

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

Messenger



Adventist Discovery Centre – in touch



by Mike Stickland, principal

What can I do to entice you to read this item?

You see, **Sabbath 28 September is ADC Rally Day** – an important event to the staff at the ADC for a number of reasons. We want to see people come to know Jesus and become his devoted followers. We want to help you to achieve this in your community. That's what the ministry of the Adventist Discovery Centre is all about.

But there's a feeling abroad that says, 'We've done that, but it didn't work.' Maybe you are beginning to think that correspondence lessons are outdated and that we need something more effective for our present generation. You would not be alone.

Let me assure you, the people we call the field leaders in the British Union – the conference and mission administrators – do not have their heads in the sand! Nor do the other members of the ADC Board. We started last December to hold candid discussion about the contribution that the ADC makes to the evangelistic programmes of the units of the Union. Unfortunately, that dialogue was delayed by my lengthy absence during recovery from major surgery, but now that I am back the conversation is resumed.

The September meeting of the ADC Board continued the analysis of what we have been doing, and the assessment of new possibilities. (Some of the work of our last five years is reported in the ADC 'IN TOUCH' newsletter that

is being circulated to all churches.) We will use the autumn period to clarify and firm up proposals to be presented at the BUC year-end meetings.

I could summarise our planning as follows:

Plenty more of everything that we have been doing well. We will not abandon our tried and tested methods.

remain essentially the same.

We have started work on the Internet. This shows positive signs of reaching places that cards and printed lessons cannot. We will be proposing to expand and improve our WebPages and related electronic ministry.

We are thinking to

hypertext and links so that the user is free to explore at will. The CD could become our core ministry, from which new WebPages and new printed courses are derived.

We are thinking to make better use of the names of enquirers that come to us. I am suggesting that, once on our database, these people should receive a quarterly newsletter from the ADC, carrying a well-chosen variety of items to feed the devotional life and challenge spiritual thinking. Receiving this newsletter will not depend upon their completing Bible lessons, and they will continue to receive it until or unless they tell us to remove their name.

Options for courses:

- * *An introduction to Christian faith* – a newly presented revision of an existing course, which we will call **NEW START IN LIFE**.
- * *An introduction to Adventist doctrine* – a revised presentation of the **DISCOVER Bible course**.
- * *A study of the major Bible prophecies* – the **FOCUS ON PROPHECY** course introduced last year.
- * *A new introductory course called SPADEWORK*, based on the existing **Digging Up The Past** series, designed to provide a framework for belief in God and the Bible.

* We expect to keep up our *health education courses* essentially as they exist, but presented in new formats.

A new kind of response pack to send to enquirers. This should be a

continued on page 8



Printed Bible courses and health courses will be offered to the public as they have been since Pastor W. L. Emmerson launched the British VOP Bible School in 1945. We will modernise the presentation of courses, but our method of operation will

develop complete

courses that can be made available on interactive CD for the computer. In fact, any work we do to revise printed courses will be designed in the first instance for the CD format, using

Southern Africa Famine Appeal

by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is responding to the unfolding food insecurity crisis in Southern Africa with emergency food aid.

Southern Africa – Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland – is in the grip of its worst food shortages in ten years. More than 2.6 million people are currently without adequate food supplies, causing mass hunger and starvation. What's more, ongoing drought and flooding, depleted food stocks, and economic instability suggest that millions more are at risk of falling deeper into hunger, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). In many places farmers have been forced to harvest crops early, leaving families without food supplies for the coming months. If left unchecked, prolonged food shortages will see an already weakened population succumb to a variety of illnesses and disease. All the while, child malnutrition rates have doubled.

So far ADRA has responded to the current food shortage crisis with the following interventions:

Zimbabwe ADRA began a six-month emergency food programme for 12,000 people in the Binga district of the Matabeleland province located in the southwestern part of Zimbabwe. Each month, through December, beneficiaries will

receive enough maize, beans, and vegetable oil to provide each person with 2,100 calories daily as recommended by the Sphere Project Minimum Standards for Disaster Response.

Malawi ADRA continues its distribution of emergency food supplies that has benefited 22,000 people in the districts of Blantyre, Salima, Dezda and Mzimba.

Zambia ADRA is working together with WFP on distribution of food to those affected.

Further proposals are being prepared for Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi to be submitted shortly to governments, WFP and the European Union.

Much more needs to be done to ward off starvation and death. *Will you help?* We must do all we can together while there is still time. *Please make a donation today.*

Send your donation to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. If possible, Gift Aid your donation. Please make your cheque payable to 'ADRA-UK'. Alternatively, you can send your gift through the regular Church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the **Southern Africa Famine Appeal**.

Healthwise

Legionnaires

Legionnaires' disease is a particularly virulent form of pneumonia and not an exotic condition unwantedly acquired from a holiday in North Africa as might be supposed from its name.

What is now called *legionella bacterium* acquired its name in 1976 when around 221 American Legion veterans, out of a few thousand attending a convention in Philadelphia, were infected. Thirty-four of the Legionnaires died of this new form of pneumonia which was spread by water vapour in the hotel's air-conditioning system.

