

# Messenger



## Adra-UK Annual Appeal Funds Help Bring Relief to 392,000

by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.' " Matthew 25:35, 36 (New International Version).

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to address the devastating effects of disasters upon millions of poor people in our world. In 2002, ADRA-UK responded to 21 disasters aiding over 392,000. This would not have been possible without the support of our church members. THANK YOU for your compassionate ministry.

The objective of this article is to highlight two of ADRA-UK's disaster responses in the last quarter of 2002.

### Southern Africa Famine

This is a food crisis of epic proportions that is threatening the lives of 35 million people. Drought, erratic weather patterns, crop failures, effects of HIV/AIDS and mismanagement of natural resources are contributing to the plight of millions of Southern Africans.

ADRA-UK's Annual Appeal funds assisted with the successful completion of the following three interventions:

- 37,500 poor female-headed households and orphans in Zambia and Malawi have received starter packs which include maize, bean seeds and fertilisers.
- 11,000 farmers in Zambia and Malawi received agricultural training from ADRA specialists to improve crop production.
- 27,000 women and children in Malawi received emergency food supplies.

### Hurricane Isidore, Mexico

ADRA operated 23 feeding centres assisting those who were made homeless by hurricane Isidore on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

Approximately 300,000 households have been affected, and 100,000 people made homeless. This intervention benefited 17,500 people.



### LIFE.info testimony

'I'd like to share my testimony concerning LIFE.info magazine:

'A couple of months ago our neighbours had some people intrude into their home who started to literally beat them up. We were disturbed by all the noise and ran outside to see what was going on. My husband managed to break up the fight between our neighbour and the male intruder, I stood outside praying whilst my mother broke up the fight between the female intruder and our neighbour's girlfriend. It was dreadful. We were all shaken by the incident but thankful that it ended in peace.

'What's this got to do with LIFE.info? Well a few nights after the incident, I decided to give our neighbours a LIFE.info magazine. The topics in the first issue were so apt for them. Especially topics such as 'Bullying' and 'neighbours from Hell!' They thanked us for the magazine and said they would read it. They were both moved to tears that we had helped them and cared about what had happened to them. At Christmas instead of giving us a Christmas card they gave us a beautiful poem about prayer. We were blown away. These were the last people on earth we expected to receive something like that from. Giving them the LIFE.info mag was a great avenue to start a friendship with neighbours who we had termed as 'neighbours from hell' but we have realised that they are God's children who are looking for something more in life. Keep up the good work.'

E. West Midlands

### Did you know ... in 2002

- ADRA-UK assisted with the implementation of 33 development and relief projects benefiting over 1.6 million people in 22 countries.
- ADRA-UK transported 109 tons of aid items to the poor communities of Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.

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.





## Oxford member leaves money for Martyrs' Memorial

In 1555 during the reign of the Roman Catholic Queen Mary Tudor, Bishops Latimer and Ridley were burned at the stake in the town ditch outside the north wall of the City of Oxford. Forced to watch from the parapet of the city wall was Archbishop Cranmer who was to suffer the same fate in the same place the following year. Nearly three hundred years later an appeal was launched to erect a memorial to the three Protestant martyrs. The place of execution was by now a busy

road so the Martyrs' Memorial was put up just around the corner at the southern end of St Giles.

Over the years the monument deteriorated due to air pollution and pigeon debris and, despite various repairs, even as recently as the 1960s, it was eventually placed on the English Heritage 'Buildings at Risk' list. In 2001 the Oxford Preservation Trust launched an appeal to raise the £140,000 needed to repair the memorial and work commenced in May 2002.

Mr Ayrton Perry was a member of the Oxford Adventist church until his death in 1998. He had been extremely interested in the stories of Christian martyrs. In his will Mr Perry made a generous bequest to the Oxford church and it was felt that there could be no more appropriate use for a small part of this than to make a donation to the appeal for the restoration of the Martyrs' Memorial. In return for the gift the church was invited to send representatives to the official ceremony to mark the completion of the work. This was held on Tuesday 7 January, when illuminations were switched on by Oxford author Colin Dexter, the creator of Inspector Morse.

Seventh-day Adventists look upon themselves as heirs of the Protestant Reformers of the sixteenth century. It is fitting therefore that we should have had a small part in the restoration of the famous memorial to three of the bravest of men.

DENNIS PORTER

## Church planters' exchange

Planting a church specifically aimed at reaching people from totally unchurched backgrounds comes fraught with challenges. It takes someone with certain gifts to take on such a challenge. And the difficulties faced by such people are not always the obvious ones. So it is important that those people get together and share stories, to encourage, inspire, and uphold one another in prayer.

For this reason, the TED has been holding an annual Church Planters' Exchange for several years, and on the weekend of 10-12 January the BUC held its first local Exchange. About fifty individuals from all over Britain attended, 25% of whom were employed pastors. The other 75% were men and women committed to the growth of God's Kingdom, some already experienced church planters, others seeking inspiration and help.

