

Messenger

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



ADRA-UK Annual Appeal funds bring healing to 932,000 people

by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director

'He [Jesus] welcomed them . . . and healed those who needed healing.' Luke 9:11, NIV.

Our Annual Appeal is about healing people. In 2002, our church members raised £523,887, thus bringing healing to over 932,000 people in Guyana, Cambodia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya and Sudan.

THANK YOU. You have helped 'heal the world, one life at a time'. We praise God for your compassionate ministry.

Community health development, Guyana

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is working with Davis Memorial Adventist Hospital and Adventist Health International (AHI) on implementing a health education programme that addresses the national epidemic of diabetes.

Karen Simpson, an experienced nurse educator from Scotland, is leading this training programme for nurses and health agents. A curriculum has been developed to provide community volunteers with the necessary skills in disease screening and health education. Appropriate equipment for blood sugar screening, blood pressure measurement and material on nutrition and health education has been supplied. Adventist churches remain a formidable social force in Guyana, and it is expected that educators coming from this base will have the best potential to change national behaviour in nutrition and exercise.

The first group of 120 health agents have completed this training course. The Ministry of Health endorsed the new initiative as the

national standard for the country.

Health education, Cambodia

ADRA is providing training in HIV/AIDS for teachers, parents, peer educators, church members and staff of the health and education departments in the Sampov Meas District.

With limited access to quality health care services, the mortality rate of Cambodian women in rural areas is among the highest in south-east Asia. According to the latest report, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Cambodia is growing rapidly.

More than 42 million people around the world are infected with the HIV virus or are coping with AIDS. AIDS has killed more than 22 million people and orphaned 13.2 million children.

Child health and safe motherhood, Guinea

The health challenges that confront Guinea are very striking and enormous. The country's infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the developing world. The vaccination coverage for children

ADRA Child Health & Safe Motherhood project, Guinea



Davis Memorial Hospital

aged 12–24 months is estimated at only 26%. Against this background and at the request of the people in the district of Siguiri, ADRA initiated a 2-year child health and safe motherhood project.

The project covers 72 out of the 129 villages in Siguiri, benefiting over 72,000 women and children. The intervention includes vaccination,

nutrition, malaria prevention and family planning/safe motherhood.

Mother-Child Health Centre, Ivory Coast

ADRA is working with the Women's Ministries Department of the Adventist church in the Ivory Coast to build and operate a Mother-Child Health Centre in Koumassi. A large segment of the

Did you know . . . in 2001

- ADRA helped more than 16 million people.
- ADRA was present in more than 125 countries.
- ADRA provided development and relief assistance valued at more than £72 million.
- ADRA responded to 367 disasters worldwide.
- ADRA distributed 76,684 metric tons of food.

population consists of poor women and children who are in urgent need of health care and education. This project is in the early phases of construction and the completion date is expected in July 2003.

HIV counselling support, Kenya
ADRA, together with the Adventist church in the Ranen Field in South Eastern Kenya, is training church leaders, Women's Ministries leaders, church workers and members in home-based care and counselling for those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Part of this programme is to



Peer Health education on HIV/AIDS Cambodia



Health education, Cambodia



Juba Clinic, South Sudan, in the process of completion

Prayer Feature

If my people pray

Recently I have been reading Randy Maxwell's book, *If My People Pray*. It made me wonder about what more we could achieve as a church, by inviting the Holy Spirit to do more in our lives. After all, we know that this is what he wants from us 'his people' (2 Chronicles 7:14). I am a wheelchair-using ex-teacher and professional counsellor, and now mother of a 2-year-old son, who last year moved to Wales from Bracknell, Berkshire. I have been wondering how you would feel about sending me your prayer requests, both to add to my prayer list and to share with other church members via a regular prayer request section here in the MESSENGER. I am not professing to have had amazing or miraculous answers to prayer in my own prayer life; I only possess a heart-felt desire to be of service. Jesus said, 'Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:19, 20.) Hopefully, through sharing and agreeing on our prayer needs, we will not only build a greater sense of community and belonging, but also further allow our Heavenly Father to help, comfort and bless us and those who are known to us, to the extent that we know he wants to.

Please send your prayer requests to: Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Penygroes Road, Caerbyrn, Ammanford, Carm., South Wales, SA18 3BZ. If there is anything that you would like to share confidentially with me, please specify that you do not want those particular details to go into print and I will simply pray privately for your need.

TRACY DIXON

This is the start of a regular prayer feature that we hope to include on page 2 of each issue of MESSENGER. Ed.

provide those infected and affected – a total of 12,235 people – with clothing, food and shelter.

Health Care Centre, Sudan

ADRA is in the process of completing the repairs on the Munuki Adventist Health Centre in Juba, South Sudan, to meet the needs of the population estimated at 91,000. The centre was par-

tially destroyed in a storm last year.

Medical staff are ready to move to the newly-rehabilitated facility as soon as it is completed to provide acceptable basic health care and support to the poor population of Juba. ADRA also plans to provide health education to create awareness about disease prevention, nutrition, and safe motherhood.



The only method of transport to the project site in Guinea

Healthwise

Coca-Koller

It was Carl Koller and his friend Sigmund Freud who, in 1844, popularised cocaine for anaesthetic and recreational use in Europe. Koller, then a medical intern, became a celebrity overnight by discovering that cocaine could be used as an anaesthetic in ophthalmic surgery. Freud had hoped to make a name for himself by showing that cocaine could be used to lift depression and might be used to wean morphine addicts off their habit.

John Styth Pemberton, a small-town pharmacist in Atlanta (USA), brought cocaine to the wider market by including it in one of his patent cures – *French Wine Coca* – an alcohol-based, drug-laced pick-me-up copying the *Vin Mariani* drink popular in Europe. When Atlanta banned the sale of alcohol in 1885 he upped the stimulating ingredients in his concoction of coca leaves and kola nuts, and created coca-cola. Quack cure peddlers everywhere tried to grab a share of the market by bringing out their own

variants of the mixture with exotic 'coke' or 'cola' names (one simply called Dope Cola!)

The drinking version of coke, and the recreational and medicinal uses of cocaine ran into problems when it was discovered that cocaine was addictive. Coca-Cola, now sold on as a company, withdrew the coke and opted for caffeine as the main stimulant; Cocaine was used less frequently medicinally; and recreational use was limited, as previously, to those who could afford it. In any case, the volume of leaves used to produce cocaine was high, so compared with other drugs there was not a big European market for the substance.

All this changed when it was discovered that alkalising the powdered cocaine, or 'free-basing' it, would increase its transportability and profitability. Blocks of stiff coke paste were less detectable, delivered a purer high, and could be sold for more money to a wider user base than powdered

(unsmokable) cocaine ever had been. The use of baking soda as the alkalising agent and the breaking snap of the end product gave rise to the term *crack* cocaine.

The 2002 British Crime Survey found that as many as 45,000 young people aged 16-24 are crack users. This has led to the introduction of a *Tackling Crack* campaign in UK *primary* schools. Now that drug-taking is a common-place occurrence in the school setting it has been felt necessary to target this 'drug of choice' education at these very young children.

We can all help in this education process by enabling children to understand what is around. The 'Just Say No to Drugs' approach has not been a raging success; lifestyles are *caught*, not taught!



Rediscovering the Edge

I put everyone into a bad mood the first time I talked about postmodernism. So there hasn't yet been a second time!

But I have been reading about it! Mostly I have been reading books by Christians along the lines of how-to-present-the-gospel-to-the-postmodern-world. Am I going to share with you what I've learned? That might come one of these days. As of today, I'm not quite sure if I've learned anything. . . .

At the weekend, however, something I read helped to clarify my thinking a little.

Have you heard of Adrian Plass? He is the most widely-read contemporary Christian writer in Britain. From his latest (and fruitiest) book,¹ I gathered that Plass has had a similar experience to mine. He's been reading all the books and attending all the seminars on how to present the Gospel to this group and to that group – and he's had it up to here! He has a humorous way of expressing himself; so if your sense of humour is in the 'challenged' category, you'd better stop reading!

Plass was involved in a television discussion on how to make the Christian message attractive to various minorities. 'We discussed the need,' writes Plass, 'to devise services that are lively and relevant to [post]modern families and marginalised single folk and single parents and [OK, so he gets a bit silly here] Ethiopian dolphins and stage-struck catamarans . . . and – well, just about everybody and everything really. . . . Suddenly,' writes Plass, 'my spirit revolted.'

You know what came to his mind? The commission Jesus gave to his disciples when he sent them out. Plass was struck by its simplicity. We'll use a modern paraphrase:

' "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.

' "And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave.

' "If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way." '

If the *Message* paraphrase turns you off, you look up Mark 6:7-11 in your favourite translation. Whatever translation you use, there's a 'let them take it or leave it – and move on' quality about Jesus' words. We might even be shocked by the 'move on' part. Remember the KJV? 'And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye

depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them.' (Verse 11.) We're a little bit more tentative than that these days. Right?

Those currently engaged in the debate on 'how to reach secular man' probably think they are the first people ever to pose the question. Not so. That question was the very one being hotly debated when I entered church work thirty-five years ago. In those days the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Britain had in it a novelist and television playwright called George Target. So he was bound to know all about communicating the Gospel to secular man. Right? Well, we certainly thought so at the time. At every opportunity George was wheeled out to spill his ideas. At a communication weekend at Newbold, George marched onto the platform with a bucket of water – and threw its contents at the front row of his audience! Its 'contents' turned out to be silver paper, not the wet stuff. And that, I'm afraid, is an apt metaphor for his message. Today his magazine articles, like the VOP lesson series prepared under his influence, like his novels, make stiff reading.

For all that, George Target inspired my generation. In my library I still have a copy of his *Tell It Like It Is* signed by the author! 'Communicate the Gospel in the thought forms of our generation,' George wrote. 'Meet people *where they are* and lead them to *where you want them to be*. . . .'