Since then outbreaks of Legionnaires' have occurred in different places around the world including the UK in 1977 and sporadically through the 1980s. The infection that killed 23 people in Stafford and 3 in London centred on people working at the BBC headquarters.

The disease, which is fatal in around 5-15% of those infected, is generally contracted from the

inhalation of fine water vapours emanating from whirlpool baths, showers and water cooling towers usually associated with public buildings of one kind or another, and frequently is dispersed to a wider area through air-conditioning systems.

Reported symptoms of Legionnaires' are flu-like, with headaches, muscle pain and feeling unwell in general. The incubation period is from 2 to 10 days and is followed by nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, high fever and shaking chills. These symptoms are quickly followed by dry coughing, chest pains and difficulty in breathing. People who have health problems already, and smokers, are at particular risk. Legionnaires' infection is usually found in middle-aged people.

Antibiotic drugs such as erythromycin or rifampicin are used to treat the infection, and recovery may take several weeks.

Possible sources of Legionnaires' are checked

regularly to see if the water is contaminated. However, the water temperature is critical to the survival of the bacterium, so any undetected changes in the temperature might allow the micro-organism to grow and be spread before it is noticed.

The Health and Safety Executive, which issues the guidelines for testing, says that vigilance in testing is usually a sufficient safeguard. Stricter guidelines might mandate hotter or cooler water which does not favour bacterial growth; or the addition of a biocide to possible sources of infection.

For the individual, early awareness and treatment are the best lines of defence against Legionnaires' fatality.



Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director



The year since 9/11

The world had been attacked by a frightening and unlooked for enemy. And we had the word of the US president that it would never be the same again.

It is twelve months since 9/11. In some respects the intervening months have gone by in a flash. In other respects they seem to have taken a decade. As the BBC reruns the film footage of the impact of the jets on the Twin Towers, the attack is as if yesterday. When we consider the full implications of what happened at Ground Zero; the declaration of the War Against Terrorism and the subsequent hammering of Afghanistan; the diplomatic manoeuvrings that took place to get key players on-side; the fall of the Taliban; the menace that seemed to loom when president Bush named the nations involved in the 'Axis of Evil'; the apparently fruitless efforts to entrap Al-Qaeda in the caves of Bora Bora; the revelation in *Time* of the ease with which nuclear devices could have been smuggled into New York and the massive devastation that would have resulted from detonation; the evident attempts to prepare opinion in Western countries for a war on Iraq; the (further) revelations in *Time* of the advanced warning of the nature of the Al-Qaeda threat – the Clinton-Bush transition period in January 2001 – and the intelligence picture that was subsequently built up;¹ – why, when we consider all that, the twelve months since 9/11 seem to have taken for ever.

How have Adventists responded to the attack and subsequent atmosphere of menace?

Understandably everyone has had to have his say. How have we said it? Would it be an exaggeration to say that every preacher has tackled the subject head on at least once and, subsequently, alluded to it on a more-or-less weekly basis?

Internationally the houses that publish in English (and the others, too, I should imagine) have each issued at least one special publication for outreach featuring 9/11 and, in the case of *Adventist Review*, among others, a special for inreach.

Here in the British Union we have had both a special tract (by Mark Finley) and a special magazine (on which I began to work as soon as I was able to get back to base following the tragedy).

It has been interesting to monitor the extent to which congregations have availed themselves of these outreach materials. (We would not have been 'monitoring' at all had we not been involved in an excursion into pseudo-market research on behalf of FOCUS magazine.)

The first print run went quickly, as did the second. And, when it was announced that there would be no more, a middling-sized congregation of saints in the Midlands ordered (and paid for) a special print run of 10,000 copies for its own outreach purposes – when 9/11 was already six months into the past!

What has been particularly interesting has been the pattern of magazine 'consumption'. The largest absorption has been on the part of 'small' and 'middling' congregations. Seven of the ten largest congregations have taken none at all.

Why? Here we are reduced to conjecture: Holding back for full-throttle involvement in LIFEdevelopment.info (promoted at and since the session in York 2001)? The tendency of larger social groups to look inwards rather than outwards? Or, possibly, a nervousness in city churches resultant, at least in part, from a perceived vulnerability to terrorist outrage and, as a consequence, a preoccupation with survival, both literal and spiritual? Any, all or none of the above? Who knows?

What *is* clear, however, is that the *Review* special for inreach and the issue of *Ministry* looking at the last year from a pastor's perspective both assume anxiety on the part of church members. And my mailbag confirms the soundness of that assumption.

'Men's courage will fail completely as they realise what is threatening the world,' said Jesus. (Luke 21:26, Phillips.) And the courage of all – Christians included – has taken a powerful shaking since Osama bin Laden became a household name. The incidence of depression among Christians and non-Christians alike has been greatly increased since 9/11. The framework in which many live their lives has been shown to be extremely uncertain. Power structures always taken for granted have been demonstrated to be instantly destructible. I shudder to think what would have resulted if, as had been intended by Al-Qaeda, the plane that went down in Pennsylvania had taken out the White House.