Pastor David Cox, BUC Personal Ministries director, who organised the weekend with the help of Pastor Aris Vontzalidis from the SEC and Pastor Paul Haworth, NEC, said, 'This was largely intended to be a lay person's event, as a way of facilitating the long term Life Development vision.' The goal of supporting and encouraging these projects is vital.

Several case studies were discussed, and prayed for. While each church plant is different, many of the difficulties encountered turned out to be surprisingly similar – loneliness, a sense of being misunderstood within the denomination, spiritual attack and personal discouragement. BUC NEWS

# Not trite. Right.

**D**on't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.'

When I first read those words I got irritated. Far too trite. Right? What did the author know about life? Who was *he* to pour an ocean of warm syrup on the rawness of life's sores?

The words had a similar effect on me to that most familiar piece of bumper-sticker theology, 'Let go. Let God.'

There's the atmosphere of a taunt about it. You know, someone admonishing us about what to do with the harsh realities of life – *but from a safe distance!* Somebody talking about life in the valley – from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

'Don't fret or worry . . . shape your worries into prayers.' I mean, how smug can you get? What did *he* know about the harsh realities of life?

Well, quite a bit, as a matter of fact.

He was coming to the end of a six-year stretch of unjust imprisonment; and the end he was expecting – imminently! – involved an axe coming into contact with the sensitive skin of his neck which, thus far, had united his scholarly head with his ailing body.

Some will already have spotted the similarity between the quote with which we started and the words of Paul in the final chapter of one of the last of his prison letters. Some might also have concluded that I have been playing around with Eugene Peterson's paraphrase once again. The only defence I can offer is that if there's anyone who knows about the languages of the Bible *and* about contemporary English usage, that man is Eugene H. Peterson. I began by quoting his paraphrase of Philippians 4:6, 7 in *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (NavPress, 2002).

Back to Paul the apostle. He was in prison. It was in his second letter to Timothy (4:6)\* that Paul wrote, 'The time of my departure has come,' but it could not have been far away when he wrote his letter to the church in Philippi.

So when Paul said, '*Instead of worrying, pray . . . shape your worries into prayers,*' he was pronouncing from the stickiest of wickets. The bright beam of faith that shines out of these

verses shone from a man in the darkest of pits, both metaphorically and literally.

'The whole of Jerusalem' had been 'in uproar' when Paul had been arrested in AD58. Then there had been a two-year imprisonment in Caesarea that had only ended when he had appealed to Caesar; and, subsequently, had continued on Malta, then in Rome. In Rome Paul had almost certainly been tried twice. It is assumed that his execution followed some time after the fire of Rome in AD64.<sup>1</sup>

At least one thing is certain: Paul's 'don't worry' counsel was not given at a safe distance from life. Paul was neck-deep in life's most pungent smells and most pitiless realities, with life's most raucous noises crashing all around him. For six years he had rotted in jail. *This was it.*

Those circumstances mean that Paul's 'don't worry, pray' statement was about as far away from trite as such a statement can be. It came out of long, dark, bitter experience and represented Paul's approach to his own circumstances. If any man was ever qualified to make such a statement, that man was Paul. To the decidedly daunted Christians at Philippi (1:28; 3:1; 4:1), Paul's words must have conveyed tremendous comfort and hope. If that was true for Paul it was true for them; and, for the same reason, and regardless of your circumstances, *it is true for you!*

The words 'Don't worry' are usually declaimed by some fatuous soul who hasn't a clue what weight we are sinking under. That's why we think of them as trite. Paul's 'Don't worry, pray' statement came out from under a mountain of such weights, and represented how he was coping with them.

Paul was not about to get paranoid, as we might; he was saying, 'God is an expert at bringing good out of the worst of situations; and the good he is bringing out of my long imprisonment is the greater progress of his gospel. Why, Christ is, as a consequence, known even among the Praetorian Guard! Souls have been won for Christ even in Caesar's own household! What more proof do you want?' (Philippians 1:12-13, 16, 20; 4:22.)

Paul was not about to give up his goals because his immediate circumstances were discouraging, as we might; he was saying, 'Whether I live or die, Christ is exalted through my experience; if I die in my next conscious moment I

shall see him when he returns.' (1:20-23; 2:16; 3:20; 4:19.)

Paul, faced by death, was not about to throw up his arms in horror, bleat, whinny, whimper, and give up, as we might; he was saying, 'Of course, there's still a chance I might see you! Whatever the outcome of my affairs, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel, stand firm in one spirit in the faith of the gospel. Instead of being anxious, be joyful. The Lord is near!' (1:8-10, 27; 2:24; 4:4-7.)