Ten years after George committed his ideas to print, I had the chance to put them into practice. We launched *Family Life* magazine in which we sought to 'touch base with the secular public'. However, Revelation seminars were in vogue for the fifteen years of the magazine's lifetime. The year the magazine died – 1993 – Jon Paulien published *Present Truth in the Real World*.² We had the comfort of knowing that all along we had been doing just the right thing!

Back to Adrian Plass and his television interview: 'Suddenly my spirit revolted,' he wrote. 'Something was wrong here. What were we saying? Here we were, talking about the desperately urgent need for men and women to repent and take advantage of the gift that a loving God is offering us in Jesus. But we were talking about it as though we were planning stalls at a fête. . . . What had happened to the guts of the gospel?'

This is how Plass concludes: 'Be relevant and plan carefully by all means. Take heed of Peter's injunction to show gentleness and respect to those

who ask the reason for the hope that we have. But let us also remember that there *is* an edge to the gospel, and that we need to rediscover it.'

Whatever means we use to present the Gospel, let us not lose sight of what it is – or, as a movement, we shall lose our reason to exist.

Remember the words of Jesus in the *Message* paraphrase? '*You* are the equipment. . . .' Whatever printed means we use to present the Gospel it cannot succeed on its own. The commission requires three elements: One, the outreach tool; Two, you; Three, the Holy Spirit empowering your witness.

The irreducible minimum of outreach equipment is you, and for you to work as a piece of equipment you must be empowered by the Holy Spirit; and for the Holy Spirit to empower you, you must have a relationship with the God who is eternal – and presides over the postmodern world as he presided over the modern, medieval and ancient worlds. Some things don't change! Right?

What happened when Jesus had commissioned his disciples?

'They went out and preached that the people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.' (Mark 6:12, 13, NIV.)

To repent means to change one's mind and then to fit one's actions to this change. Repentance means a change of heart *and* a change of action. At the heart of God's Gospel is the cross of Christ; and that Gospel, through that cross, 'is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes'. (Romans 1:16, NIV.)

Meet people where they are, by all means. But do not leave them there. Go to Calvary, and it will transform you. Then lead *them* to Calvary.

Postmodern. Modern. Whatever. Some things don't change. The way of the cross leads home. So let's lead the people to Calvary.

Reference:

¹ Adrian Plass, *Never Mind the Reversing Ducks* (Zondervan, 2002).

² This book is still a 'must read', is published by Pacific Press, and is available from the ABC at £8.58



National Marriage Week

Get more 'happiness' into your 'ever after'

Tom and Laura met when they were 18. They were married two years later and have now been married for over forty years. His eyes still shine when he sees her. They still hold hands, and enjoy being married to each other. They are very different from each other, and occasionally disagree. Sometimes they drive each other crazy, but they have learned to treasure their differences and to love each other because of these unique qualities, rather than in spite of them.

What makes some couples happy and others miserable?

Dr John Gottman has been researching married couples for thirty years in an attempt to uncover what makes marriages fail, what makes them succeed, and what can make marriages really significant. Gottman has studied what he calls the 'masters and disasters' of marriage making long term studies of 'ordinary' people's marriages.

By examining partners' heart rates, their facial expressions, and how they talked about their relationship with each other and to other people, Dr Gottman was able to predict with more than 90% accuracy which couples would make it, and which would not.

The good news is that he has learnt all kinds of things that will improve and enhance any marriage. By taking what he has learnt, and putting it into practice, you can instil more 'happiness' into your 'ever after'!

Dr Gottman's top tips for happy marriages

(Adapted from the 'National Marriage Week' website. Texts and ideas supplied by Karen Holford)

Edit yourself

Couples who avoid saying every angry thought when discussing touchy topics are consistently the happiest. Soften the way you begin to discuss a potentially difficult topic. Arguments often become ignited when a spouse makes a critical or contemptuous remark in a confrontational tone. Think before you say anything, and try to say everything in the most loving way possible.

'Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.' Ephesians 4:29, NIV.

- ? How does what I say and how I say it affect my spouse?
- ? What can I say each day that will

encourage and build up my spouse?

- ! Tell your spouse ten things you appreciate about him/her.

Accept influence from each other

A marriage is more likely to succeed when the husband can accept influence from his wife. If a woman says, 'Do you have to work Thursday night? My mother is coming this weekend, and I need your help getting ready,' and her husband replies, 'My plans are fixed, and I'm not changing them,' this is a man in a shaky marriage. A husband's ability to be persuaded by his wife (rather than vice-versa) is so crucial because research shows women are already well practised at accepting influence from men, and a true partnership only occurs when a husband is able to do so as well.

'Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. . . . Live in harmony with one another.' Romans 12:10,16, NIV.

- ? How can I show my spouse that he/she is more important to me than my work and my own interests?
- ? How can I honour my spouse above myself?
- ! Do one thing this week to show your spouse that you are willing to put aside your own plans and interests in order to help him/her. Do something special together.

Have high standards

Happy couples have high standards for each other. The most successful couples are those who, even as newlyweds, refused to accept hurtful behaviour from one another. The lower the level of tolerance for bad behaviour in the beginning of a relationship, the happier the couple will be in the future.

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.' 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV.

Learn to repair and exit the argument

Successful couples know how to exit an argument. Happy couples know how to repair the situation before an

argument gets completely out of control. Successful repair attempts include: changing the topic to something completely unrelated; using humour; calming your partner with a caring remark ('I understand that this is hard for you'); making it clear you're on common ground ('This is *our* problem'); backing down (you have to yield to win); and, in general, offering signs of appreciation for your partner and his or her feelings along the way ('I really appreciate and want to thank you for . . .'). If an argument gets too

heated, take a 20-minute break, and agree to approach the topic again when you are both calm.

'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.' James 1:19.

- ? What is the usual pattern of events when you and your spouse disagree?
- ? What could you do to change this pattern and try a new way of managing your conflicts?
- ? How can you find a way for both of



by
Karen
Holford



Let's be known as a marriage-building church!

Why should we build up marriages? Married people are happier, healthier, wealthier and safer than couples who are cohabiting, divorced or even remar-

ried. We know that a happy marriage provides the best environment in which our children can grow up.

When a child is born, if his parents were married at the time of his birth, 8% will have split up by the time he is 6. If his parents weren't married, 52% of them will have split up by his fifth birthday.

Singles in the church will find that they will benefit when the whole church supports marriages. Singles will be better prepared for relationships, and have more successful relationships in the future, when their whole church values marriage.

The congregation is likely to be happier and have more energy for effective witnessing when marriages and families are happier.

A happy marriage is an amazing witness in contemporary society.

What are Christians doing?

Christians are currently divorcing at about the same rate as non-Christians.

We live in a throwaway society in which broken relationships are discarded rather than repaired. We would rather spend lots of time and money getting a divorce, than time (and much less money) fixing our marriages.

We will study for years for the sake of our career, but we may never think about learning how to make our marriage better.

We will take our car into the garage for regular servicing and refuelling, but may never think about checking on and refreshing our relationship with our spouse.

Christians have a responsibility to stand up for the special gift of marriage that God has provided for us. It's God's plan that our marriages are the best they can be.

Christians need to show the world that they treasure marriage and that it is possible to have a happy and fulfilled marriage.

Some churches are making a significant difference

Entire churches and communities are deciding to work together to be proactive about supporting marriages.

In one church in Washington D.C. the divorce rate has dropped 80% in ten years.

One black inner-city church in Kansas City has had no divorces in three years.

Visit www.marriagesavers.org and www.firstthings.org

What are they doing right?

Marriage must be publicly valued by everyone, especially the church leadership.

Sermons are regularly preached about the value of marriage and relationship building skills.

Children are taught about healthy relationships throughout their growing years.

All couples marrying are provided with thorough marriage preparation and pre-marital counselling.

There are regular seminars and retreats that enhance marriages.

Lay couples are given the special ministry of nurturing marriages.

Regular prayer and small group support is provided for all married couples and mentors.

Marriage mentor couples provide friendship to younger married couples and encourage and support them through their ups and downs.

Smaller churches often band together to provide this kind of support.

What can you do?

Send volunteer married couples on a short training course to help them support other marriages. They can learn how to use a relationship inventory with a

you to win, by listening to each other's needs and negotiating together?
! Spend some time just listening to your spouse. Give him or her your full attention. Don't get distracted or let your mind wander. Ask interested and interesting questions. Respond lovingly to what you hear.

Focus on the bright side

In a happy marriage, couples make at least five times as many positive statements to and about each other and their relationship ('We laugh a lot') as opposed to negative ones ('We never have fun'). A good marriage must have a rich climate of positive attitudes. Make deposits in your emotional bank account.

'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think on these things.' Philippians 4:8, NIV.

1. Spend some time enjoying each other and having fun together.
2. Write down ten good things about your marriage and then share them with each other. Print this list out attractively and keep it where you will see it often.



couple and some simple skills for nurturing marriages.

Set aside a special Sabbath for promoting marriage at least once a year, but preferably once a quarter.

Encourage the marriages of local church leaders by helping them to attend a marriage retreat annually.

Encourage as many of your married couples to attend a marriage retreat.

Develop a library of materials that nurture marriages, such as books, videos, audio-tapes, website information, etc.

Run simple video marriage enhancement programmes in homes or at church, or at a weekend retreat venue.

Consider supporting the marriages in your community using different and creative techniques.

Contact your Family Ministries Director for more ideas and information, or call Bernie and Karen Holford on 01923 232728.

Impacting the marriages in your community

Offer a Sunday afternoon of free babysitting in your church so that local couples can spend time doing something special together. Give couples a list of ideas for fun and creative dates, and see if local businesses will give you discount vouchers for a restaurant meal for two, etc. Run a holiday Bible club type programme for the children. Make sure you have plenty of volunteer support and ask couples to register their children in advance so that you can plan.

If you have a stand at a community fair, run a marriage-building stand, showing videos, handing out leaflets of ideas, running a competition for people to win a dinner for two by writing a list of ten things that are special about their marriage, etc.

Write to your local paper about ways to strengthen marriages, and about couples in your church who have been married a long time.

