

Messenger

'Lifting the Mask'

Women's Ministries Retreat, 14-17 November, Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

by Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director, BUC. Photos: Pastor John SurrIDGE

'Book by 31 July or the retreat will be full,' was the message circulating in the BUC. When the numbers applying to be present exceeded 370, two more hotels had to be found. Finally the number present exceeded twice that of the previous BUC Women's retreat, in 1999.

'Lifting the Mask' was a carefully chosen theme. Through women serving the whole church, an atmosphere of trust has begun to permeate congregations. Women are feeling more confident in revealing the real stresses of their lives; the ones they've kept hidden beneath their well-made spiritual masks.

John SurrIDGE and Wes Kapon, who came to report the retreat for the BUC video news, commented on the high

level of participation in the workshops. 'These are hard-hitting topics,' John commented as he noted the subjects covered: sex and the single woman, AIDS, HIV and the Church, abuse, Adventist women and God, keeping our children safe, miscarriage, the God of suffering, worship for busy women, power and prayer, Adventist promiscuous males, power in balance in the Church, who is in control of your life, surviving abuse, parenting teenagers. These were just a few of the two dozen topics covered in workshops.

Iris Johns, Joan Barrett, Heather Haworth and Julia Smith led in the worship times. The welcome address was presented by Pastor Egerton and

Mrs Cynthia Francis, NEC president and his wife. Then, following a three-course meal, Claradell Morgan introduced us to some of the first women God created.

During the Sabbath worship hour Audrey Balderstone made an amazing flower display depicting the passion of Christ. 'Fantastic', and 'a sermon I'll never forget', were two reactions.

Louise Clarke, the evening MC, had the ladies in stitches with her hilarious tale of how Mary McFarlane kidnapped her so that *Ground Force* could do her garden. . . . Her attention kept being caught by a gorilla, however. The women had dressed up for the three-course dinner, each wearing a mask. 'But who are you?' Louise demanded of the gorilla. It was not until after Pat's fashion parade that all was revealed. The gorilla was a man, Philip Jackson, who, with his wife, led in the games and fellowship that lasted until the early hours on Sunday.

Each year a collection is taken up to support women in different parts of our division. Last time £700 was raised. This year's total was £1,000.

The four-day retreat was run jointly by Claradell Morgan and her team at NEC, Julia Smith and her team at SEC, Jane Wells of the Welsh Mission, and the newly-elected Scottish sponsor Judith Martin. Heather Haworth and her team



of secretaries, Sharon Godman, Ellen Bryant and Ruth Stewart, with support of many at the BUC, gave leadership to this largest ever women's retreat.

On Sunday, after Jane and Judith's Celtic-flavoured morning worship, Heather gave thanks and gifts to those who had been guest speakers. Among them were Audrey James, Cynthia Benz, Helen Pearson and Audrey Balderstone. In addition to these were the workshop presenters: Louise Clarke, Sophie Bayin, Mary McFarlane, Karen Holford, Ullanda Alexander, Ruth Osei-Mensah, Marcia Nicholson, Norma Dias, Dorothea De Lisser, Mary Barrett, Claradell Morgan, Julia Smith, Maureen Duncan and Claudine Jackson.

The retreat came to an end with testimonies of how God had impacted the lives of individuals and of congregations through Women's Ministries.





Excitement at orphanage

ADRA-UK Shoe-box Appeal 2002

Changing the world, one life at a time

by Chantal Alen

On 28 October the new ADRA-UK truck left Stanborough Park with 650 shoe-boxes (250 more than last year!), which were destined for an orphanage in the city of Nis, in Yugoslavia. The

success of last year's shoe-box appeal among church members throughout the UK gave us just the incentive we needed to re-start this fun-filled project again this Christmas.



We asked Harry Wilby, our volunteer transport driver, to describe what happened when he arrived at the orphanage in Nis. 'There was great excitement when two pick-up loads of boxes arrived from the ADRA-UK truck. Chaos reigned for a while, and only backs and the tops of heads could be seen as two huge boxes were opened and the children dived in to help themselves to cuddly toys, puzzles, footballs and all sorts of other goodies.' A few children were chosen by Zdravka Gigova, the staff member on duty, to pose for photos with the shoe-boxes before they were stored away until Christmas Day.

There are currently ninety-six children in residence, aged 6-18. Some were orphaned by the death of their parents; some have tragically been abandoned, left to the care of the

state. Others have been taken into care because of adverse circumstances in their homes. Unfortunately, few people in Yugoslavia wish to take on children in this age group, and none of them has been adopted in the past ten years.

Although the children are given all the love and care the devoted staff can provide, both the children and staff showed their gratefulness as they understood that strangers in a far-away country also cared about them and that they were happy to share their blessings!

