

Messenger



Communicate your passion!

by Victor Pilmoor, ADRA-UK treasurer



Collecting Dates

Provinces

29 March-13 April

Metropolitan

29 March-20 April

Fred was walking down the street when a boy scout rushed up to him.

'Hey, Mr! Would you like to buy a raffle ticket? It's in aid of our Scout hut.'

Fred was a generous type and took £10 out of his pocket. 'Cor, Mr! Would you like to come down to the scout hut and make the draw?'

'OK,' replied Fred. 'When is it?'

'Friday six o'clock,' said the lad. 'Come and meet Mr Green.'

Sure enough, Fred showed up and started talking to Mr Green about the boys and the work they were doing; about the changes that scouting brought to the young lads. Before long Mr Green said, 'How about helping us paint this place on Sunday?'

'Why not?' said Fred.

On Sunday Fred pitched in and did his part, chatting with Mr Green and the boys as he worked. 'Have you ever thought about joining our committee?' asked Mr Green.

'Sure, why not?' said Fred.

From one chance encounter Fred moved from being a casual acquaintance and donor to becoming a committed member of the cause. Fundraisers don't only raise funds, they raise participation and commitment to meet the needs of people. The ADRA Annual Appeal programme is not just about raising funds, it is an invitation to care about people in distress and ultimately associate with people who care. Most of us admire the work that charities do. We all know that they need funds to continue but we have reservations about being a 'champion'. How do we pluck up the courage?

Identify your personal convictions

Do you get angry? What do you really feel strongly about? Does it matter to you that the majority of children in this world grow up in poverty, experience needless suffering and curable pain? Most of us live contented lives mildly conscious of disparities. We shrug our shoulders because the problems are so great and decide that they should be solved by others or by governments. Sometimes we believe that people are responsible for their own suffering! Adopt the strongest of your convictions, find out which form of suffering really makes you angry, brings a lump to your throat or is closest to your own experience. You can't be passionate about everything.

Put a face to your conviction

People who support cancer charities for instance often do so because they associate with the pain and suffering of a loved relative. They argue: 'No one should experience the pain my mother experienced.' Try to imagine that the children you are trying to help are *your* children. See the institutional oppression of women as a limitation to *your* mother, sister or daughter. Imagine a cancer-bound victim as a father and husband in a family who will become destitute. Admit that you would not stand idly by if something could be done for someone you love. Think about *real* people.

Respond to a face

There are many ways that you could respond. You could join a political party, organise a march, write a letter to the United Nations. You could offer an act of kindness that would bring relief for one day. There are people who do all of these things. The best charitable organisations, however, try to address 'causes'. ADRA seeks to address a range of causes.

Choose one.

Set an achievable goal

Not one of us can do it all! But all of us can do *something!*

Commit yourself to give 8 hours, over two weeks, and raise £200 in £5 notes.

Decide to run a marathon and get 30 sponsors at 50p a mile.

Tell 10 of your best workmates about your challenge and get them to contribute £10.

Goals give us a sense of achievement; they help us to triumph in the face of helplessness.

Communicate your vision

Tell people about the goal that you have set and ask them to help with £5 or 50p a mile to support the kind of people you have visualised.

We make the mistake of 'begging others' to support an institution because we believe in 'the Church' or 'ADRA'. We find this embarrassing because we are asking people to support something we feel we own. In reality, people are just as frustrated about suffering as you are. People will enjoy hearing your passion. They don't mind being invited to help do what they would love to do themselves. The charity is the *vehicle* – not the journey or the destination. *People feel good about helping other people.*

Become a continuing instrument of God's peace

Once you have allowed God's Spirit to work in and through you to address the needs of 'the least of these my brethren', you will want to do more. God wants to finish the work he has started, in you. The support of people in need is not just an annual event. God's people are called to address the needs of the hurting 365 days a year. ADRA does just that, in places you could never reach. Become a participant!