Resources to support marriages

Marriage Resource

Register with them and they will send you regular updates and information about marriage enrichment for yourselves and your church. They have lots of cheap information sheets that are helpful, and produce an excellent leaflet called *First Aid for Marriage*, and a quarterly newsletter. Marriage Resource, 24 West Street, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1JS, tel. 01202 839000. www.marriageresource.org.uk

Smart Marriages

This is an American network of helpful marriage information and ideas. www.smartmarriages.com

Christian Publicity Organisation

CPO produces lots of bright and useful support for marriages. Register for their catalogue, and ask for marriage resources in particular. Their address is CPO, Garcia Estate, Canterbury Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1BW. Their catalogues include all kinds of posters, cards and videos. They also produce a catalogue of themed wedding stationery.

Care for the Family

This is a Christian-run organisation to support all kinds of families. They often run evening workshops for couples in different parts of the country, as well as other family-related events. It is a good idea to be on their mailing list. Contact them on 02920 810 800, or write to Care for the Family, Cardiff, CF14 7GZ. You can work with them to plan an evening marriage workshop in your area, or attend one that someone else may be organising. They also produce a free quarterly magazine of interesting articles, resources and information.

Marriage Partnership is an excellent quarterly journal on all aspects of marriage from a Christian perspective. Contact Master Plan Publishing, Thames House, 63067 Kingston Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3PB. It's not cheap, but it is a good investment. Or view on-line at www.marriagepartnership.com.

The Marriage Book and The Marriage Course

These are both available from any Christian bookshop. These are two books that go together, and are an excellent resource for your own marriage, or as the basis of a marriage support group in your church. The Marriage Course can now be

run in your church over several weeks, either by a couple presenting the information, or by using the prepared videos available from HTB Bookshop 020 7581 8255. These cost about £50 a set. The books are ISBN 1-902750-27-6 and ISBN 1-902750-26-8.

Video packages

CPO sells an excellent video package called *Time for Each Other*. This is inexpensive (£25 for two videos and two workbooks) and it is a brilliant investment in your marriage. Show it to other couples in a small group over five weeks, use it for pre-marital support, show it to your church, or lend it to friends. CPO details given earlier.

National Marriage Week

This is the week in the year that contains February 14th. Lots of marriage-related events happen at this time, including a press conference and seminar day. Each year fresh materials are produced. Contact National Marriage Week at the NMW Office, Futureway Trust, Shears Building, Stone Lane, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1HD, 01202 883887. Take advantage of the heavy publicity already given to this week and plan an event that is open to your local community, such as a marriage rededication service and reception.

Marriage Retreats – Turning Water into Wine

The SEC hosts several marriage retreats a year. Call Karen on 01923 232728 for application forms. These are held at a lovely venue in Kenilworth, near Coventry. Dates for 2003 are 11-13 April and 10-12 October.

Websites

Other useful websites for marriage are: www.2-in-2-1.co.uk - an excellent British Christian marriage website www.marriageresource.org.uk - national marriage week and other information www.family.org - the website for the American Focus on the Family organisation, with lots of useful links www.familylife.org - Marriage and family building material www.marriagepartnership.com - online magazine - Christian, frank and helpful www.2as1.net - website on marriage support initiatives for the black community www.bettermarriages.org - marriage strengthening activities www.marriagealive.org - ideas for special dates, etc.

For more ideas visit www.smartmarriages.com.

Turning Water into Wine Marriage Retreats

These are exciting and special retreats for married couples, based on the principle that God takes whatever we bring to him and transforms it into the best it can be, if we work together with him in the process.

The retreats are currently held in Kenilworth, close to Coventry, at a beautiful venue, with swimming pool, gym, lovely gardens, and a chef who has been trained by the Vegetarian Society.

Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford lead out in the weekend, introducing fresh and biblical principles that can transform your relationship. Couples also have time to talk together in privacy, and to enjoy leisure time together, as well as special meals.

This is a treat that your marriage deserves. Spaces are limited at these popular events, so book early to avoid disappointment. Dates for 2003 are 11-13 April and 10-12 October.

Contact Karen Holford on 01923 232728 for more information or email: kholford@secadventist.org.uk.

Comments from couples

'I only came because my wife dragged me here – but it was amazing! I'd tell anyone to go along! Why didn't we come sooner?'

'Wow! Can we do this every month?'

'I thought marriage just kind of happened, now I know how to make it special!'



Thankful

An overview of the South England Conference by Donald W. McFarlane, president

'Be thankful for small mercies' is an injunction that is often repeated in Christian homes and churches. With this in mind I want to share with the membership of the British Union a number of small mercies that the South England Conference has received from our Father's hand in recent times.

500 Accessions

At the end of September 2003, the membership of the Conference stood at 14,236. This was an increase of 248 compared with figures at the commencement of the year. Accessions of 410 for the first nine months were the most important factor contributing to the encouraging growth. Accessions figures for the fourth quarter are not yet available. However, from the unofficial reports reaching my office it is quite safe to say that for the fifth time in its history the Conference will have seen over 500 accessions in a calendar year. Praise God!

130 Congregations

Not only is the Conference experiencing significant growth in membership, we are also seeing an appreciable rate of increase in the number of our churches. Currently, 130 congregations are served by the Conference, six of which were organised during the last year. The latest were a Filipino church in the heart of London and a church of largely East Africans in Beckton, South London. Plans are afoot to organise new churches in Hackbridge, South London and Horsfield, Bristol, during 2003.

Increasingly cosmopolitan

The church in the South England Conference is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan. Fifteen years ago our focus in evangelism was largely on two people groups – Afro-Caribbean and Anglos. Today the focus is on reaching a wide variety of people groups. To that end we now have, in addition to the Filipino and East African churches, a growing Russian congregation in the heart of London, a Portuguese-speaking church that is bursting at the seams, Ghanaian

churches that are seeing burgeoning growth, a Spanish-speaking congregation that has grown from approximately 20 to 200 in the space of ten years and several other language-based groups.

It is important to stress that there is nothing exclusive about these new 'ethnic' churches. They are open to all and sundry. Their existence is an attempt to make the Gospel available to all, whatever the race or language. We are seeking to fulfil our Lord's command to take the Gospel to all people groups.

Long-term programme

While seeking to reach various people groups within our Conference, we are aware that the largest group of all is that classified as indigenous. We have joined with our fellow fields in the BUC in a comprehensive and long-term programme of evangelism, dubbed Life Development, in an attempt to make some in-roads into the vast numbers of secular and unchurched people in this country. At the same time we have attempted to plant a number of new churches to address this need. The new groups in Kingston and Ruislip, and our work in Yeovil are three examples of our efforts to reach this group of people.

Gift Aid

We continue to experience God's blessing in the finances of our Conference. Tithe for 2002 was approximately 12% up on 2001. Back in the mid-nineties an increase of between 4% and 6% in tithe was considered a cause for great rejoicing but God is doing something more wonderful for his church today. As a result of the increase in tithe we have been able to provide extra funding for evangelism, employ a few more workers and join the rest of the BUC in providing an increase in salary for our employees – though not of the proportion being asked for by the fire-fighters!

The Gift Aid programme, formerly Deed of Covenant, continues to provide the Conference with significant funds for Conference-wide development. During the course of the year over £1 million was reclaimed from

Inland Revenue. It appears that the penny has dropped for a large number of churches! They are now reaping the benefits of the programme. In one form or another nearly all the Gift Aid funds reclaimed from Inland Revenue go to our local churches.

Places of worship

I must also say a word on the acquisition of properties for worship and other purposes. This has become a monumental challenge for the Conference. The portion of Gift Aid funds retained each year by the Conference for church building amounts to between £350,000 and £400,000. At the same time properties that ten years ago would have cost approximately £200,000 are now selling at over £1 million. It is quite clear that very soon the Conference and local churches will not be able to compete with organisations of greater financial resources in the purchasing of properties. We will have to rethink this whole matter and find novel means of providing accommodation for our churches.

Despite the prohibitive cost of properties today, we succeeded last year in purchasing a property for the Theodore McCleary School in South London. This was made possible by a successful partnership between the Conference and its churches. I am also pleased to report the completion of the new Newbold church building. This is one, if not the only, church building in recent years that did not exceed its budget. Built within a year at a cost of £1.4 million, this new building is a fine addition to the Conference's stock of churches.

Another significant development in the area of properties is the sale of the Broomhill Conference Centre. For many years we were well served by this lovely facility in the hills of Devon but it became too small for our needs. We have received an offer of approximately £500,000, which, when the sale is completed, will be augmented to acquire a centre that is more suitable for our current and future needs. At this stage we are not able to say when this dream will become a reality.

Membership figures*

BUC: 21,490
SEC: 14,236
* 30 September 2002



Schools

The Conference operates five schools. In general they are reputed for the high academic standards and rounded education they provide our children. Our dedicated group of teachers are doing a sterling job in developing the minds of their students with the resources that are available. Last year John Loughborough was successful in an OFSTED inspection.

Though the work of evangelism is extremely challenging in the secular context in which we operate, our ministerial workers and local churches are all seeking to put new programmes into place to meet this challenge. They recognise that we live in a dynamic society and that if the church is to continue to be successful it must, of necessity, respond to the changing needs of society. This is different from saying that the church must accept the standards set by society. It is for me very encouraging to see many of our pastors and churches seeking to meet the needs of the community in which they are located as a basis for inviting members of those communities to a saving relationship with Christ.

Of all the challenges that we face as a Conference, the greatest is that of each member building a meaningful relationship with Christ and sustaining in his or her heart the hope of his Second Coming. When all is said and done this is the sum of the whole matter. Compared with some of my colleagues, I am merely a stripling, though in my thirtieth year of pastoral ministry! Over the past thirty years I have seen many changes in the church but one thing that has not changed is our hope that Jesus is coming again. What a glorious prospect! Robert Louis Stevenson once said, 'To travel hopefully is better than to arrive.' That may well be true of Christmas, but not of the Second Coming. I believe that the anticipation of the return of Jesus to Earth is nothing compared with the reality of his coming. It is with an eye on that glorious day that we continue in the South England Conference to expand the kingdom of our Lord.