Islamic leaders interviewed on television have been at pains to disown Osama bin Laden and all about him. But the utterances and actions of other Muslims have revealed that Islam, like Christianity, is subject to frightening forms of distortion in the hands and minds of insecure, unstable people. It is likely that the Christian perception of the Islamic threat is greater than at any time since the beginning of the *last* millennium.

So how do we respond to these anxious times? Writing in *Ministry* (August 2002), Loren Seibold said, 'It is not our task to either defend or damn the Muslim faith, but to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. And that gospel identifies all sin as the work of an enemy, one who is not Muslim, or even human. And though human beings may act as agents of that enemy, we are all victims of sin.'

The distortion caused by sin on the human psyche has rarely been more shockingly evident than in the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. In a recent discussion of Adventist outreach I wrote down the words of a speaker: 'To reach the secular mind we need to dumb down the three Ss: Sin, Salvation, Saviour.' Everything I stand for cried out against that. Of course, I know what the speaker was saying: 'We must speak in the thought forms of the postmodern generation.' But never has the outworking of *sin* appeared so great; never has the need of *salvation* appeared so obvious; never has the necessity of the *Saviour* been so achingly apparent.

Let Jesus have the last word. Knowing what was in our future, he said, 'Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' 'I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't the peace the world gives.' (John 14:27, NKJV, NLT.) 'Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33, NLT.)

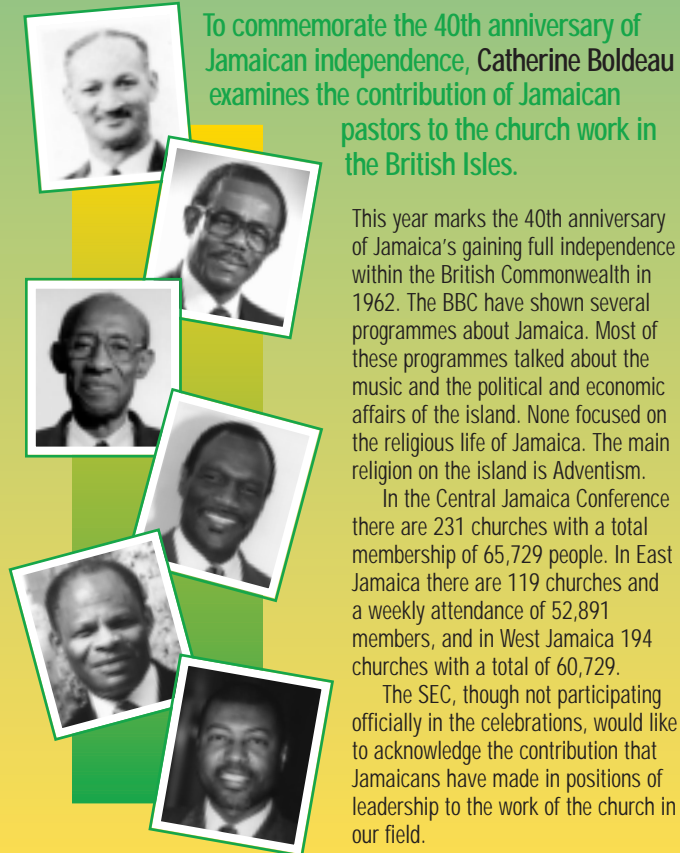
Those are the words of the One who knows all things: past, present, future. *My peace I give you.* That peace is born from a living personal relationship with Jesus, and deepened through a growing surrender of life to his gracious rule. The Gospel is this: Salvation from sin through the Saviour; and peace and freedom from anxiety *in* the Saviour. That's the message we live and preach. 9/11 showed us what is *really* important. Not economic systems, political structures nor military might: *Trust in God.*

The message of God in the year since 9/11 has been: *Trust me!*

References:

¹ *Time Special Report*, 12 August 2002

THE JAMAICAN CONTRIBUTION



To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Jamaican independence, Catherine Boldeau examines the contribution of Jamaican pastors to the church work in the British Isles.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Jamaica's gaining full independence within the British Commonwealth in 1962. The BBC have shown several programmes about Jamaica. Most of these programmes talked about the music and the political and economic affairs of the island. None focused on the religious life of Jamaica. The main religion on the island is Adventism.

In the Central Jamaica Conference there are 231 churches with a total membership of 65,729 people. In East Jamaica there are 119 churches and a weekly attendance of 52,891 members, and in West Jamaica 194 churches with a total of 60,729.

The SEC, though not participating officially in the celebrations, would like to acknowledge the contribution that Jamaicans have made in positions of leadership to the work of the church in our field.

According to the records, the first Jamaican pastor in the SEC – and indeed the first black pastor here – was the late Pastor Theodore McLeary. Prior to the arrival of black pastors from overseas under the 'Pierson Package', Pastor McLeary was among the church's top soul-winners. As a result of his hard work and dedication, there was tremendous growth in the Brixton and Balham areas during the late 1960s and early 70s. When he was transferred to North London in the mid-70s, he continued his work with enthusiasm and the church reaped the benefit of his commitment. The Theodore McLeary School in Brixton was named in honour of his pioneering work.