ADRA-UK would like to express their sincere gratitude to everybody who gave so generously of their time and effort in making up the Christmas shoe-boxes. As Leonard Nimoy once said, 'The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have.'



Healthwise

Noael, Noael!

An early Christmas carol now that cards and crackers are in the shops? No, just an abbreviation to let us know that the 'powers that be' are looking after our health.

NOAEL stands for *No Observable Adverse Effect Level*, which places limits on the amount of pesticide residues in foods. For good measure, there is also the ADI (Acceptable Daily Intake) which is one hundredth of a NOAEL.

There are claims that our foods are less nutritious than in former times and that the depleted soil also has excess levels of pesticide residues. With some 11,000 different pesticide commodity combinations is there real cause for concern?

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) say that nutrient levels in foods do change and that comparing food tables across the years will show that change. However, they point out that making these

comparisons is not comparing like with like. Products, even naturally grown ones, change with consumer tastes and many of the products listed in former years are much improved.

As far as pesticide residues are concerned, around 4,000 samples are analysed each year with about 70% of these being free of all residues. The remaining 30% fall well within the NOAEL levels issued as guidelines for these products. Even allowing that cereals and cereal products are the worse for residues, it is fair to say that these do not exceed their NOAELs.

Of the items showing residues, approximately 7% were found to have levels above the maximum permitted, and while these would still have no adverse effect at those levels, because of the wide safety margins in the NOAEL system these products do not come to supermarket shelves. Wherever this level is set, there will be people who want and demand absolute purity.

The majority of the products with an excess residue come from overseas. The Soil Association point out that the British soil and products do not lack in the recommended vitamin and mineral levels. However, increasingly our favoured products come from overseas where the soil is not necessarily providing the desirable nutrients. We may therefore be victims of our own cravings for foods not in season here.

So this NOEL give a thought to food science and its NOAELs and buy British for a safe and healthy festive season. Take encouragement from the FSA statement, 'Our dietary surveys show that levels of nutrients in the nation's diet are generally adequate,' and cross all those supplements off the present list!



Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Two to a Manger



The child was not a particularly good child, nor was she particularly bad. She was a normal child. And she was unfortunate enough to be the focus of my attention while she was unwrapping her Christmas presents.

She tore into them with a speed and ferocity that was a little unnerving. There was a veritable mountain of parcels for her to get through. When each parcel had been demolished and its contents extracted, the crumpled wrapping paper was chucked over her left shoulder. In most cases the fate of her presents was not much better. They ended up over her right shoulder. I saw my wife wince as the present she had so carefully and lovingly chosen was summarily dismissed.

When the whole mountain of neatly-wrapped parcels had been reduced to two untidy hills behind her, it was interesting to notice the hi-tech present she had selected for her attention. It absorbed her for all of ten minutes before she demanded to be told if there was a video.

As we continued on our Christmas morning calls we determined to learn lessons about the preferences of the postmodern child. But it was not her ingratitude that I found hard to live with. It was her making me feel very, very old!

The threadbare world of the immediate post-war period was really a very different one from today's. The wages paid to my father by the London and North Eastern Railway (soon to become British Railways) did not permit us to live particularly high on the (meatless) hog, even at Christmas. Our parents told us that in their long-gone childhoods they had had to make do with 'a stocking with a few oranges and nuts' and that we should think ourselves lucky. And we did. We had a pillowcase full of parcels. The largest of these – from our parents – would be something we would recognise from the toys section of one of those mail-order catalogues (Kays of Worcester, Freemans of London). The others would be smaller presents from our siblings and spinster aunts. To the giver of each gift – including the aunt who was still giving me *Bedtime Stories* when I was 15! – we demonstrated appropriate gratitude. Not because of the threat of parental disapproval but because, in that threadbare world, we had some insight into the sacrifices made by our relations to buy us the gifts.

Gratitude is only one of the many Christmas casualties of the affluence of the past thirty years. Other casualties include homemade entertainment, not to mention Christmas puds, mince pies – all sacrificed to the supremacy of the supermarket and the anaesthetic of television. But don't get me started!

Back to gifts. In the course of this year a reader has drawn this story to my attention. You may think that it has something to teach us all about gifts and giving. In the interests of brevity, I'll use my own words.

The story happened in the gangster-ridden Russia in the year following the collapse of Communism.

Two American pastors were invited by the Russian Department of Education to teach Christian values in state orphanages and schools. In an orphanage that contained children who had been abused and abandoned the American pastor told the Christmas story. From the drop-jawed silence of the children who gathered around he correctly assumed that this was a story they had never heard before. After seventy years of state-enforced atheism, how *could* they have heard?

The story had its usual features: Mary and Joseph, no room at the inn, stars, angels, and the baby in the manger. The children pressed forward, urgent to hear every detail.