John Loughborough's 'Agenda for Excellence'

by Steven Daytes

teachers, parents and friends who had come to celebrate the success of the students of John Loughborough School.

Numerous awards and prizes were allocated to deserving students. Among those receiving outstanding awards were: Michelle Castillo and Jason Osei – Head Teacher's Cup; Janice DeWhyte and Antoine Daniel – Deputy Head's Cup; Erithier Macani and Andrea Simmonds – Shaw Awards (highest performers in Years 7-9); Erithier Macani – TED Award (highest grade point average). Sheryta Nicholson-Porter was the proud

recipient of the first ever Artist of the Year Award.

Outstanding performance in GCSE went to the following students: Nathan Lewis and Des-Chantal Minors – Maureen Luxton Award (best GCSE English students); Nathan Lewis – Maths Award (best GCSE Maths student); Philip Dumas and Nathan Lewis received Science Awards as best GCSE Science students. Philip Dumas got the Stanley Fray Award (best GCSE French student).

We extend our heartiest commendations to our students and especially to Nathan Lewis for maintaining the

reputation of John Loughborough School.

Valerie Bernard, a former teacher at John Loughborough when the school was founded and now currently head of Behavioural Science at Newbold College, was the motivational speaker for the evening. Her dynamic message on the theme of Success challenged the students to excellence. She used her experiences in secondary school and college to illustrate the point that they could achieve something worthwhile in life. She expressed gratitude to her supportive and encouraging parents who continually instilled in her

that she could succeed. Ms Bernard advised, 'Success demands effort; success demands setting goals; success demands determination. Do not allow circumstances or parents, or friends, or associates to hinder your progress in becoming somebody of note. Hold your head high, believe in yourself, shun mediocrity and stand tall.'

To conclude her speech, Ms Bernard cited the story of the eagle that had been denied its power of flight because it had been reared and domesticated to think that it was a chicken. However, when it came in contact with a naturalist, the bird realised its power potential and the capability within the span of its God-given wings – and soared in the blue expanse to which it belonged.

The poem presented by Folyan Lekuwa and the melodious harmony produced by Kimberly Williams, Year 10, reiterated the fact that success is within the reach of every student. Michelle Castillo, Jason Osei, Janice DeWhyte and Antoine Williams demonstrated their creativity in the vote of thanks to parents, teachers, fellow students and visiting guests for the part they played in moulding and shaping their school years.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Beverly Officer-Clarke and her team of willing, dedicated teachers and staff who executed an extremely efficient programme.

Long live John Loughborough School! May you continue to be 'a school with an agenda for excellence.'
Bridget Taffe

Farewell to Sylvia and Gordon Mueller

Gordon and Sylvia decided to leave Cornwall to be near their families in Surrey. They have been members of the Redruth church for thirty years and are loved by everybody.

During this time they held many church offices between them, and latterly Gordon had been church leader and Sylvia church clerk.

They have both worked diligently in all aspects of church life – whether it involved evangelism, Ingathering, social functions or church maintenance. Their friendliness and kindness has shone throughout.

A farewell luncheon was held for them and, in spite of the underlying sadness, it was a jolly occasion, enjoyed by all who attended.

A picture of one of Gordon and Sylvia's favourite places, St Ives, and a basket of local 'goodies' was presented to them as a memento, and they were delighted.

Gordon and Sylvia will be sorely missed in Cornwall but everyone wishes them happiness in their new home and all God's blessings in the future.

VALERIE ROWE

John Loughborough School, known as 'a school with an agenda for excellence,' again lived up to its reputation on its annual Speech Day,

held on 17 November at Gladesmore Community School. The evening, though damp and overcast, did nothing to dampen the spirits of students,



ASNA launches National Carers Support Network Project

On 29 September at Newbold College, ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association) held its first disabilities training and awareness conference – *Disabilities and the Church: Let's get educated*. There are over 8.7 million people in the UK covered by the Disability Discrimination Act. This represents 15% of the population. With this in mind, the conference aimed to bring together the leaders and members of the church to discuss and develop positive steps towards successful ministries to the disabled in the UK. It also looked at disabilities and education in our church schools and churches.

Fifty-one delegates in attendance expressed how informative and interesting they had found the conference and would use the ideas and training obtained back in their churches. Evaluation forms showed quantitative evidence of the success of the event. All had found the conference well

organised and the content of the keynote lectures and workshops informative. They had been useful, and had met with expectations. Many used 'excellent' to describe their experience. Keynote speakers included Pastor C. Perry (president, BUC), Paul Dicken (chair of 'Through the Roof'), and Charlotte Thoms (USA). Workshops were presented by professionals in the field of music therapy, communication, and ministry to those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Other organisations in attendance were Care for the Family, RNID, and Christian Record Service – an Adventist service for the blind based in the USA.

This conference was part of an ASNA weekend held at Newbold church which began on Friday evening. Charlotte Thoms, Disabilities director from Atlantic Union Conference, started the weekend with an inspiring message. Nigel Nicholls presented the

early Sabbath morning service, encouraging us to see differences as a blessing and enrichment as opposed to a problem. The family sermon was presented by Charlotte. British Sign Language interpreter Elaine Harlin interpreted the service.

Charlotte Thoms, also a professor in the Rochester Institute for the deaf, presented the afternoon programme focusing on ministry to the hard of hearing or deaf. Elaine assisted in the programme.

Sunday's conference saw the launch of ASNA's latest project – ANCOR (ASNA National Respite Carers Network) co-ordinated by Anne Loftman of the Milton Keynes church. The aim of the network will be to provide respite care on a local level for people living and caring for people with disabilities. Care will range from looking after a sibling of a child with disability to having a person with extensive needs in a volunteer's home

Southend works for orphans and homeless

Southend's 2002 Toy Service was conducted by Pastor Dalbert Elias of the SEC. David Hadjicostas, representing the department responsible for 'Children with Foster Carers', was present to tell us about the work involved and about the needs of children in care. David thanked the Southend church for all the toys, games and books donated to the charity for the second year running.

Southend also collected for a feeding programme for the homeless – in the High Street, Roots Hall Football Grounds Market, and at Victoria Railway Station in November and December. The church has been engaged in this project for over eight years, and has had a very good response from the public and local businesses.

OPAL PATEL

while the carers are on holiday.

ASNA is keen to hear from anyone interested in receiving training in the area of special needs and disabilities. For more details contact Anne Loftman, 01908 567925.

ASNA is an association run by volunteers who aim to provide Resources, Education, Support and Training (REST) in disability. Our central goal is towards 'access for all'. If you would like to become a member please contact asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk. We will host our Respite and Training weekend 21-23 March 2003. Training and awareness programmes will also continue throughout 2003. If you would like ASNA to bring a programme to your church or if you would like to attend the weekend contact 01491 833395. We ask for your continued support and prayers for this work.

World events

Sabbath 26 October saw Stevenage church holding their Community Services Day, when the theme was, 'Lord the tempest is raging'. We welcomed as our preacher for divine service, Brother Laurence from Croydon church. It was the second time in just a few months that we had welcomed this inspiring young preacher. The special musical item was provided by our first elder Alton Levy. Members and visitors shared a potluck lunch. The afternoon programme was a presentation on prophecy and current world events presented by Tristan Cuniah, elder of the Wood Green church. Brother Cuniah's presentation was powerful, instructive and interesting. Many questions were asked and answered.

SAMANTHA LEE

Hastings expansion

Pastor Brian Martin officiated at the inauguration of the Pathfinder club



which is led by Mrs Nyari Chitate. The Hastings church has a rapidly expanding membership with an increasing number of students. It is likely that the student population will increase even more with the development of Hastings University due in the near future.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Growing up in God

Hackney's children led out on Sabbath 26 October, and did much to suggest that they are growing up in God! The children, whose theme for the day was 'We serve God', led out in praise and worship, song and testimony, and even took each of the adult Sabbath school classes. Visitors were touched as the children's choir sang melodiously and warmed our hearts with their angelic voices.

There were two preachers for the day. The first preacher was Chesley Brooks, son of Hackney's elder Wayne Brooks and Family Life leader Margaret Brooks. Chesley preached on

'Kindness, Helpfulness and Obedience'.

Pariece Burton, daughter of AYS leader Deborah Burton and Hackney's former elder Colin Burton, was the second preacher. Pariece followed on from Chesley to speak about 'Trust, Love and Forgiveness'.

DARELL PHILIP

Hackney: ten baptised

Pastor Michael Mannix baptised ten people at Hackney on 7 September: Marcus Arnold, Eden George, Sherwin Shillingford, Chesley Brooks, Stacey Marshall, Karelle and Beverley Hanson (sisters) with their grandmother Lucille Hanson, Maria Hallal and Michelle Waithe. The baptism followed the culmination of the 'No More Drama' youth campaign.

Over the weekend of 13-15 September Hackney held its first prayer conference. The meetings were conducted by NEC Youth director Pastor Steve Palmer and a group of young people.

DARELL PHILIP



Riotous nativity play

Bournemouth church Mother & Toddler group, 'The Sunshine Club', held its Christmas party on 12 December. This group has now been running for well over three years and is well known and popular in the Winton area of Bournemouth. During that time almost a hundred children have come and gone in the group, one or two of these attending once only, but many more attending right from the first day until now. One mother has also been bringing her little boy along to Sabbath school for well over a year now.

Because we want to maintain the contact with children who have outgrown the group and moved up to pre-school, the older ones were invited back for the party, and we had thirty-seven children at the party. Pastor Martin Anthony presided over the riotous nativity play, with little angels and shepherds running all over the church! Altogether we had a congregation of eighty-eight, and the play and some carols were followed by a sit-down tea in the church hall and presents from Santa (George Primmer).

Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon, and we are very thankful that the Lord is blessing this group in such a special way.