Foremost among the leading Jamaican lights in Britain was the late Dr Silburn M. Reid. Dr Reid came to Britain with a wealth of experience and his first assignment was that of SEC Executive secretary; then, in 1981, president. One of his notable achievements was the restoration of the annual camp meeting.

Pastor Cecil Perry, who succeeded Dr Reid as SEC president, arrived in

1979. Leaving the sunny shores of Jamaica, he was given the leadership of the Brixton church with around 400 members. The Brixton members remember him fondly as 'the people's pastor'. Pastor Perry continued the work on the foundations built by Dr Reid and, so successful was he that he was invited to become BUC president in 1991.

Pastor Don McFarlane, current SEC president, began his career in the North. He was invited south to become the Executive secretary at the Union. When Pastor Perry was asked to serve as president at the Union Pastor McFarlane was elected SEC president.

Don McFarlane has been instrumental in the significant growth in South England. Not only has our membership increased, but there is growth with regard to our finances as well. During his leadership the new Gift Aid scheme was introduced that is now bringing in over one million pounds in revenue a year. New initiatives are in place in several areas, among them evangelism, church building and administrative procedures.

Another Jamaican who has made a significant contribution to the SEC is Keith Davidson, formerly SEC Education director and now holding the same position at Union level. His hard

work enabled the John Loughborough School to gain grant-maintained, then voluntary-aided status.

We also recognise the contribution of the current Executive secretary Pastor Humphrey Walters. He was instrumental in devising our present strategic plan (in collaboration with the departmental heads). Pastor Walters is an excellent writer, an accurate editor and a detailed statistician.

Pastor Eglan Brooks, Pathfinder and Teen Ministries director, should also be commended for his work. Under his leadership his two department have gone from strength to strength.

Last, but not least, is Pastor Roy Chisholm, who worked tirelessly in the field of literature-evangelism prior to becoming a minister. Currently the SEC Prison Ministries co-ordinator, Pastor Chisholm is also pastor of the Edmonton and Enfield churches.

Included in our list of Jamaicans who have made a contribution to this field, we should also commend those local church pastors from that part of the world who provide nurture and support for their members every day.



Pastor Perry talks to the children

Chelmsford: Flashback to March

March was a special month for the members and friends of the Chelmsford church. Among our visiting speakers was Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC president, who was accompanied by his wife. He spoke on the topic, 'Does Jesus Care?'

In reference to 9/11 and other international and national issues, Pastor Perry brought home the assurance that we are not insignificant individuals outside God's attention and care.

The day was further highlighted by the ordination of Ted Shirley as a church deacon. This is a role for which he has demonstrated a gift as one of our newest members. Fellowship lunch was followed by an afternoon address in which Pastor Perry encouraged the members in the faith.

Later in March a special service of thanksgiving was held for answered prayer in the life of Wayne Hill. Diagnosed with cancer, he responded favourably to treatment. Family and friends joined with members as Wayne testified to the impact this had on his faith, the concern of loved ones, and God's leading through moments of despair.

PR SECRETARY

Greenwich: Redemption Campaign

On 4 May 'The Redemption Campaign' began. Evangelist Robert A. Vassel from Montego Bay, Jamaica, was the speaker. The theme was 'Christ is

the Answer', and hearts were stirred with the knowledge that God cares; which resulted in fourteen youths giving their hearts to Christ at the

end of a dynamic campaign.

The baptism was a solemn yet happy occasion witnessed by relatives, friends and members of the Greenwich and Mottingham churches. The names of the candidates with the pastor and evangelist were (from left to right in picture): Pastor Terry Messenger, Michella Hayter, Donnavan Hemmings (elder), Kadian Gibbons, Nero Kavanen, Terry Meere, Alicia Richardson, Dwain Richardson, Almez Messenger, Debbie Ogunlana, Sahara Peddie, Michael Barton (elder), Opal Thomas, Karlene Reader, Pastor Robert Vassal (evangelist), and, not in the picture: Samson Soyele Jun, Daniel Whitter and Gary Richardson.

JOYCE CERES



Manchester Choir on Radio 4

The Manchester Adventist Choir, formed fifteen years ago, has sung to various audiences inside and outside the Adventist church. Over this time the Choir has performed across the British Isles and has travelled to Spain, Barbados and Germany. A tour of Florida is planned for next summer.

However, on Monday 29 July they were faced with an entirely different audience. Following an invitation they made their debut radio performance for the BBC on Radio 4's Morning Service programme. The broadcast went out live and was one of the programmes commemorating the Commonwealth Games.

Led by Adrian Carradice-Davids, the Choir sang three songs: *I Go to the Rock*, *My Help*, and *Total Praise*. These were interspersed with readings and prayers. The whole experience was much enjoyed and is something the Choir is unlikely to forget.

Two members of the Choir are also members of Just Men, an all-male quartet. They have done their part singing on radio programmes in which the Commonwealth Games were the main focus.