So good was the story's reception that the pastor decided to harness the imaginations of the orphans by setting them some practical work based on it. They were given squares of coloured card and flannel and told to use scissors and paste to recreate the nativity scene.

The orphans went at it with a will and the pastor went around inspecting the assemblage of cut-out stars, shepherds, angels, Marys and Josephs, and babies in their mangers.

'Boy!' he exclaimed. 'These are *really* good! . . . er . . . but what's this?' he concluded, bewildered. He had just come across 6-year-old Misha's finished project. It was great save in one respect. There were *two* cut-out babies in the manger!

The pastor called for a translator and quizzed Misha. In answer to the 'Why two babies?' question the 6-year-old folded his arms, beamed at his project and began to retell the Christmas story. For a little boy who had only heard the story once he told it very well indeed. Until, that is, he reached the place where Mary put the baby in the manger. It was then that Misha began to improvise: 'And when Mary laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and said, "Do you have any place to stay?" and when I told him I had no mama and no papa and no place to stay he said, "Come and stay with me."'

Misha had told Jesus, "No. I can't. I have no gift for you." But then it had occurred to him that, in a manger out in the cold, the baby could use some human warmth, and had asked if the warmth of his company would be an appropriate gift.

'And Jesus told me,' went on Misha, "If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me." So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with him – for always.'

As Misha concluded his story his eyes brimmed full of tears.

Misha had found someone who would never abandon or abuse him. More. He had illuminated the Reason for Christmas Season; and the only acceptable gift we can give in response.



'The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world . . . He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.'
John 1:9, 11-12. Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (Collins, 2002).



Dudley House pupils line up on their new playground

New Adventure playground

Following our annual harvest festival on 9 October the parents and friends of Dudley House School, Grantham, together with a band of very happy school children, adjourned to the playground for an exciting event! At last our long-awaited Adventure Playground was ready for action and now it was time to celebrate its completion.

Fundraising for the playground was launched four years ago by previous headteacher Eric Winch, and the Friends of Dudley House School Association worked hard to raise money for the play equipment. Costings of commercial equipment somewhat thwarted the dream until local builder, parent and church member Austin James very kindly offered to erect the facility for us at a fraction of the amount we would have needed to raise otherwise.

The school was very grateful to receive a large donation to our fund from GranoVita UK, and Nigel Phillips, the Company's general manager, kindly agreed to open the playground for us.

Headteacher Patricia Eastwood said that the playground would enable the pupils to have plenty of enjoyable exercise out in the fresh air. 'The children think it's absolutely brilliant. The climbing frames, slide, balancing equipment and sand tray give them plenty of scope for creative play.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Penzance church plant – first baptism

The story behind David Robert's baptism is not only remarkable but a vivid testimony to the wonderful leading of the Holy Spirit.

Many years ago when David was clocking in early one morning at work, someone had placed a note in his slot pointing out that the seventh day, and not the first, was the Sabbath. When he showed it to his pastor at the Pentecostal Church he was informed that the Sabbath was changed under the new covenant. Being the trusting person he was, David believed what his pastor told him and thought nothing of it again until some twenty years or more later when he was listening to a series of audio studies on the Book of Hebrews by Derek Prince. When the speaker presented chapter 4 – particularly where it says, 'There remains a keeping of the Sabbath for the people of God', and expounded clearly that the Sabbath is the seventh day, Saturday, and recommended we enter into and experience the blessings of a true Sabbath experience – David's conscience was rudely alerted by the Holy Spirit. He realised that he had been observing the wrong day for years and should be keeping the true Bible Sabbath. So the next Sunday in church he told his pastor, but the pastor told him the same untruths as the previous one had and urged him to forget that nonsense! Some time later, while browsing through a second-hand bookshop in Penzance, David purchased an old volume in which were a series of Bible studies. Intrigued by his



find, he laboriously worked his way through the studies, page by page. Then he came to a series of studies on the Sabbath. He was overjoyed! Book in hand he confronted the pastors in his church. They told him to 'throw the book away since it belonged to the devil!' 'How can it belong to the devil,' he challenged, 'since it speaks the Word of God?' They wouldn't hear of it. In case you are wondering what the book is called – *The Bible Speaks* by W. L. Emmerson! David decided to leave and keep the Sabbath at home with his wife, which he continued to do for some twelve months.

During this period he found something else. It was tucked away in the recesses of the volume – an old Voice of Prophecy card. Immediately David sent away for the *Great Teachings of the Bible* course. It was just before the GC Session that I received a letter from the Voice of Prophecy informing me that a gentleman in Penzance had indicated his desire to keep the Sabbath and wished to know where the nearest Adventist church was. The nearest is a good distance away at Redruth.