Prayer Feature
International Women's Day of Prayer
1 March 2003
 by Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director, BUC

In 2003 the prayer focus covers three world divisions of our church:

- Africa-Indian Ocean**, which covers 32 countries. This area has seen a great deal of war and unrest in recent years and the women and children especially have suffered. In addition to the challenges of war, they face poverty, sickness and famine. But the women have been proactive in ministry, carrying on literacy, health and AIDS education, small enterprise development, leadership training, and public (as well as one-to-one) evangelism. They ask for your prayers for the women in leadership and for the girl children who do not receive first preference for education. One of the great challenges of this division is the Muslim population.
- Eastern Africa** has a population of 1,960,156. Abuse and poverty are big challenges. It is difficult for the women to be involved in ministry for Christ. Pray for them to be nurtured and for their faith to grow.
- North American Division** is made up of the USA, Canada, Bermuda and some Pacific islands where 306 million people live. There are three primary requests from this division:
 - For continued recovery from the effects of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks.
 - For the many who are suffering from domestic violence, even in the church; among Adventist church members statistics show that 1:4 girls and 1:6 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 16.
 - And for the *Heart Call Ministry*. This is a ministry of women reaching women who are taking a break from church.

Celeste Walker, who has written the material for this Prayer Sabbath, challenges each of us with these words: 'If there were arteries and veins in our Christianity, prayers would course along them like blood, bringing essential nutrients to our soul and taking our depleted resources back to God to be strengthened and renewed.'



MISSION Festival
Wembley Arena
26th April 2003

people need the Lord

Speakers
 dwight nelson cecil perry
 miroslav pujic don mcfarlane

Afternoon **Adventist Prom Praise** Full 60-piece orchestra
 Starts 10.00am Doors open at 9.30am

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
 For more information, contact the South England Conference:
 26 St Johns Road, Watford, Herts WD17 1PZ Tel: 01923 232 728

Health Day Special – a health emphasis day.
 Afternoon workshops. Healthy lunch provided.
 Stafford Adventist Church, Stafford North End Community Centre, Holmcroft Road, Stafford
Sabbath 15 March, 10am
 Guest speaker, Dr Anthony Espinet, NEC Health and Temperance sponsor
 Andrew Sudworth: 07769 930969 or andrew@christonthestreet.org.uk

Healthwise

Insalt!

Nutritionists have been telling the general public for a number of years that they need to reduce their intake of sugars, fats, and salt if they want to protect their health (especially to help reduce blood pressure in the latter case). Manufacturers of processed foods signalled their co-operation by labelling their products 'low-(whatever)' where appropriate. Now it appears that the public have been *insalted* . . . er, insulted all this while.

A Food Commission Report shows that there has been little change – if any, in some cases – to the salt levels recorded for foods 25 years ago. Around 400 foods were analysed in 1978 for inclusion in McCance and Widdowson's *The Composition of Foods*, the bible for food researchers and nutritionists. Not only have some manufacturers not reduced salt levels, many popular items exceed the 1970s levels. Bearing in mind that all products with over 500mg of sodium per 100g of food are high in salt,

the following makes for thirsty reading:
CRISPS: Golden Wonder Lightly salted 1,400mg; Hula Hoops Original 1,200mg (ready salted 700mg); McCoy's Cheddar & Onion 900mg; Kettle Chips NY Cheddar 500mg; Pringles Original 540mg.
BAKED BEANS: CPC Red Gold, Heinz (and Heinz Organic), HP Foods, M & S, Sainsbury's (all types), Tesco (all types); all at 500mg.
WHITE BREAD: Mother's Pride 400mg; Mother's Pride Stay Fresh, Kingsmill, Nimble, Sunblest; all at 500mg; Hovis Farmhouse, Warburton's, 600mg; Harvestime Organic, 660mg.
CANNED TOMATO SOUP: Heinz, Sainsbury's Low Price, Tesco, all at 400mg; Sainsbury's, Baxters, both 500mg.

Some foods marketed for children also gave the Commission cause for concern. For example: A small can of Heinz Teletubbies pasta shapes with mini sausages in tomato sauce contained 25% more salt

than the recommended daily maximum; and a similar-sized can of Barney the Dinosaur pasta shapes in tomato sauce had 37% more salt than recommended.

The government's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) is concerned that children are currently exceeding recommended salt intakes, and proposes that salt levels be reduced to the following maximums for the age-range indicated: 0-6 months, less than 1g a day; 7-12 months, 1g; 1-6 years, 2g (currently children average 5g daily just from processed foods); 7-14 years, 5g (with some campaigners seeking to limit this to 3g).