Since the Manchester Adventist Choir's experience on radio, they have been approached to take part in programmes scheduled for October. It is hoped that this means of communication will become a regular part of the Choir's witness.

JANICE SAVIZON

Welcome to Kasaya and Eremasi

On Sabbath 29 June Colchester church was blessed with the baptism of Kasaya Serukalou, who arrived last September from the Fiji Islands with her husband Eremasi, who is stationed in Colchester with the Royal Logistic Corps 13 Air Assault Support Regiment.

Eremasi, already an Adventist, and Kasaya started attending church. After studying with Pastor Malcolm Taylor, Kasaya decided she wanted to give her life to the Lord. We gladly welcome her into our church family and hope that the couple will be blessed with happiness during their stay here in Colchester.

ELIZABETH JONES



Kasaya and Pastor Malcolm Taylor

Photo: Ken Jones

Choir sings at Civic Service

Sunday 14 July was an important day at St Peter and St Paul's church, Drax, Selby. The sun was strong as it shone on this quaint little medieval building in the picturesque village. A civic service was held with council dignitaries from all over Yorkshire to commemorate their service to the communities they represented.

The programme, led by the Revd Jonas Mfumulla, was a collection of prayers, hymns, readings and a sermon. Interspersed with these were songs by the Manchester Adventist Choir, which greatly enhanced the worship experience.

As the programme ended the congregation read together:

'Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.'

During the reception held afterwards, the Manchester Choir was invited to sing in Selby next year. On that occasion they will perform at the cathedral.

God has enabled the Choir to reach many people in all walks of life. We trust that he will continue to be with them as they sing for his glory.

JANICE SAVIZON

Scarborough Day of Fellowship

On 18 May the fledgling Scarborough church, started by members from York, enjoyed its first day of fellowship since it reopened. Kelvin Davis (York) got Sabbath School off to a good start, accompanied by an accordionist who comes to John Kent's Bible studies in the Scarborough area.

As the Scarborough church does not yet have a building, the meeting was held in a Quaker hall of worship ('Just follow the signs for the crematorium', were our directions!). Divine service was taken by Dr Derek Beardsell, a man who, when asked which country he was from, replied that he had 'lived in many countries, but for the purposes of today, I am a Briton.'

Special items included duets, solos and a sketch performed by a group most of whose members were under 10 and the oldest 16.

There's no shortage of potential Bible students in Scarborough – just a shortage of teachers!

ANDREW PUCKERING

Russian-speaking group: Three baptised

On 20 July, in the friendly environment of the Wimbledon church, three people were baptised. These souls are precious to heaven – and to the Russian-speaking group organised one and a half years ago.

In the period since we were

organised, many have been reached by the Gospel, a significant number through the New Life correspondence course. Each Sunday a five-minute Voice of Hope programme is broadcast in the Russian language.

PASTOR MICHAEL LUTSO



Ghanaian Group Witness in York

The York church played host to 'the Ghana Group'. York members and Ghanaian Adventists from South-East London led the city of York in praise in Samson Square on Sabbath afternoon 29 June, and a large crowd gathered. Performers included a 25-strong group hand-picked by Pastor E. Sackey from a choir of about sixty. He'd wanted to bring them all, but there were considerable logistical problems! Also singing was the group 3D.

The event was made possible by Neil Mackay, an Anglican minister who had been so impressed by the weekly Adventist March of Witness in Begora, a town in Ghana, that as soon as he knew we belonged to the

York Council of Churches, he invited the Ghanaian Adventists to join the Ghana Fantakwika Begora link. York

minister Pastor Roger Neal organised the visit of the Ghanaians to the York church, which warmly welcomed them and is eager for more visits.

ANDREW PUCKERING





Great Scottish Walk

For the first time, ADRA-UK was one of one hundred and eleven charities to participate in 'The Great Scottish Walk' this year. Twenty-eight enthusiastic church members from most of the Scottish churches were joined by two from Walsall, and by ADRA director Raafat Kamal on 23 June. They completed either twelve or six miles around Scotland's capital.

The weather stayed dry until the walk was completed. The route took in many of Edinburgh's sights and its varied architecture.

A total of £1,420 was raised by sponsorship, and will help support the ADRA-UK Tuberculosis prevention and treatment project near Elbasan in Albania.

If you missed out on this opportunity to support your favourite charity, now is the time to plan for next year's walk. Come and join us in Bonny Scotland!

HARRY WILBY

Hyland House School Graduation

by Catherine Boldeau, SEC Communication co-ordinator

On 18 July the John Loughborough School was the venue for the Hyland House School Graduation programme. Specially invited guests for the evening included SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane, who presented the pupils with their graduation certificates, and Pastor Des Boldeau who, in a speech entitled 'Follow the Leader' urged the graduates to make Jesus the Leader in their lives. The event was well attended and the hall was packed with parents, families and friends of current and past pupils, teachers and serving school governors.

The leaving class, Year 6 students, were dressed in royal blue graduation regalia and marched in at the beginning of the service. Under the leadership of Patrick Bernard, the school music teacher, they performed three items. The first, 'Wade in the Water', was a traditional spiritual, and the second, 'O Happy Day', was based on the arrangement from the film *Sister Act II*. The third item was the popular song by R. Kelly, 'I believe I can fly'.