JOY ELLIOTT, Group Organiser



Diamond Wedding

On 12 September 1942 Tom Heap and Maude Walton were married at the Hebron Hall in Carlisle. Tom was serving in the army at that time, so they had one week together before he had to return to duty.

They had met as teenagers at a friend's house, but when Maude had to go into hospital some time later Tom, who was on leave, visited her and asked if she would write to him. They wrote for quite some time and then Maude received a letter which was different from all the rest. It was a proposal of marriage. Tom and Maude were parted for most of

the war. Leave was irregular and Maude did not see Tom for a year at a time. After the war, when Tom was demobbed from the army, he and Maude settled down to a happy married life in Carlisle. In contrast to the war years, when they spent so much time apart, they have never been separated from each other since.

In the early 1950s Tom and Maude moved into the flat in which they still live today – over fifty years later. In 1953 their lovely daughter Kathleen was born, making their happiness complete.

On 4 October 1952, Tom was baptised and, together with Maude,

was accepted into the fellowship of the Carlisle Adventist church. Both had been firm Christians since their youth, Maude having been baptised while attending the Brethren Church in 1937. They became interested in Adventist teachings when they attended a campaign conducted by Pastor William Lennox. In the years since then, they have become the backbone of the Carlisle church. Tom was elder for many years and Maude was church treasurer for over forty years.

Tom and Maude are still strong, active members of the Carlisle church, and we are happy to see, week by week, that new members and regular visitors appreciate their loving Christian friendship. We rely on their wisdom and advice, which is always given with love.

Their Diamond wedding anniversary was celebrated with a surprise party given for them on the evening of 12 September by daughter Kathleen and her husband Andrew. Family and friends were happy to attend and Tom and Maude proudly showed everyone the card they had received from Her Majesty the Queen.

On the afternoon of Sabbath 14 September a special service was conducted in the Carlisle church by the writer, followed by an evening of celebration and fellowship.

We thank God for Tom and Maude's happy marriage of sixty years and for the example that they give us that, in a world where nothing lasts long these days, their marriage has lasted happily for all these years.

BILL KITCHEN

Camp Hill youth baptism

Left to right, Lola White, Natasha Edwards, Chrissie Hewitt, Hayley Chisholm, and Bible worker Olwen McIntyre.



On 28 September hearts were touched as both young and old gave their all to God in baptism. It is often said that today's youth have no interest in the church, but not so for these youth and the young at heart!

CHRISSIE HEWITT, MICHAEL THEODORE

Colchester carols

At 6.30pm on 14 December the lights were dimmed and the candles lit for Colchester church's annual carol con-

cert. The evening was blessed with congregational singing – of many of our much-loved carols. The talents of the members and our guests were exceptional. The many scripture readings included one in French and another in Fijian. We had singing from Nicola Saunders and her daughter Rachel, plus music from the piano, flute and violin.

A special offering was taken up for ADRA, and we collected £65. God truly blessed us with a wonderful evening.

ELIZABETH JONES

All-night prayer meeting

It was 14 December when members of the Wood Green church gathered at 11pm to spend the night in prayer. The theme song for the night was 'Come, Holy Spirit, I need thee'.

Much time was spent in prayer. We studied and discussed some of the most meaningful prayers in the Bible, including Jesus' prayer on behalf of his disciples.

Many people shared experiences of how God had answered their prayers. It was time well spent, and there was no doubt, there is *Power in Prayer*.

We concluded at 5.30am, singing the hymn, 'Pass me not, O gentle Saviour', and feeling blessed and thankful for the privilege of prayer.

V. COLLINS

Lucy says 'I do'

On the afternoon of 1 September Lucy Williams said 'I do' to God. The immersion was conducted by Pastor L. Ackie, and the baptism witnessed by our Pastor P. Douglas, C. Douglas and our elder T. King, together with friends and members of the Walsall church. Pastor Ackie reminded us of some of

God's 'chosen men'.

Lucy said, 'It's my prayer through God's mercy to hold on no matter what. God has power to strengthen me. I am very sure of his love.'

Praise God for what he has done through LETS '96. New contacts have been made. Prayer is needed for these precious gems, together with twenty-four contacts from mini LETS.

M. V. LAURENCE

Family Focus Week

Over 400 people gathered at Watford Girls' Grammar School on the evening of Wednesday 20 November to listen to Rob Parsons, director of a charitable group set up to provide resources and support for all aspects of family life. Among them were about forty members and friends from the Stanborough Park church who were captivated with his presentation on how they could 'maintain a healthy marriage'.

Rob Parsons presented a hilarious personal account of the ups and downs of married life. He reflected on his youth as a young lawyer, sharing stories of the people he met and giving examples of how 'challenging' parenting can be.

Outlining five basic principles in two-and-a-half hours, Rob focused on Acceptance, Communication, Time, Finance and Sex. With an interval in the programme to allow the purchase of his books, videos, cassettes, and resource materials, the audience went home inspired and focused on revolutionising their relationships.

On the following Sabbath, families got together after divine service for a potluck lunch. In the afternoon Karen Holford (Family Ministries, SEC) led out in a 'Creative Family Worship Workshop'. Full of wonderful fun and

creative ideas, Karen inspired those who attended and excited the children about how to learn about the love of God through fun and creativity!

ESTELLE AND GRANT ELIAS

Smethwick youth

Smethwick church experienced a unique youth day when the youth expressed thanks for, among other

things, the rapid growth of the church, with young people and adults making a packed congregation. The message was delivered by Celina Whinnery. The youth choir sang touching songs.

P. SWABY

Children's Day

October 26 was the day that Holcombe Road church celebrated their Children's Day. The theme was 'All together now'.

The day began with Sabbath school under the leadership of 9-year-old Jhanelle Davidson, followed by the divine service consisting of songs, sketches and a sermon. The day culminated with the AYS programme where the main speaker presented her experience of teaching children in the South Pacific Island of Ebeye.

CAROL YOUNG

Children's Day at Gloucester

On Sabbath 28 December the congregation at Gloucester was blessed with a programme of worship and praise presented by the Children's department. The programme consisted of music, poetry, plays and songs, with each child taking part. With the central theme, 'The Greatest Gift', no fewer

than four sermonettes were preached by Darnelle White (12), Serena Wynter (10), Jacob McKenzie (9), and Kayleigh Kelly (10). Each member of the con-

gregation received a paper heart made by the children, inviting them to give their heart to Jesus.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Car wash fund raising

Sunday 28 August saw the Holcombe Road Junior Sabbath school children out and about in the early hours of the morning. The reason for this was a car wash that had been organised by the children with the intention of raising funds to purchase additional resources for their Sabbath school. The teachers, with the help of the children, work hard to make the Sabbath school an enjoyable place where they can learn more about Jesus. In order to do this, the purchase of resources is crucial.

A number of children, Sabbath school teachers, parents and adult members of the church, came together to wash and vacuum cars. Not only was it an enjoyable day but the exercise proved to be a big success with the children raising an overall sum of £90.

CAROL YOUNG

Holcombe Road Sabbath school children and helpers hard at work



Leeds Monday Group

A long-standing member from the Community Services department of the Leeds church recognised a need to form a senior citizens' group to give meaning to a week that was pretty much spent alone, away from other members.

As a result of the initial venture a new group has now been established and is called 'The Monday Group'. It is open to the community and it has been known for them to form a choir to sing at an event or special day.

Some of the activities include: trips to various parts of the country, organised walks, arts and crafts, open day, visiting speakers. All these activities help to bring the community together as they enjoy the topics brought to them by the various speakers on health issues.

SUSAN CHISHOLM



A patchwork quilt made by some of the members

Stanborough Toy Service

by Frank Blewitt

The annual Toy Service at Stanborough Park church on 14 December continued a tradition started over forty years ago, and was attended by Watford Mayor, Councillor Sheila Jones and her husband Dr Malcolm Jones.

The children brought onto the

platform the toys that were to be given to boys and girls in Watford, where they filled several large sacks, and added to the toys already arranged across the platform.

After the Scripture reading from a child's Bible by Charlotte Fidelia, Mrs Pat Walton asked the Mayor to accept



Left to right: Anne-May Wollan, Dr Malcom Jones, the Mayor (centre), Pastor Robert Vine, Pat Walton and church elder Kishore Poddar. Organist, Brian Combridge

Photo: Stanley Maxwell

the toys on behalf of the underprivileged children of Watford.

In response the Mayor said: 'It gives me great pleasure accepting the gifts on behalf of the children who will never know who gave them. The one thing they will always remember is the generosity, and that someone else cared.'

'This is a very special morning for me because, in effect, this is a return home. There are friends here I've not seen for many years. I see children, and grandchildren of people I knew many years ago, who went to school with my own children in Stanborough Junior School and Infants.

'One thing that strikes me about this service is the tradition. Tradition seems quite an out-of-fashion word these days. But we should fight to keep a tradition that is good. I think back to the days when Faith Poley and Joan Coveney taught those children, and even now the kindness and generosity that they received at the school lives on in them.

'I'd also like to mention another person who was a great pal of mine, and that's Mr Kelly whom I knew over many years. He was a very, very special person. Little would he have thought that the service he started

over forty years ago, and the furniture repository, would be a lasting memorial to him. I know that his plans live on in Pat and her family, but also through every member of this church. I want to thank you all for inviting me to share this with you.'

Two young children gave gifts to the guests of honour. Katrina Herzig presented a basket of flowers to the Mayor, while Dr Jones received from Jacques Vitry a copy of the book *Think Big* by world-renowned neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

The sermon presented by Mrs Anne-May Wollan, Children's Ministries and Women's Ministries director at the Trans-European Division, was addressed primarily to children, although adults were also allowed to listen. She illustrated her talk on the extravagance of God by preparing a dish of ice cream. Not one scoop, but four! Then chocolate sauce, sprinkles, whipped cream and more sprinkles. That's extravagance! Ice cream served to the children after the service helped them to remember the story. A preacher in a pinafore is an image that will long remain with the worshippers at Stanborough Park.