The Food Commission are also lobbying for clearer and more accurate food labelling. Without that – if it wasn't already excessive – we would need to take manufacturers' claims with a pinch of salt!



Faking it

The term 'spin doctor' was first invented by an American journalist to describe those – like Mrs Thatcher's Bernard Ingham and Mr Blair's Alistair Campbell – who put a favourable gloss on the facts to benefit their political masters.¹ But spin is not a new phenomenon. Doctoring the facts to confuse the issue, using double talk to serve concealment, and dishing humbug to burnish an image or bury gospel truth is at least as old as the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were heavily into faking it. To the ten commandments they added a further 250 and then, on top of that, another 365 prohibitions. And having 'shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces' (Jesus in Matthew 23:13, 14), that still was not the end of it for them. They built a whole structure of 'alternative truth' to throw seekers off the scent of authentic truth – and, by the by, to bolster a religious system.

There were enough echoes of Pharisaism around in the early Christian Church to make it necessary for Paul to take on the phenomenon explicitly in his letters to the churches in Galatia, Corinth, Ephesus and Philippi.

By contrast to those masters of obfuscation and spin, Jesus was a master of clear communication; the living embodiment of the Ronsel Principle: 'It does exactly what it says on the tin.' By contrast to the hypocritical, phoney, faking-it lifestyle of the Pharisees, Jesus lived authentic Christianity. Unlike the pious professionals of his day, Jesus' words made sense – and he lived the message he taught. Unintentionally the Pharisees, through their double talk and double standards, made Jesus with his simple style and authentic life – well, *refreshing!* That was part of what the crowd meant when it said, 'He taught as one who had authority' (Matthew 7:29), and what the temple guard meant when they said, 'No-one ever spoke the way this man does' (John 7:46).

People in Jesus' day, like many people in ours, were surfeited with the hypocrisy of, and manipulation by, religious and political leaders. Then, as now, organised religion had a

bad name. Then, as now, it was evident that structures were used to intimidate and control.

Then, standing out from the power plays, hypocrisy and double talk came Jesus with his message of liberating grace, encouragement to the weary, and hope for the sinful. He fanned away the fog that surrounded organised religion. No wonder the crowds and the temple guard found him amazing. No wonder the Pharisees found him unbearable! Hypocrisy despises authenticity. When truth unmasks wrong, those who are exposed get very nervous.

There is something violent and toxic about the righteousness of the Pharisees. But those in any walk of life with well-developed political instincts incline towards pharisaic hypocrisy. Hypocrisy, after all, enables us to look righteous but be unholy, to sound pious but to be secretly profane. Invariably, those who get trapped in the hypocrisy syndrome find ways to deflect attention from their hollow core. The easiest approach is to add more activity, run faster, emphasise an intense, ever-enlarging agenda.

Jesus said, 'Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them.'" (Matthew 6:1.) Jesus knew how easy faking Christianity was. He put it straight. He wanted his followers to be people of simple faith, modelled in grace, rooted in truth. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else.

'Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law,'" Jesus said, "you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20.) Did you notice the 'certainly not'? The Pharisee and the phoney Christian aim to satisfy law; but to the demands of law there is always a limit. The authentic Christian aims to show his gratitude for love; and to the claims of love there is *no* limit.

When Jesus spoke out against acts of righteousness to attract attention (Matthew 6:1), he applied his admonition to three areas: giving, praying and fasting (Matthew 6:1-18). When we live by faith, big-time performances that bring us the glory are out of place. But

following his passionate reproach against hypocrisy, Jesus warned against judging each other. 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?' he asks (Matthew 7:3).

It is so easy to reduce Christianity to theology. It is much harder to translate it into life.

The phenomenon of the 'Toxic Adventist' was, I understand, highlighted by a lay speaker at a recent ministers' meeting. The violent righteousness of the Pharisees – and the system that it supported – was not limited to the first century. In the sixteenth it provoked the Reformation. In the eighteenth it made the Great Awakening necessary. Are we due for another awakening about now? Too many of us are speck specialists when there are planks in need of more urgent attention. . . .