As well as awards for academic achievements, a special award was given to Year 6 student Donald Pemberton by the principal of an organisation called 'Tribe Management' for the scoring of an outstanding number of goals in football. Donald is also being signed up by Fulham FC.

All Year 6 students were given an individual gift together with a Bible for their daily use. Of the nine students who graduated, eight will begin their secondary education at Stanborough School, and one will attend a grammar school in London.

The evening was tinged with sadness at the retirement of Mrs Violet Henry, 'Auntie Vi', as she is affectionately known to many, has worked at the school for the past twelve years. Hyland House head Mrs Gina Abbequaye thanked her for her dedication and honest judgement.

Flags at church

Sabbath 13 July was designated a Multicultural Day by the Stockport Sabbath school department. This was to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of members of this small church who are 'United in Christ'.

Recently-ordained local pastor, Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, led the Lesson study against a backdrop of national flags. Pastor Todd Frias, from the Filipino International church, London, was the guest speaker, with a sermon built around Galatians 3:23-29.

A delicious fellowship lunch followed, before the day concluded with a variety of items (singing, interview, quiz, presentation, dance, etc).

Throughout the day there was singing in Tagalog, Zimbabwean, Indian and English. An extended version of 'God loves people' included Filipinos, Indians, Czechs, Zimbabweans, Italians, Germans, English, Isle of Man, St Kittians and Jamaicans. Closing remarks to a blessed day were given by Pastors Dan Vidal (visiting from the Philippines), Rashford-Hewitt and Frias.

ADRIAN KITCHER

Crieff raises money for AIDS victims

They have performed at the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall and Notra Dame Cathedral. On the night of 28 July the New England Youth Ensemble, conducted by Virginia-Jean

Rittenhouse, performed at the Crieff Adventist church. The appreciative audience donated £300 for an orphanage for child AIDS victims in Zimbabwe.

KEN THOMAS

Stevenage Day: 600 FOCUS distributed

For the past four years Stevenage Adventist church has participated in the 'Stevenage Day' community event when thousands of local residents gather for a family day in the spacious grounds of St George's Park.

This year's event on 9 June was visited by the Mayor of Stevenage, Pam Stuart. Stevenage members who were not deterred by the rainy weather distributed over 600 FOCUS magazines, including Health, People of Hope, the Jubilee edition, and Man of the Millennium. In addition, leaflets were distributed to the public, as well as the sale of bread and cakes, and blood pressure testing which all met with a good response from passers by, some of whom expressed an interest in visiting our church. A computerised heart check was also available for those who wanted a health analysis done.

It has always been a very good evangelistic opportunity to spread the Gospel in this way, and our plan is to enlarge our efforts next year to make this annual event an even more attractive witness to those living within the Stevenage municipality.

PASTOR A. LEONCE

Health Outreach

On 29 July the Health and Temperance ministries of the Motttingham church in South London, led by Sister P. Chambers, organised a Health Fair at which doctors, nurses and other health personnel were on hand to take blood pressures, urine samples, give advice on diets, and physiotherapy. Many residents of the community benefited greatly and were thankful for the church's interest in their well-being.

This venture made the community more aware of our presence and our commitment to their holistic life.

CHURCH CLERK

Walsall: Thank you, Pastor Liburd

Pastor Paul and Jeanetta Liburd first came to the Walsall church in 1993. After three and a half years, with baby daughter Abigail, they left us. Their second term since 1999 has seen the birth of baby Lydia.

During Pastor Liburd's six years in Walsall, ten members were baptised. The Children's Ministries department has grown. On Sabbath afternoons we visit residential homes to sing and mime for the folk. We also go for nature walks. The youth hall, after years of problems, has been fixed and decorated. In addition, the annual

Senior Citizens' Dinner for the homeless and lonely was organised.

To say thank you for the years spent with us we held a party on 19 May. A lovely bouquet was presented to Sister Liburd and a presentation of china was made to the family. We have lost a son, brother and counsellor in Pastor Liburd. His has been an active and energetic ministry and he is calm in any situation.

M. V. LAWRENCE

Newport health witness

The second quarter of 2002 still found much activity in the Newport church. Pastor Adrian Broome has commenced the LIFEdevelopment series on Sabbath afternoons, and plans are afoot to improve the appearance of the exterior of the church building.

Sabbath 25 May was Health Emphasis Day. We were enthralled with the presentation of the health message brought to us by Lilian and Mervyn Saunders, Welsh Mission Health sponsors. They displayed all the healthy fruits and vegetables in the front of the church, harvest festival style, and explained the nutritional value of each.

Sabbath afternoon was spent discussing the value of water, sunshine, rest and trust. We were admonished to add years to life and life to years.

