutely clear: (a) The texts about 'taken' and 'left' groups are referring to two opposite destinies for humanity, one positive and the other negative. (b) The negative group does not remain alive on Earth, but is destroyed. On these two points the texts are clear. The secret rapture theory is not biblical.

* Jon Paulien is Professor of New Testament Interpretation at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. This item was first published in *Adventist Review*, 29 March 2001.

Dr Patrick Lowe deals with the Secret Rapture in his article 'Rapture Rapture' in the current issue of FOCUS.

Book Review - Karen Holford



We live in a violent world. Violence is in more places than we like to think. It's on the street corner. It's in the police station. It's in the hospital, and in the school. It's in our homes, and it's in our churches.

As Christians most of us find violence abhorrent. We walk around it, pretend it doesn't exist, keep quiet about it, and hope that it will go away, or at least not come too close.

But that's not Jesus' way. Jesus faced violence. It wasn't fair. It wasn't right. He did nothing to deserve the violence. But it happened. He knew what it meant to be a victim, to be taunted, to be abused, to be pinned down, not able to defend Himself, to be sleep deprived, to feel intense pain, to be shamed and to be murdered. And then He offered grace and forgiveness, dying so that even His very tormentors could have eternal life.

Encounters with Darkness is a book about real life, by a church leader who was mugged close to his church. It's the stories of Christians who experienced violence in their lives: domestic violence, ethnic violence, rape, robbery, mugging,

Encounters with Hope

and stabbing. It deals with each story with sensitivity and honesty, and then explores some of the things that helped each of the victims deal with their experiences. And this is why we all need to read this book. If we're not aware of the issues because we've stuck our heads in the sand, then the victims of violence all around us will become the victims of our own ignorance and insensitivity. So many times a victim has been misunderstood, made to feel guilty, or hurt badly by other Christians. When a victim is looking for a safe place, some comfort, some hope, some understanding, another Christian has let them down. Often that can be a greater hurt than the initial offence.

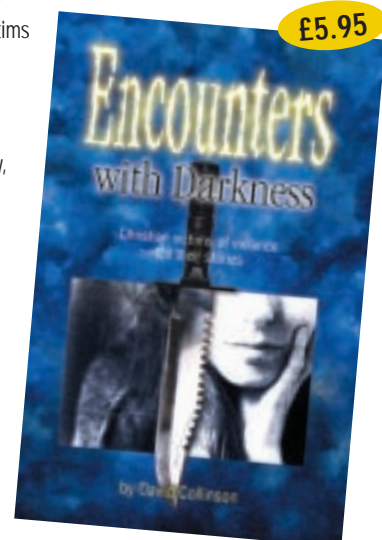
This book isn't depressing. It's upbeat, conversational in style, and it offers hope. It also looks at the different ways Christians can help victims of violence. Mostly we can help by listening and being there

with them, when they feel frightened and vulnerable. Biblical encouragement and comfort is offered alongside the stories. There are also practical suggestions such as how to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, how to help in situations of domestic violence, and how to keep yourself safe if you find yourself being attacked.

We don't need to experience violence ourselves in order to help someone through a frightening time. We can take a couple of hours to read this book, and open our minds and our hearts to those who are crying all around us. If we continue to turn away from the victims of violence, if we continue to hurt them with our insensitivity and thoughtless words, then we're also rejecting and hurting God. But, by being there when they hurt, and by walking with them through their darkness, we can also share in the suffering of Jesus, and grow through the experience into a deeper understanding of His love.

SAVE £1 BY ORDERING BEFORE 15 MARCH

Order through your PM Secretary. Special price only until 15 March. With a credit card you may order direct on (01476) 539900 Mon-Thurs.



Health Emphasis in Wales

* Nine players took part in the first gold tournament organised by the Welsh Mission Health Ministries department. The tournament took

place on the challenging 4,555-yard Lakeside course at Port Talbot. Duane Saunders was overall winner, and Christopher Kidwell winner of



the Newcomers' Cup. All the participants appear in the picture.