Jesus encouraged tolerance. Be tolerant of those who don't look like you, dress like you, live like you. Be tolerant of those whose fine points of theology differ from yours, whose worship style is different. If you are young, be tolerant of the ageing. If you are ageing, be tolerant of the young. Nevertheless, beyond the reach of tolerant compromise is the truth of the Gospel. Stand four-square on that or you will fall for anything. In your witness, communicate the tenets of that Gospel with kindness – but clearly and without spin. The Commission does not say, 'Go undercover, infiltrate your society and con people into becoming Christians,' but 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every language-group, social group and nationality.' There's a blessing promised to those who do that: 'Surely I am with you always.'" (Matthew 28:20.) Jesus needs to get involved, through the Spirit, if conversions are to take place. And, you know what? Jesus *still* wants his followers to be people of simple faith, modelled in grace, rooted in truth. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else.

Reference:
¹ John Sergeant, *Give Me Ten Seconds* (Pan, 2001), page 246. All quotations from NIV.



Scannappeal

On Sabbath 23 November Sands High Wycombe church was privileged to welcome Dr Chris Foote, founder and trustee of the charity Wycombe 'Scannappeal', who came on behalf of the South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust in order to receive a cheque for £660 from the Women's Ministries department.

'Scannappeal' was originally started in 1987 and raises money to purchase cancer treatment equipment for hospitals in South Buckinghamshire. The Women's Ministries department chose to support 'The Women's Appeal' as

their project during 2002 which has been aiming to raise £300 in aid of a dedicated scanning and procedures centre for women in South Bucks as women helping women of all ages in the surrounding area.

Fundraising began with a Valentine's meal in the youth hall where roses were sold during the evening. This proved very popular and provided a good foundation for the charity fund. Throughout the year many church members and friends of the community made personal donations which kept the fund growing.

Left to right: Patsy Thomas, Women's Ministries leader, The Mayor of High Wycombe, The High Commissioner of St Vincent and Grenadines, Joel Williams, Men's Ministries leader



Brand new start

Woodford Green branch Sabbath school derived from the Leytonstone church and began to worship in the Ray Lodge Community Hall on 11 August 2000. Less than a year later the group was able to move to the

United Reformed Church, Ray Lodge Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

Today the group is actively ministering in the community. In November last year they undertook their first major outreach programme, an 11-day

Front from left: L. Williams, J. Small, L. Whyte. Middle: Lorraine Dixon, Dr Kal Javid, E. Bellot, C. Marius. Back: C. Dixon, R. Marius, L. Bellot, W. Williams



However, the majority raised came from an eight-mile sponsored walk on Sunday 29 September which involved fifteen enthusiastic walkers. A fun day out, walking and getting to know one another better, was had by all, helping each other up some of the very steep hills for which High Wycombe is renowned. The generosity of the church members and our community friends proved quite overwhelming. On receiving the cheque, Dr Foote was particularly impressed by the warmth of those who had taken part in the fundraising.

The following day, Sunday 24 November, the Sands High Wycombe church also hosted a charity concert in aid of victims of tropical storm Lily that swept through the small island of St Vincent during September. High Wycombe has the most descendants of Vincentions outside the small Caribbean Island of St Vincent. We were graced by the presence of the Mayor of High Wycombe and also the High Commissioner of St Vincent and the Grenadines along with the local press. The evening, which was organised by the Men's Ministries department, proved a great success with local groups including 'Vision', the 'Mangos' and the Men's Choir of Sands church, along with other individuals who contributed their talents to make the evening extremely enjoyable for all who came. PATSY THOMAS

New Start health seminar that outlined the eight principles of health. Dr Kal Javid from Sheffield did a presentation on the three top killers: heart disease, strokes and hypertension. Aldrena Summerville, State Registered dietitian, did a very enlightening presentation on the importance of a balanced diet. Ray and Judy from Gloucester focused on lifestyle diseases and their prevention. As a positive step forward in the prevention of lifestyle diseases Ray and Judy also gave a practical lifestyle cookery demonstration on preparing delicious wholesome meals.