Darlington witness

Anne Selvage of Darlington church had a wish, and on Sabbath 14 December that wish came true when the church members took an afternoon Christmas programme to the nursing home where her mother lives. There were carols, readings, poems – and a duet from our youngest members Danielle and Kristen who sang 'Away in a Manger'. At the end there were refreshments and time for residents, staff and members to chat. All who were there were truly blessed.

SUSAN SELVAGE

Rally of the Seven Churches

On 16 November the Smethwick church, under the auspices of the Sabbath School department, presented 'Rally of the Seven Churches'.

Pastor E. Francis, president of the North England Conference, our guest speaker, presented a stirring sermon based on the seven churches, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Philadelphia, and lastly Laodicea. The West Midlands Male Voice Choir played an important role in the day's programme. It was most encouraging to listen to the Smethwick Youth Choir as they sang 'Show me the way, Lord' and 'We love you, Lord'.

We were joined by the West Bromwich and Bilston churches, who took part in the presentation of such a unique programme. Dudley church also supported us. The event ended

with a grand social in aid of Smethwick church building fund.

P. SWABY

Galway concert

The theme of the Christmas concert this year at Grianach House School, Galway, was 'Come merrily to Bethlehem, everyone'. The concert proved very successful and was very well attended by all the students' family members. The children showed their musical and dramatic talents in a programme which truly conveyed the Christmas spirit. All of the classes were involved with the students singing such well-known Christmas carols as 'Silent Night' and 'Away in a Manger'. They also sang Irish language carols including 'Oíche Chuain'. They played recorders and staged a Christmas drama, 'The Christmas Bells' which exemplified the true meaning of Christmas.

At the end of the concert Thelma Rhodes, the school principal, made a presentation to Mark Dooley, Michael Dooley and Gerry Gough, the 'three wise men' who had contributed so much to the preparations and performance of the school concert. Mark Dooley was also the co-ordinator of the school's 2003 calendar, which involved paintings for each season by the students. The calendar was on sale after the concert. Mark presented Mrs Rhodes with a special edition copy of the calendar as a thank you for all her hard work during the year.

OLIVER MARTYN



Investiture

It is always good to see a group of young people who have achieved something worthwhile. And it was such a group that received honours and awards during the Sabbath morning service of 30 November in Grantham.

With something of military precision, they entered the church, closely followed by the Union Flag and the Pathfinder flag carried by senior members of the group. Under the direction of Christine Cox, Pathfinder leader for the past three years, the group repeated the Pledge, Law, Motto and Aim in unison.

It was a former Youth leader for Conference and Division, Pastor Ron Surridge, who presented the awards and said a few words of encouragement to the twelve young people who were invested.

Pastor John Ferguson thanked Christine for her fine work during the past years. The large group is testimony to the strong leadership she has given, ably supported by her team of helpers.

MIKE COWEN

Stable Manners

On Sabbath 14 December the children and young people from Ystrad Mynach Adventurers' Club put on the nativity play, 'Stable Manners', describing the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Bessie the Cow, Cecil the Sheep and Chuck the Chicken. Enriched by ten very lively songs, the programme was greatly appreciated.

Also in the past year we have had a camping weekend in Carmarthen, an Investiture, a visit to Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, a Holiday Bible Club, and the most recent activity, ice-skating.

PASTOR RICHARD L. VINE

Talking Newspaper

A concert sponsored by the Grantham church Community Services department was held in the Dudley House School hall on Saturday evening 16 November.

From time to time concerts are held with the aim of giving the proceeds to a particular charity in the area, and this time it was the local Talking Newspaper for the Blind. The venture, started in 1983, had a strong Adventist presence on the founding committee under the chairmanship of Bill Cross, the husband of one of the Grantham members.

The November concert followed a

secular programme with items by a local group who perform freely for charities, together with piano solos, vocal solos, poems, instrumental pieces and sketches by church members.

Pam Cross outlined the history of the Talking Newspaper in Grantham, and said that over 200 visually-impaired people receive a cassette each week. Over 80 volunteers help to make this weekly output possible. Adventists still help with the production.

MIKE COWEN



The Dell Retirement Home
Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk

The Dell is operated by the Church for the benefit of elderly church members who can no longer manage on their own. Enquiries to:
Pastor Martin Bell, Roundwood, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4AN.
Telephone: 01764 653806.



Richard Vine and Glenys James

Glenys baptised

On 31 August we welcomed back into church membership Mrs Glenys James at Ystrad Mynach church. Previously baptised as a young lady, she had drifted from the church, though not from the Lord. Glenys began attending again following the death of her mother Mrs Olive Morgan. Since that time she has been an active member of one of our small groups, and plays the piano for the services. We wish her well in the future as she continues to make her loving contribution to our church family.

PASTOR RICHARD L. VINE

Things buzzing in Wales

Pastor Richard L. Vine

Lee Gallaher launched *LIFE.info* magazine at the All-Wales Day of Fellowship in the Grand Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells, on Sabbath 28 September. He asked for participation and prayers in using this tool to 'Get Connected'. In the divine service BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry outlined the need for us to be 'United in Worship', based on the example of Moses in Exodus 3:1-7.

The afternoon was full of interest and encouragement, from the youth ministry led by Pastor Paul Tompkins and youth sponsors Ed Sammons, Juja Mikkonen and Jeremy Tremeer, to the sketch by the Puppet Gang from Cardiff led by Annette Moore. There was a short play on the Christian Race and the need to support one another in this calling, by the young men of Club Cymru in Swansea.

Pastor Norman Latchman and Lil Saunders stressed the place of the

health ministry in church growth. Jane Wells described some of the ventures in Women's Ministries from Mums and Toddlers, playgroups and coffee mornings. Small groups are growing both in number and depth of fellowship in Wales.

Win Rees, a sheep farmer from Brecon, sang 'If I can help somebody', accompanied on the piano by Peggy Mason, as part of the day's music ministry. Other musical offerings were made by Ian Mason and Stephen Marshall on woodwind, and brothers Eithon and Eifflon Paul on brass. Ed Sammons led our afternoon song service. The growing group of believers in Llandrindod Wells gave sterling help in organising this special day, which was brought to a climax by Dr Brian Phillips exploring the theme of authentic worship in Revelation 4. We sang 'We have this hope' to close the Sabbath on a note of joy.



Top: Ed Sammons, Youth sponsor, Welsh Mission, and Jeremy Tremeer, minister in Swansea/Port Talbot
Above: Stephen Marshall and Ian Mason

Evangelism in Banbridge

by Pastor Patrick J. Boyle*

At the invitation of the church in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, the writer, with the local pastor Nathan Stickland, held meetings for three weekends in September and October.

The people of Ulster have suffered much in the past thirty-odd years. It is a lasting tribute to the majority of the population, Catholic and Protestant, that in the face of terrorism they have retained a strong and living faith in God.

The meetings had a threefold intention which centred in the objective of lifting Jesus up before the people and making him great in their hearts and minds. One, to encourage the members in the faith. Two, to pull over the line for baptism those who might have a strong interest in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Three, if possible, to create some new interests for the local church to follow up.

In the work of evangelism there are four major obstacles which confront the believers in Ulster. All the people contacted have a church connection which they have to break to become Adventists. A very strong belief in eternal torment is held by a large number of Christians in Ulster.

The seventh-day Sabbath and the writings of Ellen White are also obstacles. Most Christian people have a good knowledge of the Scriptures and understand salvation by faith alone. This makes them suspicious of obedience to God's law, seeing it as legalism. These factors make evangelism more difficult for the local church than for those in other parts of the British Union.

There were no baptisms, but the members were encouraged and some new contacts were made for Pastor Stickland to pursue.

In order to help create a proper understanding of the Adventist faith Pastor Stickland and the writer took nine copies of the book *The Essential Jesus* and gave them to a variety of ministers of other faiths: Baptist, Methodist, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and non-subscribing Presbyterian. In each case we were received graciously. Some of the ministers had been missionaries in Brazil and Zimbabwe and knew about Adventists; others were interested to learn more about us. In all but one instance Pastor Stickland prayed for the ministers, asking for God's blessing upon them in their service for him. This was a

rewarding exercise because it enabled us to speak and pray with ministers of other faiths and demonstrate that Adventists are Bible-believing Christians who are not to be confused with non-Christian groups. It is obvious that if we want to influence other people we must get alongside them and enter into dialogue.

Those of us who live and worship in favourable situations can help our fellow believers in Ireland by bearing them before the Lord in prayer and, where possible, visiting their churches when on holiday.

While it is vital that an ongoing programme of evangelism is maintained, it is equally important to hold our own children and youth. In this connection the leadership of Nathan Stickland and the support of the members in Pathfinding is very encouraging. A large group of children were invested, which demonstrated the value and holding power of the Pathfinder movement.

Wherever we are, life has its problems. In the Banbridge church, tragedy struck in the Muldrew family. Their 10-year-old daughter Kerri was stricken with a life-threatening illness. The doctors' prognosis was less than encouraging. The child's heart had

*Pastor Boyle is enjoying a very active retirement in the Watford area.

stopped beating on two occasions and they did not hold out a lot of hope. Joan and David Muldrew, the pastor and members were strong in their prayers to God on behalf of the little girl. David told how his mind went a complete blank. All he could remember was the phrase, 'God is not willing that any should perish.' He prayed, 'Lord, you do not want our daughter to perish.' Today the little girl is, as they say in Ulster, 'right as rain'. To our merciful Heavenly Father be everlasting thanks and praise.

Being a faithful Christian has its problems and difficulties, but its benefits far outweigh them. Our responsibility is to bear witness and trust the Lord to use it for the salvation of men and women, boys and girls. We wait for the promised return of Jesus, and the indicators suggest it will not be long delayed. As Pastor Curtis Murphy, president of the Irish Mission, who was so supportive, said, 'I have a threefold plan for our work in Ireland: Evangelism, Evangelism, Evangelism.' There is no alternative no matter what difficulties we face. As the Psalmist noted, 'Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.' (126:5, NIV.)