Paul, with so many distractions, was not about to lose sight of the gospel about which he had written so wonderfully in, among other places, his letters to the Christians in Rome, Galatia and Ephesus, as we might in the face of death; he was saying, 'I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection.' (3:8-10.)

Paul was not floundering and flustered as we might be in his circumstances; he was as clear-sighted as ever – 'I press on toward the goal' (3:14); and equally clear about the source of his strength – 'I can do all things through Him' (4:13).

Paul had cracked the secret of contentment, and found it to be Jesus; and he was happy to share his secret with joy (4:4-7, 10-13).

After any number of hard knocks in the cause of Christ, years of injustice and facing man's last enemy; to those who would follow on the path *he* had beaten, Paul wrote, 'My God will supply all your needs.' (4:19.)

For you, I think; and for me.

Not trite. Right. Right?

'It is wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of life.'

Can we get to that?

Reference:

<sup>1</sup> *Footprints of Paul* (Autumn House, 1995), pages 111-138.

\* All Bible quotations taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, except when otherwise indicated.



## Prayer Feature

### Don't just sit there . . .

First of all I would like to thank you if you have already sent some prayer requests to me. As I write these words I have not yet received any letters asking for my prayers, such is the need to write well in advance of publication, but I hope you will get writing soon. I have been looking at how I might inspire you to feel that asking my prayer chain of Swansea and Carmarthen church members and me to pray for your need might be beneficial to you. Jesus himself says in John 15:7, NIV, 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.' Surely the more of us who ask for the same things the greater the loving power of God will be released for our good.

In his book, *Don't Just Stand There Pray Something*, Ronald Dunn points out that 'In the last meeting with his disciples before his death (John 14-17), Jesus repeated these words six times: "If you ask . . . I will do." (Page 39.) We all know that sometimes God says 'No' to our requests, but if you don't ask, then you definitely won't get, as the saying goes. We serve a loving God who wants us to love each other and to love him. We can only grow in love with anyone if we communicate with them, and if we do this in large numbers for the same people we will be freeing God to do what he wants to do for us and our church. Please pick up a pen if you have need.

Write to: Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Penygroes Road, Caerbyrn, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 3BZ.

TRACY DIXON

## Healthwise

### Many are cold . . .

**H**owever, they don't have to be frozen! Prolonged exposure to cold, which reduces the body temperature below 35°C, causes hypothermia, and can lead to further serious illness or fatality.

In hypothermia the whole body is affected with decreased blood flow through the kidneys and brain. The condition affects all ages but is most common in adults over age 60 when the body systems are slowing down as part of the ageing process; in young children; and in people exposed to the elements without adequate protection.

The early symptoms of hypothermia are: shivering and low body temperature; a slow pulse; poor muscle co-ordination; and mental confusion and amnesia. If untreated, the symptoms progress with a temperature drop (to 25°-28°C); purple fingers, toes and nail beds; rigidity of the muscles; and loss of consciousness.

Hypothermia risks are increased with: length of exposure; ageing; thin or wet clothing; body size (with thin people at most risk); smoking and alcohol use; and in the mentally impaired. The complications of hypothermia include loss of fingers or toes; shock; pneumonia; and, of course, death.

Preventive measures include: having adequate protective clothing if leisure pursuits carry a risk of exposure to water or cold weather (several layers of windproof clothing, hat, scarf and gloves); warm housing with good ambient temperature (even if this is not as warm as desired, wearing woollen bands covering the wrists and knees will prevent heat loss from these vulnerable areas); careful observation of elderly and sick people, particularly if they live alone; and regular warm food and drinks.

As in other areas of life, prevention is better

than cure and preparations can be made in advance of cold weather. Ensuring that there is protective clothing when it is needed most, and checking accommodation to see which room will be best for elderly people to use are good first steps. The elimination of draughts and the provision of heating before the cold spell strikes will bring peace of mind to all concerned, and a care plan devised to ensure comfort will all help to reduce the risk of hypothermia.

Taking all reasonable measures should minimise the risk of hypothermia through what remains of the winter and its vicious chill factors and help cut down on the approximately 25,000 excess winter deaths associated with the condition annually in the UK.







# A Reflective Overview



Each year we take the opportunity to share with our constituency, at the annual Inter-Sessions meeting, information about the activities that are taking place around the Conference. In this article we are sharing some of this information with the wider field.

## Evangelism

Evangelism is the core activity of the Church's mission. It testifies to the ethos of the Church in relation to its mission. Where there is commitment to Christ and positive, evangelistic activity, the Church is kept alive and healthy and numerical growth is generally experienced.

In 2001 over 40 churches submitted evangelism proposals, indicating their intention to run evangelistic efforts during 2002. There were also those churches that had planned to run church-based outreach activities, but had not submitted a formal proposal. Reports received to date indicate that we have had a total of 228 people join the Church during 2002; 210 of these were by baptism. We expect the figure to increase as we receive further reports for 2002.