* Forty-seven members and friends participated in the Health Retreat at the Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Dinas Powys. Roundelwood director Pastor Martin Bell was guest speaker for this annual event.

* On 17 November a health fair took place in the Cardiff church. Eighty people attended, half of them from the local community. We were supported by, among others, the British Heart Foundation, the Sickle Cell Society and the Diabetic Association.

* On 30 December the Health Ministries department provided a festive meal for the members of the three churches in West Wales. £100 was raised towards the Poland Camporee.

HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

NEWBOLD COLLEGE
Teaching English as a Foreign Language Taster Day

an opportunity to find out if you would enjoy teaching English abroad
Sunday 24 February
(the day after ACTS 2002)
10am to 3pm

£25 (incl. lunch) Booking is essential

New 4-week Certificate Course
Teaching English as a Foreign Language mid-June to mid-July 2002

- * Essential training for student missionaries
- * Excellent career opportunities for working abroad
- * Christian environment
- * Residential accommodation

For booking or further information:
Meggan Syme: 01344 407454 or msyme@newbold.ac.uk
Erica Hole: 01344 407450 or ehole@newbold.ac.uk

Administrative Secretary - NEC
A friendly and energetic person is needed for a full-time position of secretary to the Executive secretary. Applicants should have ability to pursue range of administrative tasks. Good word processing skills, familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel and Access and an eye for detail essential, plus at least two years' secretarial experience.

Closing date for applications: 1 March. Apply in writing, with CV, or for further details contact: Pastor Paul Lockham, North England Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. Email: Admin@nec-sda-church.co.uk Telephone: 0115 960 6312.

HYLAND HOUSE (Christian Independent Primary School for children 3-11) requires dynamic Class Teacher for September. Science and/or ICT Specialist. Salary: £18,648-£22,212. Usual essential skills required, NNS, NLS, etc. Apply, with CV, to: Head Teacher, Hyland House, 896 Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4AE. Tel: 0208 520 4186, by 15 March.

Continued from page 1

Adventist Musicians

concept of AMA. Among the performers were concert pianist Laura Dimitriva; an Asian group led by Wilfred Massih and assisted by Chris Rogers; the Cooper brothers, who performed two trumpet items; Tina Brookes, who sang 'Two Times Mine'; Paul Lee, who later sang a duet with Tina Brookes backed by the London Adventist Chorale; and Aleta King, who led the audience in a 'praise time' assisted by Newbold's own 'Moore Close' band. The final performance of the evening was a song entitled 'Soon ah will be done', by the London Adventist Chorale, conducted by Ken Burton. Ken Burton's sensitivity and his ability to 'play' the London Adventist Chorale like an instrument were awe-inspiring. However, the new sounds of the Asian group were equally inspiring, though in a different way, and the piercing clarity and rich overtones of the trumpets when Phillip and David Cooper played 'The Holy City', was yet another experience.

Interspersed between the musical pieces were items of information from members of the AMA management team. AMA president Paul Lee spoke of the need to raise the standards of music in our church and worship services. 'By so doing,' he said, 'we will help to raise the profile of the Adventist

Women's International Day of Prayer – 2 March

by Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director

On Sabbath 2 March, women young and old will come to the Lord in prayer. Churches around the world will reverberate with the joy of knowing 'our God is a great God'.

Many Adventist women can testify to the miraculous way God works. Women's Ministries in Manila, Philippines, hold a 24-hour prayer marathon twice a year. Recently they praised God for the twenty-two souls baptised as a result of their evangelistic meetings; while in the Atlantic Union, USA, Prayer Partners online is run by Women's Ministries and has

a worldwide link-up. In India two hundred women met in Sankarankoil to pray for their children who would be taking exams. Closer to home, in Milton Keynes, for a year Maureen Rock has led out in Sunday morning prayer ministry. She has started up a local newsletter 'Women of Faith', visited and prayed with families, and inspired the men to start up a Sabbath afternoon prayer group.