The underlying theme of the seminar was the close relationship which exists between body and mind. Accordingly the seminar focused on the physical needs as well as the spiritual. It was felt that the body could not truly heal itself while there were unresolved conflicts such as an unforgiving spirit. The programme thus culminated with a weekend programme on love and forgiveness taken by Carol Douglas from Manchester. As a direct result of the seminar, Bible studies are now being given to a number of visitors who attended.

E. BELLOT



Brixton Gospel Choir's first CD

Saturday 21 December saw the launch of Brixton Gospel Choir's first CD at the Advent Centre. The night kicked off with live gospel music from the Norman Clarke Band. The hall filled up fast. There were many familiar faces from the UK gospel scene, including the Esscoffrey sisters, Paul Lee, Denise Wint, Tony Best, Patrick Bernard and Blessed Voices, as well as a whole host of media groups including Dodge from MTV. Also in attendance were Pastors Hamilton Williams, James Philip, Steve Roberts, Richard DeLisser, Steve Thomas and Nigel David.

The night was hosted by Pastor Adrian Bovell, who kept the crowd entertained all night with humorous gags and crowd interactive games. After the food was served there was an official 'listening' of the track, 'Shout it!' Gospel DJ Lyndon Cummings spun it on the deck.

Comedy on the night came from a group of young people from Battersea church who go by the name of 'Theatrics'. They had everyone in stitches. (Even Brother and Sister Rigor Mortis had to free up themselves and join in the laughter!)

The night came to a close with a special item from Channel 4 Gospel winners 'Blessed Voices', who brought the house down with their arrangement of 'Away in a manger' followed by prayer to close.

Norman Clarke will be organising another gospel party to be held in March.

Communication Secretary

Wimbledon International

It's official! As at International Day, 16 November 2002, 36 countries were represented by the friends and members of Wimbledon church, including Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri-Lanka, St Kitts, United Kingdom, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Wimbledon has always been an international church. Indeed, as a result of its cultural diversity, Wimbledon church was the first Adventist church in England to hold the now widely-promoted 'International Day'. This year, morning prayers in different languages and a special message from William Ackah

of Walthamstow church set the scene for a global celebration of the unifying power of the love of God.

The evening social was a feast of food, laughter and colourful delights. The many flags displayed around the church beautifully complemented the colourful and glamorous national costumes of those present. Countries brought with them national dishes and special items. National anthems, in particular, provided much amusement due to the recent World Cup experiences of many of the countries represented.

ASHA WIJE

Representatives from Ghana



Launch of JSS magazine

In November 2003 work started on the first issue of JSS magazine, the magazine of the Junior Sabbath School department in Tottenham West Green Road church.

The magazine team consisted of six reporters: Nerissa Irish, Jennifer Keh, Rhea Strachan, Sanchez Maxwell-Cox, Gino Samuels and Darren DeBique; a photographer, Devon De Bique; and an editor, Nathasha Campbell.

Each member of the team was given a job description and a candidate specification, just as they would if it were a real job. (Unfortunately,

they were not paid as if they were in a real job, much to their dismay!)

The group worked extremely hard to meet their deadline date for publication and conducted their interviews in a thoroughly professional manner.

The magazine was distributed to each child at the Junior Sabbath School 'End of Year Party', and members of the JSS team received certificates for their hard work.

The team worked really well together and enjoyed working on the first ever issue of JSS. Hopefully there will be many more issues to come.

DIANE APEAH-KUBI



Africa Day at Southampton

There are three languages spoken during our Sabbath worship services in Southampton. The first is a Zulu language (I think its proper name is Endebele) and the others are Shona and English. It had been decided weeks ago that we would ask our friends who have connections, no matter how tenuous, to lead us in worship on what we called Africa Day.

It could just as easily have been called United Nations Day as there were representatives from Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Turkey, Brazil, Bolivia, Ireland and, last but not least, England.

Readings and poems either from, or based in, the African continent and the most harmonious singing of songs that had familiar tunes, and a short talk by our Pastor Barry Alen on the theme of being Christian first and ethnic second, completed a most memorable Sabbath worshipful morning. It only remained for us to share in a fellowship lunch that had a delicious African flavour.

DAVID BRADLEY

Children's Day at Tottenham

Tottenham West Green Road church held their Children's Day on 23 November and it was a great success. The speakers for the divine hour were Ben Mangare, Nikisha Cunningham, Rhea Strachan and Richelle Anim. Special music was sung by the children's choir led by Sister Carol McDonald.