## New initiatives

Over the past two years we have had new initiatives developing within the Conference by way of church plants. There is the Cottagebeck 'Café Church' in Scunthorpe, 'The Manor' in Sheffield and the 'Fishpool Community Church' in Bury. We would like to see many more of these taking place around the Conference in the days ahead. We pray that these new initiatives will develop to become strong, established congregations in our Conference.

## Finance

We must recognise and express our sincere appreciation to our members and ministry for their faithful support of the Church financially. Over the past three years we have seen a steady increase in tithe income, at an average of 10% year on year. The

December 2002 tithe report shows a receipt of nearly £3 million. Through the Gift Aid programme we have been able to claim an average of £350,000 a year from the Inland Revenue over the past three years for the support of the work in our Conference.

## Care and nurture

The nurture of the membership is essential to the spiritual health and vitality of the Church. To foster this aspect of church life the administration now requires our ministers to submit a draft of their strategy for nurturing their congregations. The Camp Meeting programme and a number of Bible conferences are planned each year as part of the strategy of the Conference for care and nurture of membership. Through these programmes we also reach out, evangelistically, to those who come to fellowship with us.

## Staffing

Adequate staffing within the administrative office of the Conference, as well as in the field, is essential to our progress. As well as two new administrators joining the team, we employed one Bible instructor, three ministerial interns, one licensed minister and three office support staff. Three ministers were ordained to the Gospel ministry at the last Camp Meeting.

## BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT NEC office

One of our objectives for the current term is to give attention to the refurbishment and maintenance of Conference-owned property; for many years very little has been done towards the maintenance of the office. During 2001 the Executive Committee approved a proposal to carry out refurbishment of the building in stages. The result is that the appearance of the NEC office has been greatly improved, thus enhancing its appearance and making it a more representative administrative office.

## Development of Aberdaron

The campsite at Aberdaron holds very precious memories for many of our members. For many years limited development had taken place on the site, although it continued to provide a service to the youth of our church, to families and to individuals with disabilities (those attending the Special Needs Camp).

In 1999 the administration, working with a small committee, drew up a five-year plan for the development of the site to make it useable thirty-six weeks of the year, rather than only six weeks, as in the past.

A project manager was employed at the beginning of 2002, and development work began on the site during the first quarter. The main hall has been redecorated. New carpet and new furniture were put into place. Five new, two-bedroomed, purpose-built chalets have been constructed. The main services on the site have been updated and upgraded to meet currently approved standards. The site has been landscaped to make it more suitable and user-friendly. We have received excellent support from individuals who are interested in the project, one donor financing the cost of one chalet. On visiting Aberdaron and seeing the finished product, he was so impressed that he offered to finance a second chalet. We are extremely grateful to everyone for his or her generosity to this project.

As a part of its development programme, the Conference will be turning its attention to the properties on Ravenhurst Street in Birmingham, the former West Midlands Centre.

## Church buildings

About 64% of the churches in the North England Conference own their places of worship. The other 36% meet mainly in rented accommodation. Over the past two years the Conference has assisted six congregations in acquiring properties of their own. A seventh congregation has been greatly blessed with its own place of worship – a generous gift from a member who wants to support

the work of the Church. We trust that those congregations that are still worshipping in rented accommodation will, in time, be able to acquire premises of their own.

## Education

The education programme in our Conference is centred on our two schools, Dudley House and Harper Bell. Both institutions continue to progress academically and have been commended by HM Inspectors for their progressive development. Financially, Dudley House has made a remarkable recovery and is currently operating in the black. Harper Bell has greatly improved its financial situation and we are currently working with the school to enable it to achieve and sustain a positive financial position. We are grateful to the heads and the staff of both schools for the excellent work they are doing with and for our children.

## Conference membership

The Conference continues to experience membership growth. Reports show that the membership, which currently stands at 6,243, has increased by 183 on the membership figure as at December 2001.

On reflection we have so much for which to give thanks to the Lord. The Gospel is being preached and souls are being born for the Kingdom of God. Overall, the work of the Church in the North England Conference is progressing. However, we cannot be complacent; there are greater challenges ahead as we continue to carry out our mission in an ever-changing, complex world.

I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Conference administration, our sincere appreciation to the membership and ministry of the North England Conference for their support, financially and otherwise, and for their faithful co-operation over the past year. All that has been achieved we have accomplished together, with the help of the Lord. The praise and the glory belong to God.

# Sin as addiction

by Hubert Smith-Samuels

The addiction of sin can lead us down into dark, dark places. There self-esteem can be replaced by self-loathing and that, in turn, can become a symptom of depression. When Paul said, 'What a wretched man I am,' is it possible that he had gone there? When he asked, 'Who shall deliver me?' can we identify with his question? If so, let us take on board the answer that he found: 'I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!'