VERA MACHELL

Time to review our attitudes to disabled persons

by Sophia Nicholls

On Sabbath 27 July the Milton Keynes church was the venue for a special ASNA Disabilities Awareness programme. In the morning, following a rousing praise, testimony and worship service, ASNA chair Nigel Nicholls presented a two-part Bible study. The first part looked at the issues of tolerance versus acceptance, and examined how these two factors affect our ministry to others. 'The way we value and treat others is dependent on whether we are accepting or just tolerant of their differences,' Nigel said.

The afternoon programme, presented by the writer (ASNA) and Julia Saunders (RNIB), looked at the practical aspects of making the Gospel accessible. In particular, it looked at the physical structure of our churches, and challenged widely held views of individuals with a disability. The congregation was encouraged to see the Disability Discrimination Act (due to be enforced in 2004) as an opportunity to review current practices and ensure access for all. A video presentation provided a moving insight into the lives and experiences of those living with disabilities.

The Milton Keynes congregation particularly enjoyed a presentation by Insignia, a group of young people from the Battersea church. Insignia minister to those who are deaf and hard of hearing through British Sign Language, and have recently been engaged on a

project in the Island of Dominica. Their rendition of the song 'My life is in Your hands', by Kirk Franklin, demonstrated the beauty of sign language and the inspiration it gives to all who witness it. BUC Communication director Pastor John Surridge offered the closing prayer and asked God for his blessing on the lives of those with disabilities and on all who are willing to see the needs of others in their Christian life.

Future ASNA training and awareness programmes include a one-day conference at Newbold College on 29 September and Plumstead on 12 October. There will be a celebration banquet at the Stanborough Centre on 1 December. For further information phone 01491 833395.



Each box should be labelled to say whether it is for a girl or a boy and for what age. The idea is for the boxes to look like gifts, so we would like to encourage you to have the boxes wrapped as you would Christmas gifts. Unfortunately, we would not be able to collect the boxes from you and arrangements for delivering them to us would have to be made. The date when we should receive all shoe box gifts is Thursday 17 October 2002. If you have any queries regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact Chantal Alen on 01923 681723 or email at calen@adra.org.uk.



Newbold Pathfinder Investiture

The continuing popularity and success of the Pathfinder tradition in this country was made clear on Sabbath 13 July when fifty-two children, from Eager Beavers to Rangers, were invested at

Newbold church. This lively group has been led for many years by Pat Dyckhoff and her husband Terry, who are now assisted by Lani Edwards. Salisbury Hall was brightened by the children as they marched in with

their flags to take part in the 11.15 service. Lani gave the welcome and Rosie Southern (junior leader) led the opening prayer. Monique Barendse (another junior leader) presided over the collection of the offering, and Alicia Waite and Gifty Amayke gave the scripture reading. There was a recitation of the Pledge and Law by the Adventurers, and a song from the Campaigners, as well as the Pathfinder song, which everyone joined in singing. The Explorers also mimed the Pledge and Law.

The address for the morning was given by Andrew Millsop, SEC area co-ordinator for Pathfinders. He also carried out the investiture, which included two very special awards as Terry Dyckhoff and Lani Edwards

received their credentials as Master Guides.

Afterwards, Lani and the junior leaders presented Pat and Terry with gifts in recognition of all their hard work and dedication, and Lani received flowers from the junior leaders. Betty Robertson, who looks after the Busy Bees and Sunbeams, also received flowers. These celebrations were followed by a pot luck lunch at Newbold School.

Pat says that this has been her last Investiture as director of the Newbold Pathfinders. Can she really be planning to retire after only 25-plus years of Pathfinder work?

Time will tell.

MARGARET WHIDDEN



Poland: friendships without borders

Some 1,800 teenagers from across Europe met from 29 July to 6 August in Zatonie, Poland, for one of the Church's most internationally diverse youth camps. Known as a Pathfinder Camporee, the event is held by the Adventist Church in the Trans-European region every four years, and is focused on fun, friendship, and spiritual development. Local Polish young people were joined by groups from countries including Britain, Ireland, Finland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and France.

'One of the goals of the camporee is to encourage friendships among teens of different nationalities,' say event organisers. The young people were encouraged to complete the camporee friendship award by visiting every national camp and collecting a stamp to indicate that they had done so.

Paul Tompkins, Youth Ministries

leader, was the main organiser of the event. He says one of the highlights of the camporee was the Market Day, when Pathfinders raised funds for a mission project. Goods were brought and sold, games devised and services rendered with the aim of raising funds to build a church in the Padianwala district of Pakistan, and also to provide playground equipment for the nearby Kot Sundr Adventist school.

At the end of the event the Pathfinders had raised a total of 37,254 Polish zlotys (equivalent to £5,800) for these projects. 'The goal I had in mind was £5,000, and it was absolutely amazing to see it come to fruition,' says Tompkins. 'It is planned that the church can be built next year and that a group from the TED region will be able to go over to be part of the building project.'

ANR

Floods: European Adventists count losses. Adventists in Central Europe have been involved in a massive cleanup and rebuilding effort since the floods of mid-August. In ten days some of the worst flooding on record in Europe destroyed houses, public buildings, roads and bridges. More than 100,000 people fled their homes and an estimated 109 people were killed. Rivers swollen by violent storms left paths of destruction in southern Russia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany.