On my initial visit David's first words to me at the door were, 'Why don't we have an Adventist church here in Penzance?' My reply was, 'We are going to and you will be a charter member!' This was to me an affirmation of the leading of God in answer to prayer for several months – that the Lord would show me 'his vision' for what he wants to see in my ministry here in Cornwall. The conviction which came to plant groups of Sabbath-keeping Christians in towns and villages was met with an interesting combination of three affirmations. Meeting David Roberts was the third of those affirmations. I knew that God was leading me to start planting in Penzance.

David has been thoroughly prepared for baptism while at the same time helping in the groundwork of a new church plant. His rebaptism and acceptance into the fellowship of the Adventist Church took place on 9

March at Redruth church, where he and his wife have been travelling to worship each Sabbath. That special day was a highlight in the Lord's work. Visiting members came from St Austell and Bodmin. Pastor Ken Clothier rendered a message in song. Our visiting speaker for the day, Pastor Dalbert Elias, stressed the assurance of being put right with God through the blood of Jesus Christ to the degree that God accepts us as though we had never sinned.

We would ask you all to uphold in your prayers the continual leading of the Holy Spirit in the lives of many honest and sincere seekers after truth, and also that the church plant in Penzance will eventually be realised by a sizeable congregation.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

Middlesbrough welcomes new members

On 7 September three of our church members from Zimbabwe – Lazarus and Tendani Khumalo and Vee Chisanga – were welcomed into membership of the Middlesbrough congregation by profession of faith. President of the NEC, Pastor Egerton Francis, who was visiting Middlesbrough at the time, took part in the service which was led by our minister Jeff Couzins. The normal transfer of membership procedure was not possible due to the political problems in their homeland.

The following Sabbath, Collen Mpofo and Allun Todd were immersed in the waters of baptism by Pastor Ian Sweeney. Collen, who hails from Zimbabwe, chose for his reading from scripture, Daniel 12:1-3. Eleven-year-old Allun joins his parents, elder sister and brother in membership of the Church. He chose for his favourite scripture the 23rd Psalm.

It is our prayer that all five souls will have a close walk with their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The existing Middlesbrough members gave each one of the new members a warm and loving welcome.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

The John Loughborough School Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD, requires full-time Teacher of French, ASAP. 1 year contract initially. Qualified and enthusiastic teacher of Key Stage 3 & 4 required. Ability to teach one of the following subjects an advantage: Spanish-English. The successful candidate will: Demonstrate sound knowledge of National Curriculum for French, have excellent classroom management skills, be Adventist or sympathetic to the beliefs of church/school, able to enthuse and motivate students of all abilities. Application forms available from the Headteacher. Tel: 020 8808 7837 Closing date: Monday 30 December 2002

Newbold hosts Day of Fellowship

Newbold's new church building provided the main venue for the Area 5 Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 26 October. Visitors from fourteen churches all over the region began parking outside before 9am. Early arrival meant success in finding a seat, as even the spacious new sanctuary was soon full to overflowing and many people had to sit in the Newbold School hall to make use of video link facilities, while others attended the services held in nearby Salisbury Hall. Pastor David Spearing, the co-ordinator of the day's activities, has estimated that there were probably about 1,100 people on the campus for the occasion – definitely a crowd experience.

There were Sabbath school classes for children in the various nooks and crannies of the new building, while in the main auditorium the adults were welcomed by Pastor Vlado Godina, from the Guildford and Maidenhead churches. Pastor Jeremiah Bonner led the lesson study and several musical groups had an opportunity to test the acoustics of the room. The accomplished sound of '3D' was particularly well received.

When 11.15 came around the local church pastor, Ian Sleeman, welcomed everyone to Newbold and its unique

church centre. Then the youthful energy of the Moor Close Team encouraged everyone to rise up to 'sing out loud and praise his holy name', accompanied by the contemporary sounds of drums and keyboard. Later in the service, Ullanda Alexander sang an arrangement of 'How Great Thou Art'.

Pastor Jim Huzzey – whose retirement appears to mean that he is even more in demand as a speaker than he was while he was still in full employment – gave the sermon. Taking his text from Luke 7:11-17, he spoke about the exhilarating 'crowd experience' when Jesus brought the widow's dead son back to life.

After the morning service visitors enjoyed their packed lunches and took advantage of the superb weather to experience the autumnal beauty of the Moor Close gardens.

The afternoon programme was organised and hosted by Gary Malcolm, Area 5 Youth president. The Pathfinders from the Reading Central church started the programme by



Photo: Lillian Spearing

marching in and repeating their pledge. Wonderful musical items and drama sketches were presented by many of the churches in Area 5. Pastor Bernie Holford, the SEC Provincial Youth director, spoke words of encouragement to the Youth leaders. He presented cheques to some of the churches to aid their various projects, and welcomed Lani Edwards as the new Youth Sponsor for the Area's Youth Federation.