Who said confession is good for the soul? Did they know what they were talking about? Did they experience it? Paul seems to have understood the fight, the battle against sin, and the impact of the war. He seems to have captured the feelings and emotions which that war brings. It stunts your powers, limits ability, and confines flair, creativity, imagination and innovation. Pointing the finger does no good. For it is you who is trapped. Paul called himself a 'wretched man'; I always wondered what he meant. Now I know.

Trapped by circumstances, chained and held by circumstances, you become ineffective; the more ineffective the less productive; the less productive the more ineffective. All this happens as you watch, powerless and impotent. How did I get here? It is too easy to blame someone else or to say, 'I don't know' or 'It just happened'. The fact is it probably sneaked up on you. Paul said, 'Be careful in helping others in sin, that you do not succumb yourself.' Yes, it *does* sneak up on you. But sin needs to be invited and fed and does not dress inappropriately when standing at the door, with the kindest eyes and the gentlest smile. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. I wasn't looking, I wasn't watching, I wasn't asking for help. I thought I could handle it. *It* handled me.

You ask where am I now. Praying, you'd think. No. 'Why?' you ask. 'Have you forgotten how?' No. 'Talk to someone,' you say.

Why? Who? Would they understand? I am not looking for sympathy, empathy or counselling, especially the last.

Do I know the signposts home? Yes. Can I read them? Yes. Do I need help? Yes. Have I confessed? Yes. No. Yes. No. Seventy-times-seven is a strange number. You see, you never keep count to see how many times you have been down the same greased helter-skelter. When others pray it seems that what they are saying is, 'There, there' and 'Ahhh, poor fellow'.

When you are this far down, that's not much help.

What have I done, you ask. What is the worst sin you can commit? No, not that one! That is not the worst. No, the worst sin is the addictive one! You wake and you sleep and you live with it. A weight that breaks every moral bone and sucks you dry of all the moral fortitude you thought you had. And now you stand surrounded by righteous people, in the midst you stand – a sinner. How small, insignificant and uncomfortable. It is not possible to live here. That is why sin and goodness will always be at enmity with one another. So we struggle to feel bad and feel even worse while struggling. Suicide, leaving your wife, leaving your family all seem reasonable and acceptable options. False reasoning appears logical: I will leave the church rather than (a) besmirch its good name, (b) be a hypocrite, or, worse still, (c) stay and become an ineffective tool. In fact any course of action that gets you away from anything and anyone that is righteous seems a reasonable and acceptable option.

Addiction is a good word for what sin does to you. I didn't like it at first. Neither will you. But the road to recovery is much the same as it is for an addict. You have to confess: First, that you are an addict; Second, that you cannot help yourself; Third, that you need outside assistance; Fourth, the way back is painful.

Imagine driving. The speed limit is 50 mph and you are driving at 65 mph. Are you breaking the law? Why not slow down to the limit? Why are you driving that fast? Eventually you are stopped. What is your reaction? How dare you! I wasn't going that fast? Victimised? Picked on? Name your excuse. You now have a fine and points on your licence. What do you do next? Continue to drive with the same state of mind, or transform? Do you now look over your shoulder, checking for speed cameras, patrol cars, in fear of being caught again; or do you drive within the limits with no fear?

## Dublin population explosion

In the past eighteen months Dublin has experienced a population explosion – and this has been reflected in the membership of the Dublin church. Pastor Douglas McCormac has blessed almost twenty children, and his diary is filling up for 2003! Among those baptised has been Ngabeni Hlongwane who arrived from Zimbabwe some two years ago.

COMMUNICATION SPONSOR

## Church without pastor baptises seven

Smethwick had not had a baptism since 1999, but seven candidates were baptised on 9 November. The new members are Marjorie Blake, Michelle Dallas, Verna Grant, Anna Grant, Anna-Kaye Harris, Mizanne Harris, Ava-Gayle Holness and Philip Sangster.

The baptismal service was at the West Bromwich church and was conducted by Camp Hill minister Pastor Jeff Nicholson.

God has worked in miraculous ways to rebuild the Smethwick congregation. Our thankfulness for the harvest of souls is deep because, in the absence of a pastor for several months, we have had to rely on our elder, B. Holness. Brother Holness, a young man, prepared each candidate for baptism.

The Smethwick congregation has grown rapidly. For the past six months we have had a full church each Sabbath.

P. SWABY (MRS)

## Newport outreach

In the run-up to Christmas, Newport members distributed Christmas cards, copies of FOCUS and LIFE.info magazines, together with cordial invitations to join them in worship to the people

We have said for so long that we live in the end time, but our actions do not mirror our words. We are still looking to build, to acquire and to stay. For many of us, this is where our treasure is. As for me, I've been down too long in the pit of snares, lonely, cold and miry; no one else lived there but depression, self-loathing and the irrationality that seemed rational in the darkness. When gentle light flooded in, it was bright enough for me, allowing me to see the rungs of the ladder that I needed to climb out. Am I out of the pit? No. I am still climbing out. As I climb, there is more light, I see more clearly. Looking down impedes

who live in the district surrounding the church.