Junior Sabbath school superintendent



Sangeeta's story

On Sabbath afternoon 7 December members of Hove and Worthing fellowships united in the Hove church to celebrate the baptism of Sangeeta Narayan. Born in Fiji into a Hindu family, Sangeeta's attendance at a Christian school informed her of the existence of the one true God and she resolved to disregard the religious practices of her parents.

Sangeeta's gentle manner belies a steely determination to be true to herself and her conscience. Pastor L. H. Hill and Sangeeta studied the scriptures together, with Jesus as the central focus of the teachings of the Adventist church for ten months prior to her baptism. During this time Sangeeta was attending the Worthing church with her sister Shirley and brother-in-law Philip.

Sangeeta has been eager to make the public declaration of her friendship with Jesus. With her beautiful smile and quiet dignity she said, 'All my dreams have come true today.' After the baptism and welcome into the Worthing church Sangeeta received a basket of flowers, books and hugs of welcome from her new church family.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

ent Sister Hannah Obeng-Badu said of the day: 'The children did very well considering that they didn't have much time to practise their items. Their parents should be proud of them.'

DIANE APEAH-KUBI

Christina and Chisola

On Sabbath 5 October members, friends and visitors joined in worship, praise and celebrations as Christina and Chisola committed their lives to the Lord through baptism.

Local minister Pastor Malcolm Taylor spoke briefly of the path they had followed which led to their decisions. Christina, a believer in another denomination, came in contact with the Adventist church through Chipema, a work colleague and mother of Chisola, age 9. Chisola's desire to be baptised is testimony that Christian guidance can result in the young



Have we become so tolerant that we accept intolerance?

DR BORGE SCHANTZ* asks, 'Are we dumbing down our outreach in the interests of political correctness?'

- Racial prejudice, bias against people of another nationality or people of another skin colour, or those adhering to a different religion is behaviour unworthy of anyone. It is certainly not behaviour sanctioned by Christianity.
- However, to witness to one's faith in Jesus Christ and the Advent message, to convince people of the fallacies – even dangers – in their own religion and its practices, pointing them to a better solution to the problems in this life and a better future, is not only biblical, it is commanded by our Lord and Saviour.

sentiments. When they read some Adventist publications, hear promotional talks, even attend meetings where outreach programmes are outlined, they believe that a kind of 'dumbing down' of the Christian message in general, and the Advent message in particular, is taking place. The reason for being so 'politically correct' is that we live in a world where compromise, not confrontation, is the order of the day.

This is also very evident in some of the Adventist approaches to Muslims, even since the tragic 11 September events. The emphasis is still on 'things that we have in common' and 'stress on the commonalities'.

It happens that people get these two issues mixed up. But there is a great difference between discrimination on the one side, and witnessing about one's faith and convictions on the other.

Dumbing down?

In a primary school in an area of Copenhagen where many Muslim immigrants lived a teacher was accused of racism and discrimination by Islamic community leaders. In their opinion in a class on religious subjects he had referred to the Koran and Muhammad in a disrespectful manner.

In the same school a little Christian girl, who wore a necklace with a cross, had it violently torn off by some Muslim boys who threw it on the ground with some nasty, obscene words and curses. However, this incident was not dealt with, as school authorities felt it could be classified as racism.

These cases provoked a book in which it was claimed that we in Lutheran Denmark had become 'so broadminded that we, in the "celebrated" tolerance of which we are so proud, have accepted an intolerance that is foreign to our Christian culture'.

As a 'retired' so-called Islam specialist I get quite a few messages by mail, email, telephone, etc, in which concerned Christians express similar

will return to prepare the way for Muhammad who will then inaugurate an eternal Islamic kingdom based on the teaching of the Koran.' In other words, the Muslims have placed Jesus in the same role as Christians place John the Baptist! To Muslims, Jesus is not part of the Trinity. Nor is he the Saviour returning as the King. He has been assigned the role of a prophet (messenger) preparing the way for Muhammad. Do we really want to put Jesus Christ in that position?