A short vespers talk by Pastor George Dadey from the newly-founded Slough Ghana church concluded the day's programme. As the church emptied and people set off for home, everyone seemed to share a sense of having been uplifted by a truly inspirational crowd experience.

MARGARET WHIDDEN and DAVID SPEARING

Footprints campaign

On Sabbath 28 September the members of the Brixton church were privileged and delighted to begin their walk in the *Footprints of Jesus* campaign with evangelist Glen Samuels, who currently serves as the Ministerial secretary of the West Indies Union in Jamaica.

He delivered his sermons with power and conviction each night (except Thursdays) for two weeks, to a packed church, bringing a new

meaning and challenge to what it really means to walk in the footprints of Jesus.

The atmosphere was thrilling, the sermons were soul-searching and the response from the congregation was a living testimony that 'God has given each of us a chance of salvation'.

Tears flowed as people left their seats each night and marched to the altar in response to the call. The congregation was also blessed with inspiring music

from the Brixton Youth Choir and other singers from the church.

At the end of the campaign twenty-one individuals indicated their wish to accept Christ and be baptised. The baptism was a solemn but happy occasion witnessed by relatives, friends and members of the church. The new members were later welcomed into the fellowship of the church.

Evangelist Glen Samuels is supported in his ministry by his wife Durcella and three children, Glennadene, Gleneika and Glenella. The campaign was co-ordinated by the Adventist Youth department of the church under the leadership of Julie Cameron.

JOAN REID

Communication secretaries please note
For Guidelines on MESSENGER reporting and photography visit the BUC website: www.adventist.org.uk and click on MESSENGER.



Brixton's Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir

A 'Seventh-day Adventist Manifesto' AND a quality gift!

by Pastor Patrick Boyle

This is a significant and relevant book. It is an encouraging and refreshing read. The co-authors, Drs Ball and Johnsson, are to be commended for their effort in organising a fine group of Seventh-day Adventist scholars to contribute the essays that make up the content of the book.

Religious and secular bookshops carry large numbers of books about Jesus. They range from the absurd to the subversive. The Jesus they present is not the Jesus of the gospels. Each of the essays in *The Essential Jesus* has an intentional aim to refute the pseudo-Jesus of liberalism and scepticism and set forth the Christ of the New Testament as he is revealed in the whole of Scripture.

While the writers have the specific intention of refuting the speculations about Jesus they do so without censoriousness or triumphalism. They deal with the predictions about Jesus in the Old Testament, his incarnation, sinless life, atoning death, resurrection, ascension, mediatorial ministry and his promise to return. Several related topics are covered. These include the influence of Jesus in History, Jesus and Ourselves, and Jesus and the Great Commission.

The essays are scripture-based and refute 'liberal, speculative' and non-biblical perspectives about Jesus. Here we have in essence a Seventh-day Adventist manifesto clearly setting forth the high scriptural view we hold about Jesus of Nazareth, fully God, fully man, the unique divine Saviour of mankind. No fair-minded reader of this book could come to any other conclusion but that Adventists hold to the biblical and historical truths about Jesus in the Bible and the creeds of Christendom. Ellen White urged Adventists to lift up Jesus before the world. She wrote:

"Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great centre of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must be led to look at Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy."¹

Seventh-day Adventists are jealous for the law of God and rightly so, but the law cannot save us.² The law commands righteousness; Jesus gives it. The

law tells us how to live; Jesus gives power to live. The law cannot change our hearts, Jesus does. In the pages of this book Jesus as Saviour and Lord is written bold and large.

It would be invidious to select specific essays, but the contributions of both editors are significant. William Johnsson writes about *The Influence of Jesus*. Bryan Ball has two essays; the concluding one by him, *Jesus and the Great Commission*, comes from the heart and reveals what the Church desperately needs to recover in the 21st century – a burden for the lost souls of men, women, boys and girls.

Jan Paulsen, General Conference president, has contributed an encouraging theological essay, *The Victorious Jesus*.

The book will appeal to any church member who looks for an affirmative biblical presentation of the story of Jesus. My colleague Pastor Nathan Stickland and I visited a variety of Protestant ministers and Catholic priests in Banbridge, Northern Ireland. We presented them with a copy of this book. In every instance we were kindly received and on several occasions met men who had been missionaries and knew of the Christian work of Adventists. These ministers and priests often lead very lonely lives. They find encouragement in having a visit from someone who loves the Lord Jesus. Local churches, individual members, could purchase copies of this book and visit ministers of other denominations and give it to them. Such visits should be intentional. We should make it plain that we come to lay out the biblical based beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists about Jesus of Nazareth, the Saviour of the world and the one in whom our hopes are centred.