Adventist leaders in the region report that no church members were among those who died. But they say the flooding has inflicted 'immense damage among Adventist families, and church facilities'. In the Czech Republic several Adventist churches were flooded. The Church's publishing house in Prague was swept by floodwaters which destroyed more than half the stock of books, as well as a number of printing presses and computers. Church buildings in the German towns of Floha, Olberna and Schneeberg are said to have sustained severe flood damage. Church members in Dresden, Pirna, Grimma and Leising are among the many thousands of residents evacuated to safety as floodwaters threatened their homes. In Austria a group of Adventist young people attending a Pathfinder camp were surprised by floods. Forty children were saved, but their tents, belongings and four cars were washed away.

ANW

New ABC

A new Adventist Book Centre was opened at the Advent Centre, London, on Sunday 18 August. It will be open for business between 10am and 3pm on the following Sundays:

September 15, 22
October 13, 20 and 27

ABC BOOK SALES 2002

September
22 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
29 West Midlands 10am-2pm
October
6 Newbold Primary School

Money scam uses counterfeit church stationery. Church administrators and members should be aware of an attempted international finance scam using counterfeit church stationery, says Robert W. Nixon, General Counsel of the Church's General Conference.

Nixon's warning comes after receipt of an offer from a person claiming to be a pastor in a West African country asking for assistance in cashing several million dollars worth of gold he claims to have helped smuggle from a Central African country.

The 'pastor' asserted his willingness to share the proceeds if he could liquidate the gold and use the cash for his 'long-time ambition to establish missions all over the world'. The 'pastor' communicated on what looked like a letterhead of a local Adventist mission office.

'The recipient - the Division office on another continent - was suspicious of both the offer and the letterhead, and referred it to the General Conference for evaluation,' Nixon said.

Irregularities and communication with the mission showed the solicitation to be a complete fraud. The *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* lists no pastor by the name in the world church. The mission president was identified as 'overseer', which is not the Church's terminology. The mission address and phone numbers were not those listed in the Yearbook, neither was the name of the 'overseer'. The logo was not current.

'In short,' Nixon concluded, 'the letterhead was counterfeit and the solicitation a fraud. Church workers and members must be alert to such attempts and should check out suspicious communications.'

Thomas E. Wetmore, Associate General Counsel, said US government sources indicate that such scams have netted criminals hundreds of millions of dollars. 'If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is,' said Wetmore. 'Beware!'

ANW

ADC-IN TOUCH

continued from page 1

complete presentation of the given subject, perhaps in magazine format. Thus I envisage four complete packs, one for each Bible course described on page one. Along with it will go an invitation to study the subject more thoroughly by sending for our CD or correspondence course or visiting the relevant website.

Perhaps now you can see why **RALLY DAY on 28 SEPTEMBER** is so important for us. Since my hospitalisation, I am not well enough to get out and about to the churches on Sabbaths, but I can do the office part of the job and I can develop the ideas outlined above. My absence from the churches means we need local promotion even more than in the past.

Yes, we need financial support - and in a big way. Yes, we need volunteers to visit Bible students to build friendships and bridge people from community to fellowship. Yes, we need PM programmes to pump VOP Cards out into the houses, even though the enthusiasm for this work has waned. Yes, we need you to write to tell us what you think we could do to improve our service.

We need you to be 'with us' on Sabbath 28 September. Please.

HIV/AIDS team. Church administrators in Eastern Africa voted to create an HIV/AIDS team to prepare teaching resources for pastors/church leaders. Dr Fesaha Tsegaye, Health Ministries director for the region, said that the team would 'distribute materials to be used in HIV/AIDS education programmes in schools, institutions and churches.'

ANW

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Lay Evangelist Campaign	21 Sept - 5 Oct 7.30 (not Thursdays)	Breath of Life Church Smethwick	Lay Preacher: Brother Curtis Griffin	Pastor D. Masih 0121 5523298 or W. B. Riley 0121 2417318
Youth Evangelistic Campaign	28 Sept - 12 Oct 7.15 (not Thursdays)	Brixton Church	Pastor Glen Samuels	Julie Cameron 0794 9602595 or 020 72748283
Area 1 Day of Fellowship	28 September	Oldway Mansion, Paignton	Dr Orville Woolford	Pastor R. Clemow; Phone: 01752 774523
ASNA One-day Conference - Disabilities and the Church	29 September 9.15am-4pm	Newbold College		Phone Sophia Nicholls 01491 833395

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format. Please do not send posters. Readers have a right to assume that all events advertised in this column are church-related. Please make the church connection clear with your submission.

Messenger

Volume 107 Number 19 13 September 2002

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COPY FOR No. 22 - 18 September

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@aol.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 Warners Midlands PLC, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9PH.

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
Sept 13	7.20	7.33	7.26	7.36	7.46
20	7.04	7.16	7.09	7.18	7.28
27	6.48	7.00	6.52	6.59	7.10
Oct 4	6.32	6.44	6.35	6.41	6.53

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