* Another point to consider is that a growing number of Muslims are perplexed – even embarrassed – by those among their leaders and theologians who fail to speak out against terrorist acts against fellow humans, but remain silent and passive. (They feel that the impression is given that the Koran approves these terrible actions.)

In soul-winning work it is generally those who are dissatisfied with their religion who are the winnable.

There are 900 million Muslims in Islamic countries. A growing number of them are dissatisfied with what is going on. They have, however, no real chance of criticising, let alone influencing the leaders of their faith community. They are not allowed to have any contact with Christian churches. And with the situation in the world today, missionaries in these areas are threatened and even in danger of being killed.

However, the other Muslims (about 300 million) who live in nations whose laws grant religious liberty can speak up and influence their faith communities if they want to. Here the 'dissatisfied' will be able to respond to a Christian message. *But they are certainly not searching for a Church that over-emphasises the very few points that can be stretched to prove that in some doctrines the two religions are in agreement with each other. They are looking for a Church that will give their life meaning, which preaches love to one's neighbours, together with peace and a hope for the future.*

These people should be the goal for evangelism now. Our lectures, literature, and radio programmes should be geared towards *them*. The message should be hope, but also warning. Some charismatic Scandinavian churches have been successful in that respect. Even an Adventist layman with a Muslim background has brought some of these people into a meaningful relationship with Christ and his Church.

* Let us take a lesson from Adventist mission-history. In the world there are more than 12 million Seventh-day Adventists. More than 5 million of these came from a Roman

Catholic background. We have been extremely successful in winning Catholics for our cause. Our success has not been a result of what today would be termed a 'politically correct' approach.

No doubt evangelists among Roman Catholics have initiated their work with doctrines where we were in agreement. And we have a few more doctrines with which we agree with the Catholics than with the Muslims! But the evangelistic success did not come about because we stressed doctrinal points in which we are in agreement with the Roman Catholics. Our success is due to the fact that we have shown love and concern for the people, while at the same time we pointed out – no doubt, tactfully – fallacies in their doctrines. We joined Protestant churches in preaching prophetic warnings against heresies that were part of Roman Catholic doctrine. And we have been successful in winning many, of whom most were dissatisfied with their own church.

Be clear!

Is there a lesson for us as we approach a religion that has no room for Christians in its midst? Should we not deal honestly with Islam and make it clear that a theology is wrong if it defends and encourages, in the name of Allah, the terrorist acts that the world is exposed to today? After all, these are the very significant matters that are on the minds of people all over the world.

Let us again remind ourselves that discrimination against people because of race, nationality, colour of skin or language is inappropriate, wrong, un-Christian and condemned by the Word of God. But to witness to Christ, to explain our beliefs, to persuade others to believe in Jesus Christ and identify their false – even threatening – doctrines is a *Gospel duty*. It is obedience to the Great Commission. It is faithfulness to the three angels' messages.

In our love and concern for our Muslim friends we should avoid being so tolerant that we accept their flagrant intolerance. Political correctness can mean disobedience to the Great Commission.

* Dr Borge Schantz retired as director of the General Conference Centre for Islamic Studies situated at Newbold College. In 2002 his authoritative book on Islam in the post-9/11 world was published in Danish, now in its third edition. The book is being translated into English for publication here. Email: boerge.schantz@adr.dk



John and Alex baptised

On 28 September Bristol Central church was again packed to overflowing to witness the baptism of John and Alex Nwosu who are originally from Nigeria. Both had decided to dedicate their lives to God and his service after studying with Pastor Ron Edwards for some time.

In his sermon, Nigel Todd, elder of the Walthamstow church, preached words of encouragement from Ephesians to the two young men.

The devil fought hard to stop the baptism as the water was flooding out of the pool quicker than it was going in! But after a lot of hard work by the

deacons, John and Alex were immersed in cold water into the Bristol church family.

LISA SABADIN

Ladies' choir

The members of the Torquay church were treated to a special Christmas service of singing and readings by the Shipton Singers, a ladies' choir of various faiths led by our organist Mary Shipton. They brought with them a special guest, Helga Watts, who told the nativity story in her own way, interspersing it with music that she played on her zither, captivating both adults and children.

After a short talk on the work of our local branch of Cruse Bereavement Care, a free counselling service for anyone who is finding difficulty in coping with the loss of a loved one, the congregation were asked to make donations to Cruse.