Toy service

The annual Gift and Toy Service took place at Grantham church on Sabbath 7 December. As in past years, representatives from the community were there to receive a share of toys, small food baskets and knitted blankets, organised by the Community Services department, under the leadership of Wendy Walmsley.

During the service Bill Cross of the Grantham Talking Newspaper for the Blind received a cheque for £300, the proceeds from a recent concert organised by the CS department.

MIKE COWEN



Wendy Walmsley (Dept. leader), Alina Clemonds, Lianne Cook (Grantham Mind), Sandra Woodhouse (Probation Service), Louise Horry (Kingfisher Children's Ward Grantham Hospital), Rachel Surridge and Della Astleford

Leamington youth baptism

On 16 November at Leamington Spa church, local members, along with visitors from as far afield as Cornwall and Manchester, came together to witness two young people dedicate their lives to the Lord.

Hannah Robson and Michael Glinton were joined by family and friends to witness their baptism and were warmly welcomed into the Lord's fold. Currently studying for their GCSEs, they have been key members



Top. Hannah Robson is baptised by Pastor Alan Conroy.

Above. The Glinton family.

Left. The Robson family.



Member receives award at Café Royal

On Thursday 21 November High Wycombe Sands member Juliana Hutchinson was presented with a silver award for the Pharmaceutical Clinical Researcher of the Year UK during a special ceremony at the Café Royal, Piccadilly, London. Juliana works for Ortho-Biotech (UK), a company specialising in anti-cancer products. 'I have always been interested in the later stages of drug development,' she says. 'Does the drug actually work? What is its safety profile? How does it perform against competitor products in the market place? My desire to work in clinical research stemmed from the fact that, by being part of a medical team, I can use my expertise to enable more products to be available for patients to help improve their quality of life. I became a clinical research associate in October 1997, and since that time have worked with three blue chip

they have grown in their faith. The age range was from 60 to 80.

The testimonies really thrilled the congregation, but more so the young people as all sat spellbound listening to the personal experiences. After each testimony the ladies were presented with pink flowers, and the gentlemen with red ones; also commendation certificates of honour were presented to each one of them for who they are.

'God will take care of you' was sung to close the programme and a special prayer ascended on their behalf.

ELIMEENA ADAMS

of the Leamington congregation for a number of years. Michael is our webmaster and was instrumental in helping with the recent update of themission.org.uk website, while Hannah is an active member of the Leamington youth committee. They were baptised by Pastor Alan Conroy.

TRISTAN SIMMONS

pharmaceutical companies as my clients to help set up and monitor clinical trials in the UK, Europe and internationally. Currently I'm working on an international study involving twenty-two countries. I'm responsible for the UK operations and report to the global team based in USA.'

It was during Juliana's student years at De Montfort University in Leicester that she decided to do a full VOP (now ADC) Bible correspondence course. While doing these studies, she says, 'Jesus spoke to my heart and mind and I knew that his way was the right way for my life. The students at the Leicester Central church really gave me a good sense of belonging and I was involved in many activities in the church - singing in the choir, taking part in programmes and youth Bible studies.'

Juliana has been a member of the



High Wycombe Sands church for five years now and has served as Social leader and Youth leader. Next year she will be Sabbath school superintendent. 'The Sands church family are great,' she says. 'Even though all my family are based in Birmingham, the Sands church members have really made me feel valued and much loved.'

When asked about the key to her latest achievement Juliana says, 'Being the first black woman to have won a major achievement in the Pharmaceutical industry nationwide, I can only give thanks to God. I love the Lord with all my soul and might. It is he who can perform extraordinary things in an ordinary person such as myself.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Sixteen baptised at Reading

On Sabbath 7 December sixteen people from the Reading district were baptised at the Reading Central church. The church was packed to overflowing and a large number of friends and relatives of the candidates came to witness the special occasion. Pastor Gifford Rhamie, first elder of the church and a lecturer at Newbold College, preached on the subject, 'Wade in the Water', and the baptisms were conducted by district pastor Everett Picart and Pastor Aaron Turyo from the Whitley church.

'It was good to see so many teenagers commit their lives to the Lord,' said Pastor Picart.

The district has experienced growth in other ways as well. On 23 November Elizabeth Kasimba was accepted on profession of faith into the fellowship of Whitley. Elizabeth is the mother of Brian and Sarah, two of the newly-baptised members.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

NEWBOLD COLLEGE Bracknell, Berkshire, England. Department of Theological Studies needs **Lecturer in New Testament Studies/Theological Studies**. The successful applicant will be expected to: Teach a variety of modules in either subject, plus some modules in another subject area; have a minimum of a master's degree in a relevant field. This is an opportunity for an innovative individual to join this progressive international department, providing quality pastoral education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels on a campus with students from approximately fifty different countries. Salary according to denominational scale. Letter of application together with a current CV and names and addresses of two referees to: The Vice-Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berkshire, England, RG42 4AN. Tel: 01344 407401; Fax: 01344 407404; Email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. A fuller job description may be obtained from the address above or <http://www.newbold.ac.uk/newsite>. **Deadline: 14 February 2003.**

STANBOROUGH PRESS VACANCY

Due to the expansion of its publishing programme, The Stanborough Press has a vacancy for a **Sales Representative**. Responsibilities would include visiting Christian bookshops, churches and retail establishments with a range of books, calendars and games. Initially this will be within the London area. The individual should be committed to the mission and vision of the Adventist Church. Remuneration according to denominational salary scales. Please send CV to Paul Hammond, General Manager, at The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL or email PHammondSP@aol.com.

Congratulations to Zara Lewis from Oxford church, who graduated with a degree in Microbiology from Huddersfield University and is now working as a researcher in Oxford University; to **Olive Steadman** of the Oxford church who has been awarded a science degree in Publishing and Sociology.

The **South England Conference** wishes to acknowledge with thanks anonymous donations of £4,540 and £6,000. Also a donation of £300 from C/1112. *Earl Ramharackingsh, Treasurer*

The obituary of Sister Queenie Savage appeared in the last issue without the Thank you note from the family. We apologise for this. *Editor*

Thanks. Nigel and the family wish to extend special thanks to those who have upheld them in prayer and to those who have expressed support in the form of calls, floral tributes and donations to the Adventist Discovery Centre.

DICKS, Kathleen Laudergeran - d. 11 June. It is with sadness that we record the death of Mrs Kathleen Dicks at the age of 87. Kathleen died suddenly at her home in Nelson after a period of ill health. She was the widow of William Reginald Dicks, one of the founder members of the Caerphilly church. They had been introduced to the Advent message by Ivan Rees, who spoke about the Sabbath to William as they tended their allotments. Kathleen and William brought up their family to love the Lord and to serve him. They both engaged in colporteur ministry in the fifties, and William worked in farming and mining. Kathleen loved cooking, was known for her apple tarts, and will be remembered as a loving and lovable Christian. We look forward to the day of resurrection and reunion when Jesus comes again. The funeral service was conducted by a family friend of many years, Dr Brian Phillips, in the Chapel of Rest, Trelewis. His theme was the Advent hope as described in 1 Thessalonians 4. Kathleen was laid to rest in the grave of her late husband William, in the Gelligaer cemetery, there to await the call of Jesus. We extend our sympathy to her children Betty, Christine, Pauline, Pat, Valerie, Wendy, Ronald, David, Michael, and to all the members of their families. *PASTOR RICHARD VINE*

BUTTON, Rita Lucy - d. 21 September. It is with sadness and a feeling of loss that we report the death of Mrs Rita Button. She herself never became an Adventist, but her son has been a member of the Plymouth Adventist church since 1995. The writer conducted the funeral service of Rita and although only a handful of members and friends came to say their farewell, we believe that Jesus and his holy angels were present at that service. She believed in the hope of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the family look forward to the time when they hope to see her again. *PASTOR RON CLEMOND*

DUST, Jack - d. 6 November. Stanborough Park church is greatly saddened by the passing of Jack Dust, beloved and respected member of our congregation. Jack was born in 1930 in Ponder's End, Enfield, the third son of Stan Augustus Dust and his wife Ruth. Before Jack there were Stan and Fred, and following after were Albert, Syd, Ruth, Charles and Joan, six boys and two girls. All except Jack and Albert survive. Stan led the family into the church in 1901 and they became the heart of the Edmonton church in its worship, community service and evangelism. Notable in this direction was the involvement of family members in the choir which supported George Vandeman's campaign at the London Coliseum in 1951. Jack left school at 14 to go into the cleaning business and remained in this enterprise in and around Enfield for the rest of his working life. He was respected as a keen and reliable gentleman. Further skills were acquired during National Service when he worked on building sites as a noncombatant. But being self-employed enabled Jack to engage in *spiritual* combat - giving time and means to support the life of the church around north-east London in its efforts to spread the Advent message. When the lease on the New Gallery in Regent Street was acquired, Jack not only helped decorate it but took part in its preparation as a place of evangelism and worship. He was a regular member of the choir there with his brothers and sisters. In his last twenty-five years, Jack travelled regularly from Enfield to Stanborough Park where he worshipped and was assistant to our head deacon, always reliable, always cheerful. He had many interests, including gardening, music and sport. He was a keen tennis player into his 60s and played cricket for Edmonton. He never knew serious illness until June 2002 when he experienced what seemed like a stroke while driving. Tests at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, revealed a brain tumour which was eventually to claim his life. Wonderful care was shown by his sons - David who came over from Brazil where he teaches English, and John who is a social worker in Leicester. The family rallied round and regularly visited him, notably sister Joan and her husband John Rich. Ruth

would ring daily from Bodmin, and his brothers kept Jack in touch. From Stanborough Park there issued flowers, visits and prayers, as well as an anointing service by the pastor and elders, Derald Barham, Peter Bone and Ed Hammond with Vivienne Vine on 17 July. Jack's greatest desire was to be with his family in the Kingdom of God. The funeral at Enfield crematorium was held on 12 November. The service, which included some of Jack's favourite music, The King's Heralds, focused on the story of Jesus and Lazarus. We who live in the Blessed Hope are confident that we shall meet Jack again in a better place, though, like Mary and Martha, we are disturbed by the apparent delay in the coming of the Lifegiver. We cling to the promise of our Lord in John 14:19: 'Because I live, you also will live', and say 'Quickly come, Lord Jesus!'