A special nativity play was performed by the children under the direction of Pastor and Mrs Adrian Broome. The 'Knitwit' group, busy with their needles all year, contributed, among many other things, eighteen blankets to the collection of chocolate, gifts and books distributed in two residential homes by the Communication department. Each church member who lives alone received a special gift.

VERA MACHELL

## Cardiff: A family affair

On 26 October the Cardiff church members celebrated with three generations of the Moore family. Recently-installed minister Clyde Moore dedicated his two grandsons, Jakeda (3) and Jahfari (2). Their mother Jeanelle was presented with a Children's Bible for each of the boys. The church was packed for a puppet presentation co-ordinated by Annette Moore, grandmother, assisted by puppeteers Rory and Josh Barber, Michael Haran-Heser and Dijon Moore.

CLYDE R. MOORE

## ROUNDELWOOD HEALTH CENTRE

23-30 March 2003  
Reversing diabetes

Diabetes is a very serious condition which can lead to blindness, heart disease, stroke and kidney failure. Many church members suffer from diabetes, *but it can be reversed.*

Dr Clarence Ing, of the Weimar Health Institute in the USA will conduct this very important programme at Roundelwood for diabetics, health professionals and church Health and Temperance secretaries.

Discount 20% on normal rates – a saving of £116. Total cost for the week is £464. For full details and reservations call Diane at Roundelwood on 01764 653806.

climbing, impedes progress.

If you are or have been where I have been, look at Romans 12:1, 2. You too will be a sleeping giant awakened, working at maximum capacity with a never-ending power source. Jesus said, 'Go . . . and make disciples . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen.' (Matthew 28:20.)

Paul's answer to winning the battle was, 'I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God.' (Romans 7:25.)



# United in the wonder of his grace

A report on the BUC Ministerial Council at Swanwick, 6-9 January, by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

From Monday 6 to Thursday 9 January virtually the entire ministerial workforce of the British Union Conference met together at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, for their annual Ministerial Council. Altogether more than two hundred people attended the event which focused on the General Conference theme for 2003, 'United in the Wonder of His Grace'. Guest speakers included: Ed Dickerson, a layman from America with extensive

## Wimbledon goes to Centre Court!

On Friday 20 December 2002 from 4-6pm Christmas carols could be heard ringing throughout Centre Court shopping mall in Wimbledon town centre, thanks to the thirty members and friends of Wimbledon church who had gone there to witness to the community and to collect money for the local Mayor's charities: Christian Care and Diabetes UK.

Councillor Edith Macauley, Mayor of Merton, provided T-shirts, baseball hats and buckets for those taking part.

A total of £408.68 was collected for the Mayor's charities. A further cheque for £100, representing part of the monies collected at the Carols by Candlelight concert, held on the following evening in Wimbledon church, was also presented to Wandsworth Women's Aid, another local charity supported by the church.

ASHA WILIE

Gregory and Gabrielle Morrison collecting



hands-on experience of reaching post-moderns; Roscoe Howard, newly-elected secretary of the North American Division; Oscar Osindo, lecturer in Islamic Studies at Newbold College; Willma Bartlett, a specialist in Child Protection; and Harald Wollan, secretary of the Trans-European Division.

### Keynote address

In his keynote address on Monday evening BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry spoke about 'God's Amazing Grace'. He pointed out that although natural justice demands an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, grace breaks the rule and saves us from the otherwise inevitable consequences of our actions. However, he went on to say that, 'to whom much is given much is required. When we deal with people who may have wronged us we consider how God deals with us.'

### 'Toxic Adventists'

Ed Dickerson's humorous style made him an instant favourite with his audience. His emphasis was on the importance of relationships in Christian witness and he highlighted the issue of what he referred to as 'Toxic Adventists'. 'The people in our church who we tend to think of as saints are those who have a preoccupation with church work and are good, rather than nice. But this model of godliness has to change. These people

may have admirers but they have no friends. In order to be effective witnesses we need to build healthy relationships with others and with God.' Ed went on to encourage ministers and members alike, 'The witness



that really counts is ministering to people's needs, and we have thousands of people in our churches who can do that.'

### Diversity

Roscoe Howard's special subject was diversity. In his introduction he talked about his upbringing in black, white and mixed families, and went on to show from the Bible that we are in

fact all blood relatives, from the same family. 'With a correct understanding of scripture,' he said, 'Seventh-day



Adventists will create a new culture. We will not allow secular society to define culture for us. Everyone will be our brother or sister.' In a later lecture Roscoe explained why the issue of diversity needs to be faced up to. 'Demographically it is predicted that by the year 2050 there will



be no dominant culture in North America. It is a fact that the Church has changed and it will continue to change. The question is, do we spend our time worrying about why the change has taken place or do we work on adapting to the change?'