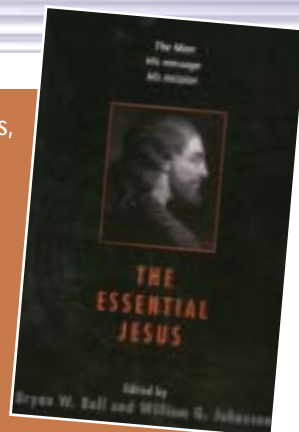
To conclude. No book is going to satisfy every reader. Not everything that could have been said about Jesus is written here. However, the contents of this fine book represent in this reader's understanding a first-class evangelical presentation of Jesus that is a credit to Adventists.

A valuable book, reasonably priced, well written and, as can be gathered from the following quotation, demanding:

"Jesus says, "Go ye into all the world, and make disciples." What better time, then, than now for unreserved commitment to a revitalised, refocused, Christ-centred, Spirit-inspired proclamation of the Great Commission? We must not hesitate or prevaricate any longer. We must go. The survival of the faith, the church and the destiny of yet unenlightened millions depend on it."³

¹ *Gospel Workers*, page 156 (cf also page 315). ² Romans 8:3. ³ *The Essential Jesus*, page 295.

The Essential Jesus, eds Bryan W. Ball and Wm. Johnsson 299 pages Pacific Press, Boise, Idaho, 2002 £9.50



'While the writers refute the speculations about Jesus, they do so without censoriousness.'

Jan Paulsen, Roy Adams and William Johnsson are three of twelve Adventist scholars who have produced this wonderful book about Jesus.

Only Jesus can change hearts.

Patrick Boyle and Nathan Stickland presented copies of to all Protestant ministers and Catholic priests in the Banbridge area.

'A first-class evangelical presentation of Jesus that is a credit to Seventh-day Adventists.'

Harvest blessings

Harvest festival is becoming surprisingly difficult to organise. In our small group we find that we have no farmers and therefore we do not measure our blessings in terms of the size of the harvest. At Waltham Abbey, a few years ago, we decided to celebrate nature, creation and God's goodness to us in all its variation and splendour. Then we were faced with a different problem – the programme would be too long if we included everything! Instead of bringing a portion of our harvest, we bring our offerings and donate it to a charity.

Our elder, Jan Dust, has produced an excellent programme each year, and this year was no different. The theme was creation. Nearly all the members participated in the lively programme that was enjoyed by the visitors. Poems, special music, inspirational songs viewed with nature footage, thought-provoking readings and a short sermon were all part of the programme. One visitor was inspired to discuss the case of creation versus evolution over dinner. No conclusions were reached, but Jesus specialises in helping all of us find the answers to life's questions.

The highlight of the programme was 'Harvest Samba', a song played out by two of our younger members, Zoe and Charlotte and their aunt, Jan. The song spoke of all the wonderful things God has created for us. The trio held up various items of food as they featured in the song. The sheer glee this produced was beautiful to see. Young children delighting in the worship of their God. How much more of a blessing could any of us praise God for?

JOSE BENNELL

Four baptisms and a dedication

Members and friends from the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight churches joined together at Portsmouth church in a truly international gathering to witness and celebrate a very special day on 9 November.

Takecare and Linda Nyamhunga brought their son Nasha to be dedicated in a service that then led on to his mother's baptism. Nasha's middle name is Zvikomborero which means 'many more blessings' in the Shona language, and we certainly went on to receive them.

Linda was joined in baptism by Tom Ncube, who also comes from Zimbabwe. Tom had returned to the church after a long absence, and after studying in his home church at Bulawayo. His baptism was

accompanied by a choir singing in Shona which brought tears to everyone's eye.

Not to be outdone, the Isle of Wight saw father and son John and Paul Chaplin enter the waters of baptism together. Tribute was paid to John's wife Glenys who had been a strong Christian witness in her family throughout a long illness until she passed away in June. The experience of nursing Glenys in her illness and seeing her faith in action had brought John and Paul to the point where they wanted to commit their lives to Christ.

An appeal was sung after the baptism and three more people came forward in commitment. To God be the Glory!

PASTOR DAVID FOSTER

'REJOICE' in Top 5

The song 'Rejoice', written by Dawn Bailey of the Wilmslow church and performed by young people from the church, reached the top five in a song competition run by London's Premier Radio station. The four girls who sing 'Rejoice' are Emma Brook, 15, Debi Bailey, 13, Megan Brook, 13, and Laura Brook, 11.

The competition was won by a three-piece band called 'Glass Darkly'. The judges reported that they reached their decision with some difficulty.