In your church let this year's Women's Day of Prayer be the start of a great adventure in prayer.

who will be able to interact and call on each other's skills.' He went on to outline the proposals which have been made for a website and online database which will be available to all members.

Chris Rogers, vice-president of AMA, brought hope to those 'aspiring musicians' who were not yet up to the

standard of those who performed during the evening. Encouraging those who may feel that they are just 'learning' to play an instrument he said, 'a musician is someone who plays music. If you play an instrument, whatever stage you are at, then you are a musician.'

The full AMA management team includes Miroslav Pujic, Paul Lee, Chris Rogers, Aleta King, Fred Shone, Ken Burton, Trevor Johnson and Lilla Skopek. If you would like to receive an application form please write to: Music Co-ordinator, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ.



Left, Co-host David McQueen.
Below left, Members of the London Adventist Chorale.
Below right, One of the Cooper brothers.



Continued from page 1

Azerbaijan: Ingathering makes the difference

buildings in and around Ganja, with no means to support themselves, and often very few personal possessions. The proposal sought to provide them with usable skills, allowing them to gain employment and support themselves and their families.

At Newbold College, I received news that the vocational training centre proposal had been accepted, and that Ingathering funds from the UK 2001 appeal would pay for the project. Just over a year later I arrived back in Azerbaijan to start the internship programme. Now we are about to start using the funds for the proposal I wrote, from the Ingathering money I helped to collect!

I know that the money you raise during the upcoming Ingathering appeal will be put to good use to improve the lives of people across the world. I have seen how the whole process works, from the collection of each coin to the use of the money in helping over 500 men and women provide for themselves and their families.

Congratulations . . . to Pastor Roy Morgan, Personal Ministries director at the North England Conference, on gaining an MA in Hebrew Studies from the University of Sheffield.

Church in the British Isles.' He concluded, 'I challenge you to commit yourselves to excellence before the King of kings.'

Events manager Trevor Johnson spoke of his hopes for the future. These included an Adventist 'Prom Praise', having some of our choirs backed by a full symphony orchestra, and an awards ceremony for Adventist musicians and artistes.

Fred Shone, AMA treasurer, spoke about the practical matters of membership. 'AMA is an enabling organisation,' he said. 'It is a network of musicians

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
ACTS 2002 Youth day of fellowship	23 February – Starts 10am	Newbold College Bracknell	Evening concert featuring 3D, Holloway Youth Choir and support artists. £5 at the door.	Kay Choudary 01344 407581 kchoudary@newbold.ac.uk
Leaves of Life Health Seminar	23 February – whole day.	39 Brendon Street, W1 (Information room)	Dr Espinet	0208 881 8865/07951 611 097; leavesoflife@aol.com
Respect – drama about relationships and love	23 & 24 February, 7.45pm	Hackney Empire E8	Agape	0208 985 2424 mark@carmel-greystone.com
Big 6	24 February	Ashton Leisure Centre, Birmingham	Steve Palmer, NEC Youth Dept.	0115 960 6312 necsd@cs.com
Teens' Day	9 March	Wulfrun Halls, Wolverhampton		

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

ABC BOOK SALES 2002

February

23 ACTS 2002-Newbold College
24 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

March

3 West Midlands 10am-2pm
10 Peckham 10am-2pm
17 Manchester South 10am-2pm
24 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

Messenger

Volume 107 Number 4 22 February 2002

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 6 – 4 March

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144. Email: EditorDNM@cs.com
ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900 Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 – 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed by The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb 22	5.28	5.40	5.29	5.32	5.45
Mar 1	5.41	5.53	5.43	5.47	5.59
8	5.53	6.05	5.56	6.01	6.13
15	6.05	6.17	6.08	6.16	6.27

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6. Single copy subscription by post £13. Overseas airmail £27.50