### Revived by humour

Wednesday afternoon was dedicated to the LIFEdevelopment.info evangelistic strategy and presenters included Miroslav Pujic and Dalbert Elias, who are key promoters of the project, and Lee Gallaher who announced the imminent release of the next LIFE.info magazine. Lee's

presentation went down well, his dry sense of humour reviving those who were beginning to flag under the sheer weight of information being presented. New faces in connection with LIFEdevelopment.info were Daniel Suadwah and Raymond Ogbobu, whose company, Future Advent, is taking over the design and implementation of the LIFEdevelopment.info website.

### Child abuse

On the last day Willma Bartlett spoke quietly to a subdued audience on the issue of child abuse. 'Everyone expects our churches to be safe,' she said, 'but we can't assume that. Just as we cannot assume that our churches are safe from fire, we need to put in a system for ensuring that our children are safe.' Fortunately the Church has been actively implementing new guidelines and procedures in the area of child safety, and Willma, together with Heather Haworth, outlined some of the training materials that are now available.



1. SEC Executive secretary Humphrey Walters holds up his 24-page LD: Friendship Evangelism pamphlet. 'How do we share our faith in a society where many believe that God is dead, but that Elvis is still alive?'
2. BUC president Cecil Perry's keynote address. 'To whom much is given, much is required...'
3. Lee Gallaher. The latest issue of LIFE.info is now ready
4. The British Union Conference pastoral team together with visiting speakers
5. North American Division Executive secretary Roscoe Howard talks on cultural diversity
6. Oscar Osindo: 'Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world'
7. Layman Ed Dickerson lays it on the line to the pastors. He spoke of 'Toxic Adventists'. 'The model of godliness has to change,' he said



### Commitment

Harald Wollan concluded the Ministerial Council with a devotional study on 'commitment'. He emphasised the fact that God uses normal people to do his work, 'people like you and me, but people who can make a difference'. These 'difference makers' need to have certain qualities such as discipline, being a good team member, and perseverance, but mainly they need to be willing 'to show others that a life with God is worth more than a life without God'.

### Communion

There were many other memorable events during the week, including workshops, worships, and a particularly encouraging report back from several ministers who are seeing God work in exceptional ways in their districts. Most would agree, however, that the most memorable time of all was on Wednesday evening when everyone joined together in the chapel for a communion service. This included a solo, 'Grace Grace', by North England Conference president Egerton Francis, and a sermon based on Romans 5 by South England Conference president Don McFarlane. In his farewell remarks BUC Ministerial Association director Alan Hodges, who organised the whole Ministerial Council, spoke of the communion service as being the highlight of the week, and thanked all those who had helped to make the meetings a time of spiritual renewal and true fellowship.

## HBS children on TV

Milton Keynes church began running a children's community Holiday Bible School five years ago. It has been successful each year. Last year all forty-five places were taken.

The HBS commemorated the Queen's Golden Jubilee and took for its theme 'Let's Celebrate Jesus, King of Kings'. The staff greeted the children each morning with smiles and beautifully-decorated surroundings.

The HBS was provided with at least seven volunteer helpers each week, who supervised all activities and were also to provide for every child's emotional needs.

The daily programme comprised many different activities. Registration time for most children was 8.30am when each child was given the choice of either taking part in an exciting group board or floor game, or of quietly settling down with a word puzzle. After that, they were given refreshments and sent outside to run wild among the church gardens. The Play Association provided us with recreational equipment such as go-carts, scooters and balls. We played games such as football, badminton and volleyball.

Worship followed, and this was great. A musician, Ruth, produced backing tracks for our songs. Lessons were split into three age-groups. My group studied communication. The time from 12.30 to 5pm was spent on arts and crafts, playtimes and even exciting trips to the city park.

Each week the children were taken on day trips. Our last trip was to the National Hockey Stadium, for the national play day. We were able to meet children from play schemes around Milton Keynes. Some of us were interviewed by Anglia News and appeared on TV later that evening.

Most children enjoyed HBS very much. The OFSTED inspector said it was planned with great thought and care. That's what we thought.

SIOBHAN WILLIAMS, 12.

### Stanborough School Vacancies

**BOARDING SCHOOL.** Two vacancies from April 2003 for House Master/Chaplain and Assistant Matron in the Boarding School. Suit married couple with experience of working with teenagers of different cultural and religious backgrounds in pastoral capacity. The positions are demanding on physical, mental and spiritual resources. Strong self-discipline/spiritual commitment essential. Successful candidates will possess good organisational/supervisory skills and demonstrate full commitment to the principles and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ideally with a clean UK driving licence category D1. **TEACHER OF SPANISH** to teach KS3. The applicant should hold a degree in Spanish, a teaching qualification and preferably have some classroom teaching experience. Part-time position starting 28 April. Applicants for both positions must apply by letter and send a current CV to: The Headmaster, Stanborough School, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JT. Closing date 20 March '03.