Pastor Peter Jeynes reports that the girls from Wilmslow sang with confidence, skill and enthusiasm.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE

Challenging street culture

Pastor Eddie Hypolite from London was featured in an article in *The Voice* newspaper. The article by Marcia Dixon, entitled, 'Investing in our Futures', focused on the need for Christian leaders to unite in support of voluntary youth workers. In the article Pastor Hypolite was cited as one of those church leaders who had invested time in youth work. 'In a direct attempt to challenge the black street culture prevalent in many of Britain's inner cities,' the article reads, 'he has run a course over the past two years called Food for the Brain. . . . Hypolite explained: "We get young people coming off the street to attend the forum. They ask questions about life, God, relationships, crime, drugs, all types of subjects, and we answer them by giving them spiritual foundations and social tools to deal with the street culture and difficulties they face from day to day."'

The article continues: 'The course has been a great success. As a result, some young people have come off the

street and some have been converted, but most use the information learnt to redefine themselves away from street culture.'

Pastor Hypolite is regularly asked to run self-development courses in schools and churches across London. He is also consultant in the LIFEdevelopment.info strategy where his working knowledge of inner city cultures is highly valued.

ANR

Adventist surgeon gets cancer award

On 31 October a group of people received awards for their contribution to the fight against breast cancer. The Health Care Professional Award was given to Andrew Baildam, a member of the Adventist congregation at Wilmslow. Andrew is a consultant at the Christie Hospital, Withington, Manchester.

GMTV's Fiona Phillips hosted the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade Awards at London's Le Meridien, Piccadilly. The charity involved, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, is dedicated to fighting breast cancer through research and awareness. The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade donated £6.5m to Breakthrough and will have raised a further £1m, at least, by the end of 2002.

The *Sunday Express* magazine profiled Andrew Baildam. 'Andrew has revolutionised the medical profession's approach to and management of breast cancer surgery,' it said. 'He is a leading light in the development of new surgical techniques, and has personally undertaken over 800 reconstructive breast procedures.'

The Express continued: 'So renowned is [Andrew's] work that his department is frequently visited by both surgical trainees and established cancer specialists from all over the world. . . . Andrew has been instrumental in the development of innovative surgical procedures such as "skin sparing" (keyhole) mastectomies with immediate breast reconstruction.'

To raise the profile of research into breast surgery techniques further, Andrew has established an international symposium, State of the Art Surgery for Breast Specialists, that is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential meetings of its kind in the UK.

Andrew is an active promoter of breast cancer surgery as a distinct, specialist field of research. He believes this is the best way to advance surgical techniques and offer a better quality of life to those who have undergone surgery.

EDITOR

BAKER, Marcia – d. 4 September 2001. Time has swiftly gone by and it is just over a year since Marcia Baker passed away. Memories of her life still live on. She was a member of Tamworth church, where she is greatly missed. Marcia was a very creative person, especially when it came to flower arranging and table displays. She took an active part in providing beautiful floral decorations for the church and always helped with the harvest display at Harper Bell School, where she had been working since 1988. Marcia had excellent relationships with the children and developed some positive strategies to help the children with their behaviour. Because of this the staff decided to implement the Mrs Baker Good Behaviour Award which is awarded to children for outstanding behaviour. This is one way that the staff and children can celebrate her life and remember all the hard work she did for the school. Marcia is also remembered for the 'Loving Club', a branch Sabbath school she started many years ago for children in the local community of Tamworth. Although it hasn't existed for a number of years, children, now teenagers and older, remember the happy days they spent at the 'Loving Club'. They remember Marcia as a loving, warm, caring person. Although she was gravely ill and suffered greatly, Marcia was the sort of person who believed that someone else was suffering much more than she was. She bore the pain with so much courage, and never once did I hear her complain. Whenever I asked her how she felt, she would always say to me, 'I'll be all right, Pauline.' When I looked at Marcia's face I saw pain, but mingled with that pain was joy and hope. Hope of a new life with Jesus when he returned. Yes, Marcia was indeed a courageous woman. PAULINE NEWTON

ARMANCE, Julienne Madeline – d. 30 September. Sister Julienne Madeline Armance, born Noel, of the Holloway Adventist church passed away in Hamburg, after a most acute indisposition which had – unbeknown to one and all at that time – fatal repercussions on her heart. She was 81. Sister Armance, known to her relatives and friends as Madeline, was a real tower of strength in terms of her faith. In her daily life she was the epitome of kindness, humility and patience. Born in Mauritius, the daughter of Mr Mozart Germain Noel and Mrs Louise Edna Noel – real pioneers of the early converts of the movement in Mauritius – Madeline enjoyed, from her early youth in a family of six children, the loving and strict guidance of her parents who were both schoolmaster and schoolmistress; and so Madeline grew up in a truly congenial Christian atmosphere in which the love of God and one's fellow creatures loomed large. Married in 1954 in Mauritius, Madeline and her husband settled in London for well over thirty years. Their daughter Francoise helped them adapt to the European way of life. The death of Madeline will be sadly felt by all the members of her church at Holloway, as well as members of the Wood Green church where she was often seen in the company of her sister Mrs Amy Daurat. However, after her long and painful illness, we all feel that God felt it wise to cut short her trials after her long life of unswerving devotion, courage and fidelity. To Madeline's family and particularly to Francoise, who lately has been a real haven of faith and courage for her mother, we extend our deepest sympathy. We will always remember Madeline as a true Christian who, despite all her heartaches and ailments, stood firm in her never-ending love for her God and her fellow human beings. TRISTAN CUNIAH