PASTOR ROBERT VINE

RIGGS, Doris Erica May - d. 2 November. 'Dorrie' was a highly-respected and well-loved sister, aunt and close relative. She was also a faithful and much-loved member of Bournemouth church. She had nearly 80 years of full and happy life, and from her early years she had a strong desire to serve others which led her into the nursing profession and, subsequently, dental nursing. In her heart she always loved God and this led her to find happiness and satisfaction in honesty, integrity and conscientiousness. She was always reliable and worked hard. Dorrie had a long association with the Baptist Church and then, in her middle years, she became acquainted with an Adventist, Marjorie Hall, who lived close by, and in the late 1970s she studied with Pastor D. Currie and was baptised. She became a faithful member, with her own 'favourite chair', and soon began helping with the church cleaning. This she did, to a very high standard, with her sister Gwen for several years. Later on, her vitality began to fail and she spent many months in hospital. She never lost her quiet cheerfulness or her hope of the return of Jesus and these helped her to cope with adversity. Pastor M. Anthony spoke at the funeral of how she brought beauty to God's house, not to please the people in the church, but to please God. This was her secret of happy living which will bring its sure reward on that coming day when we will all unite in worship around the throne of God. May God give us that solid assurance, and comfort all who sorrow with the certainty of his promises. *DOUGLAS VINE*

HANKIN, Francis John - d. 10 November. Francis was born in 1929, the son of John and Gladys Hankin. Through the ministry of Pastor Sammy Joyce, Francis's grandmother Emily Hankin, along with her daughters Nelly, Rose and Daisy, joined the church. A few years later, Francis's mother Gladys was baptised. Francis attended Stanborough School at Sheepcote Villa, and he shone at music which became more than a hobby to him. He left school at 15, going to work at the Trade Press to learn his father's trade - printing - one of the prominent industries of Watford which was a leading town in Europe for the training of printers. Francis had been baptised at Watford Town church in 1943, and as a conscientious objector he started work at the Stanborough Hydro. He later nursed at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, working on Sundays at Shrodells Hospital, Watford. He met his future wife, Barbara Fanthom, at Rochford General Hospital near Southend. They were married in 1957. Nigel was born first, then the twins, Sheryl and Geraldine, followed by Dawn, Velda and Helena. The Hankins were very much a 'family-family' with an atmosphere of care, love and fun between family members; very hard work for both parents - Francis working days, Barbara working nights and, like Francis, travelling everywhere in all weathers on a bike. Eventually, the Hankins moved to Stanborough Park church where Francis became a member of the Male Voice Choir. He also sang professionally as John Fetters. Francis was passionate about his beliefs, faithful to his friends, and adoring of his family of six children and fourteen grandchildren. He faced the reality of his illness with great courage. His funeral on 21 November attracted a large congregation including Barbara, his children and the oldest grandchildren. Speaking for himself and the family, Nigel gave a glowing tribute to his father: 'He taught us so much - about love, generosity and how never to shirk our responsibilities of providing for our families. We could turn to him for help and he would move mountains to be there for us. He wanted us all to be in heaven

and to know the salvation that can only be found through Jesus.' During the service a male quartet - Neil Padley, a son-in-law of Francis's, Adrian Peck, Ian Stoner-Redfern and Gary Wynne, sang 'The Old Rugged Cross'. He lived, and died, in the Blessed Hope. *PASTOR ROBERT VINE*

HARRIS, Francetta Asenath - d. 19 November. Sister Harris was born in 1908 in Cornwall Barracks, Portland, Jamaica, the daughter of Letoria and David Brown. She was one of six children. For many years Sister Harris worked in St Thomas, Jamaica, as a post office messenger before returning to live in Portland where she met and married Robert Harris. She moved to London in 1954 where she worked for a number of years as a domestic. She worshipped regularly in Brixton church's place of worship (Brixton Town Hall) until they moved to Ferndale Road, and was a faithful member of the congregation. When Brixton moved to bigger premises, she was responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of the church. There she served as a faithful member of the Community Services team and a deaconess. As Sister Harris believed strongly in the power of prayer, she became a member of the prayer band and held weekly meetings in her home. She loved people and frequently used her home to entertain young and old. Many were introduced to the love of Jesus through her ministry. She was a brilliant cook, baker and drinks maker and no one left her home hungry for food or, more importantly, for the word of God. It was clear that she loved God and committed herself to him. Mother Harris was well respected and possessed several admirable traits which were reflected in the many moving tributes at the funeral service. She was described as devoted to the Lord, warm, friendly, loving and hospitable, to name just a few. The Zion Singers joyfully sang their musical tributes. 'We shall sleep but not for ever' and 'I will meet you in the morning'. Other musical tributes were presented by Ronald Clarke, Ian Henry and Yvonne Hutton. Evadne Whyte, in her personal tribute, told of her mother's love, support and encouragement throughout her life. Officiating ministers at the funeral service were Pastors Cecil Perry (BUC president), Kevin Johns, Fred Mapp, Barry Stokes and Lloyd Antonio. Pastor Perry in his sermon called Mother Harris an 'intrepid little woman' and a 'dedicated saint of God'. She was small in stature but 'big' in the Lord, no great professional, but in her life a teacher and an example because she taught others how to love their fellow men. He stated that a virtuous woman had died and was awaiting her Lord's returning. Our condolences are extended to those she leaves behind - her children Vassall, Sislyn and Evadne, also four granddaughters, three grandsons and two great-grandchildren, her brother Sherman and sisters Ina and Eula. With Sister Harris may we also be ready to meet Jesus and join in that great reunion. *JENNY JEFFERS*

The John Loughborough School Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD requires full-time **Teacher of Girls PE and co-ordinator of Physical Education** to commence April 2003. Permanent contract with 1 Management Allowance. Qualified and enthusiastic teacher of Key Stage 3 & 4 required. The successful candidate will: Demonstrate good general knowledge of National Curriculum for PE and general Educational Issues, have sound knowledge and understanding of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies, be Adventist or sympathetic to the beliefs of church/school, have excellent relationships with students/adults, be able to enthuse and motivate students of all abilities. Application forms available from the Headteacher. Tel: 020 8808 7837

Closing date: Wednesday 19 February 2003

Adventist home school teachers needed to form a social/spiritual group to edify and support each other in this most high calling. If you are praying to meet others like yourself, well here's the answer. Just call Simone on 0771 241 1838.

The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with thanks a donation of £300 received from the Manchester area (December 2002).



The next issue of LIFE.info is **OUT NOW!**

Some FREE copies are being sent to every church but if you want more copies to give away contact: **Pastor Dalbert Elias @ the BUC, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD25 9JZ Tel: 01923 672251**

LIFE.info magazine

Could you write for LIFE.info? If you're interested in getting involved, contact the editor for more information: Lee Gallaher, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL. Email: lee_lifeinfo@mac.com

Sponsored haircut. Michael Hylton, 18, of the Reading Central church, heard of the plight of the Meru tribe in the remote regions of Tanzania. In particular, he heard of the need for 'strong young men' to assist with the laying of water pipelines, so that fresh, clean, running water is easily accessible; and to assist in the building of a church and church school; and in the work of education among the children.

Having contacted Pastor Vincent Goddard in Tanzania to get the necessary details, Michael volunteered his services to help in both areas as part of his gap year before going to university. He decided to raise funds by means of a sponsored haircut - his own. Michael had

Michael having his hair cut



been growing his hair for eighteen months and thus had some long braids. The event took place at Reading Central Church and raised £500.

Additional funds were raised from a concert, a cake auction, as well as generous donations from individuals, bringing the total to £1,000. When Michael reached Tanzania, he presented the cheque to Pastor Goddard.

FLOYD FELIX

Adventist dies in arson attack. An Adventist has died after arsonists destroyed her house during an attack on the village of Baine, Solomon Islands, in December.

Some 200 people doused buildings in Baine with fuel and set them on fire in the early hours of 22 December. The town is the headquarters for the Adventist Church in the region.

'It seems the purpose of the attack was to destroy the permanent buildings and not to hurt the villagers,' says John Turner, treasurer for the church in the Western Solomon Islands.

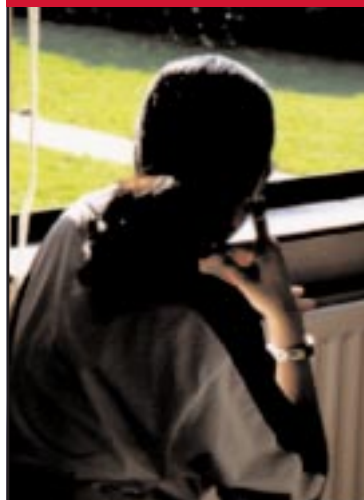
Among the 20 buildings destroyed were the houses of two church members, the Adventist district director, two Adventist teachers, and a shop and a service station owned by two Adventists.

ANN

ACTS 2003 Revealing Jesus at Newbold College
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What has happened to YouthPAGES?

That question has been asked for a while now! Well... it's BACK! A major redesign of the site dictated some downtime, but finally it is online again, with lots of new features, including an events section, music and book resource section, and online events database. YouthPAGES is one of the leading youth websites in the Adventist church. Designed for youth by youth, we try to provide something for everyone's need. Our purpose? 'YouthPAGES exists to serve and inspire young people by connecting them together, equipping them and providing opportunities for ministry, in order to reach others and honour God.' YouthPAGES continually needs help to keep progressing, to develop new features, and to support existing ones.

For more information visit www.youthpages.org or contact myself, ian@youthpages.org.

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IAN M. CORT, SITE MANAGER

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	Lond	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Jan 31	4.48	5.00	4.46	4.43	4.59
Feb 7	5.00	5.13	5.00	4.58	5.14
14	5.13	5.25	5.14	5.14	5.28
21	5.26	5.38	5.27	5.29	5.43

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