## Radiant centenarian

by G. Martin Bell

Irene Osborne, former Bible worker and Voice of Prophecy Bible teacher, was 100 years old on 14 January. The ward at the James Paget Hospital in Great Yarmouth was lit up by her beaming smile as she greeted many friends, including Pastor Cecil Perry and his secretary, Valerie Pearce, who had travelled 170 miles from Watford to join the birthday celebrations.

What Irene had looked forward to most of all about her birthday was the opportunity to witness to the newspaper people when they came to interview her, and, true to her word, she spent a considerable time telling the young lady reporter about her life as a Christian and how she gave her heart to Jesus when she was 11 years old. Irene was delighted when the reporter quoted her almost word for word, and

described the celebrations in the following way:

'In spite of being in the James Paget Hospital at Gorleston, after a fall, it was a radiant Centenarian who greeted everyone on Tuesday who had come to see her, with a kiss and a "God bless you".'

The ward was full of flowers from well-wishers all over the country, some eighty or ninety greeting cards, balloons, and a special celebration cake with Irene's picture in icing brought by her visiting niece, Sylvia Bruce, from Brighton.

Other hospital patients and their visitors joined in the happy celebrations as the Mayor and Mayoress of Lowestoft arrived with a huge bunch of flowers, and the Hospital Administrator with a large bottle of

champagne (much to Irene's embarrassment, who stated that she had never touched a drop in her life!). Irene enjoyed the company of the Mayor and Mayoress for several minutes and told them all about her faith and her Church.

It was unfortunate that Irene suffered a fall and broke her femur shortly before her birthday celebrations, but she is looking forward to returning to her retirement flat at the Dell where she enjoys independent living.

Irene is looking forward so much to Jesus' return. Until then, we wish her every happiness in her 101st year.



Pastors Perry and Bell, together with the president's secretary Mrs Valerie Pearce, celebrate with Irene Osborne on her one hundredth birthday, 14 January



## Fastest Faith First

At 8pm on Sunday 29 December Pastor Gary Gordon, the associate pastor in the Birmingham Camp Hill district, featured on the popular BBC2 television programme 'Top Gear'. He took part in a driving competition entitled 'Fastest Faith First' which seeks to find the fastest driver from a selection of people representing different faith communities. As a pastor in a large built-up area Gary does not get much opportunity for competitive driving but he relished the chance to test his skills against others on the track. The section was introduced by programme presenter Jeremy Clarkson.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

### Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 29 June 2003 in the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church.

Delegates should note that registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am. Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendations Committee.

L. R. EDWARDS, president  
V. PILMOOR, secretary

**Acknowledgement.** The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with thanks a donation of £200 received January 2003.

## LIFE.info magazine

### NEEDS WRITERS

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

**WANTED** *Planet in Rebellion* by George Vandeman. Pastor Philip Rhodes of Galway would like to lay his hands on this book. If you can help please contact the editor.

### ABC BOOK SALES 2003

#### February

16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
22 ACTS Programme Newbold College

#### March

16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
23 West Midlands 10am-2pm

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	Lond	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Feb 14	5.13	5.25	5.14	5.14	5.28
21	5.26	5.38	5.27	5.29	5.43
28	5.38	5.51	5.40	5.44	5.57
Mar 7	5.51	6.03	5.53	5.59	6.11

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Single copy subscription by post £13.  
Overseas airmail £27.50

UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Banquet - A Celebration of Love	23 February	Harper Bell School, Birmingham	Various artistes from the North and South	Judith on 0121 544 3990 and Lois on 0121 608 6101
Church Dedication celebration - services for the day and pot-luck	Sabbath 8 March	Worcester church (All welcome!)	Dr Laurence Turner of Newbold College	Phone 01684 297 176
Faith for Today presents 'Binding the Wounds'	14-22 February	Holloway church, 381 Holloway Road, N7.	Drs Ron and Nancy Rockey (USA)	Contact: Pastor Ackie 07950 703 694; Irwin Larrier 07905 853 019
	Friday 14 Feb 7-9pm			
	Saturday 15 Feb 9.30am-6.30pm Sunday 16 Feb 10am-5pm (teens)			
	Monday 17 Feb-Thursday 20 Feb, 7-9pm	Walthamstow church, 78-80 Boundary Road, Walthamstow, E17.	(No Teens Programme)	
	Friday 21 Feb 7-9pm Saturday 22 Feb 9.30am-6.30pm	Tottenham West Green Road church, 255 West Green Road, N15.		
Agape presents 'Out of many'	19-23 February	Greenwich Playhouse, 189 Greenwich High Rd London SE10 8JA	A play by Mark Grey	Box Office 0208 858 9256 <a href="mailto:boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk">boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk</a>

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