CLARKE, Kathleen – d. 8 October. On 15 October, friends and family of Mrs Kathleen Clarke gathered at the Crieff church to honour her memory. Kathleen was born in 1907 in the West Midlands. When she was 19 she led her sister Marjorie and her mother in becoming Adventists – this was initiated by the reception through the door of a *Present Truth* magazine. Later she met and, in 1935, married Pastor Arthur Rodd with whom she ministered in Cornwall until his death in 1957. She particularly enjoyed sharing her musical talent as the church organist and was an ardent Ingatherer. In 1957 her two children Arthur (Bob) and Lamorna attended Newbold College and from there both entered ministry, with their spouses Moyra and Robin Riches, respectively. Kathleen later remarried John Clarke, a literature evangelist, caring for him until his death. She enjoyed trips to India to visit Lamorna and Robin. In October 1992 she moved to live at Roundelwood to be close to Bob and Moyra, who were both able to be with and support her during the final weeks of her life. Kathleen's last words to them were, 'I have peace. I believe.' At her funeral Pastors Martin Bell, the Roundelwood administrator, and Llewellyn Edwards, the Crieff pastor, reminded the family and friends of her life and walk with Christ and of the One in whom she believed, who is able to do all things and promised to raise to life all who believe in him. Kathleen was laid to rest in the Crieff cemetery until that great waking up morning. May the hope of the Lord Jesus comfort Lamorna and Robin, Bob and Moyra, Auntie Marjorie and each member of the family. PASTOR L. R. EDWARDS

LIFE.info magazine – FAQ



Q How much is it?

A ☺ The actual cost of production is £1 per magazine.

☺ Because the BUC are subsidising the pre-print production cost, the magazine will be made available to church members for just **20 pence** each. This price **does not**, however, include postage. The cost of postage can be minimised if magazines are delivered, in bulk, to churches with other Press supplies. (Bulk orders could then be divided and shared among those church members who wished to use the magazine.)

Q How do I pay?

A In order to ensure a regular print-run we need regular income. There are two suggested options:

- 1) Set up a standing order as an individual church member.
- 2) Set up a standing order corporately as a church.*

*If you are unable to set up a standing order, for whatever reason, it may be possible for you to club together with other members from your church and ask your church treasurer to set up a standing order on your behalf. Alternatively your church might consider using some of its annual evangelistic budget to provide magazines for members to distribute. [The more standing orders we get, the more magazines we print – the more magazines we print, the more people we can reach for Christ.]

Q Who do I contact?

A Every church member will be receiving one free copy of the next issue of *LIFE.info* magazine.

If you want to order more copies of the magazine or if you have any standing order enquiries contact: Pastor Dalbert Elias, BUC LIFE.info Marketing Director, BUC offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 672251.

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ABC BOOK SALES 2002

January

6-9 BUC Workers' Meetings
19 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
26 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas season!

International News

ADRA intervenes in Ethiopia crisis. ADRA is currently assisting ten thousand people in the two areas most affected by the recent famine crisis in Ethiopia. ADRA's intervention, which is currently scheduled to last for at least two months, is focusing on the Siraro district of the Oromiya region, and the Woyde and

Humbo districts of the southern region. Together with ADRA-International, ADRA-UK is closely monitoring developments in Ethiopia in preparation for a second intervention.

Once again Ethiopia is facing a serious food shortage. 6.4 million people are in need of food aid, and that number is ex-

pected to rise sharply to about 14 million in 2003.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries of East Africa and has a population of approximately 67 million. For the last two decades food availability in Ethiopia has been consistently below that required to sustain normal life. RAAFAT KAMAL

UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
End of Year Banquet	29 December	The Advent Centre, 37 Brendon Street, London W1H 5JE	Stoke Newington Church	Wilma Williams 07752 804545
New Year Adventist Singles' Ball	5 January	The Advent Centre, 37 Brendon Street, London W1H 5JE	Dinner and Concert	TICKETS ONLY! Maureen Raphael 020 86944816 or 07956 419926

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.

Messenger

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Sunset

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

		Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Dec	20	3.53	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.59
	27	3.57	4.10	3.54	3.44	4.03
Jan	3	4.04	4.16	4.01	3.51	4.11
	10	4.13	4.25	4.10	4.02	4.20

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