The Shipton Singers also joined in the celebration of the 90th birthday of one of our older members, Nancy Campion. Nancy has been a member of our church since it was dedicated sixty years ago. A surprise party was organised by her nieces, Betty Cooper and Ruth Arthur, with her own version of 'This is your life', and music supplied by her 91-year-old husband, Ernest Campion, flautist Hannah Read and the Shipton Singers.

JEN READ

Obituaries

MARTIN, Bill and Connie – d. 24 September and 2 October. It is with sadness that we record the tragic deaths of William and Constance Martin, two faithful members of the Cardiff church. Bill died at the wheel of his car on 24 September, and Connie died eight days later from injuries sustained in the car crash. Connie was born into the Bird family at Kettering in 1915 and Bill was born in Ludlow. Both had a long association with the Church. However, it was under the ministry of Pastor George Bell in Cardiff that they committed their lives to the Lord. From then on they served the church as deacon and deaconess, and Connie in particular was an excellent Ingatherer. Bill was an independent thinker, and was always prepared to speak out on matters about which he felt strongly. It was characteristic of him that in his will he requested that the funeral should contain an appeal to the hearers to believe the Gospel message. The funeral service was held in the Cardiff church, led by Pastor Clyde Moore and the writer. Bill and Connie's daughter Angela, and her husband Pastor Reider Larson, both made moving tributes to them. Their grandchildren Robert and Rebecca, together with Rebecca's friend Jonathan, made beautiful instrumental contributions to the service. Interment took place in Thornhill cemetery where our brother and sister in Christ were laid to rest together. We thank God for the lives and witness of his two faithful servants. Angela and the family wish to thank the many relatives, friends and church members for their support and sympathy.

BRIAN PHILLIPS

SAMUELS, Ruth Adaina – d. 19 November. Ruth was born in Jamaica in 1916, where she grew up, emigrating to Britain during the 50s, among the earliest immigrants from the West Indies. It was in this country that she was baptised, joining the Hanwell church where she remained a devoted member for many years. In the late 90s she moved to Lincoln to live with her daughter Veronica, who devotedly nursed her mother during the last five years of her life. Veronica gratefully recalls Ruth as a very caring mother, and is glad she had the opportunity, in turn, to do her best for her, which she counted it a privilege to do, and misses her very much. The funeral service was conducted by the writer in the Lincoln church and at the crematorium, in the presence of Veronica, grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends who had travelled far and church members. Together with several relatives, Ada Best of Hanwell church spoke sincere words of appreciation in the service, of Ruth's commitment to her Saviour and her diligence and faithfulness in a long and useful life devoted to the service of others. Veronica and the family's grief is tempered by the Blessed Hope.

RONALD V. EDWARDS

BROADWELL, Gladys – d. 20 November. Gladys Broadwell, known as 'Billie', a member of the Stanborough Park church, was formerly of Loughborough church where she and her husband were founding membes. She passed away peacefully in the home of her daughter, Frances Brooks. The family were introduced to the Adventist message in Cyprus by a literature-evangelist, A. N. Barlas. On their return to England they were visited by Pastor W. H. Frazer and in June 1965 were received into the fellowship of the church. Gladys was a sincere Christian lady and will be greatly missed. The funeral service was conducted in the home of her daughter Jacqueline in Leicester by her grandson Jeremy Brooks. It was followed by interment at Rothley cemetery. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her three daughters, Christine, Jacqui and Frances and their families, who sorrow not as those who have no hope – for they know that their beloved sleeps safely in Jesus awaiting the call of the resurrection to life at the return of the Saviour.

JEREMY BROOKS

ROBERTS, Melita – d. December. Sister Roberts lived a long and full life. Born in 1908 in Monk Seaton, near Whitley Bay, she spent her childhood in Borneo where her father was an executive engineer in Colonial service. She was named 'Melita' after a river boat on the

Weddings

SIMMONS-LAYLAND. It is with immense happiness that we announce that the marriage took place of Tristan Simmons and Anna Layland at the Leamington Spa Adventist Mission on Sunday 8 September. Tristan was introduced to Anna and the Christian life by Conrad Vine, with whom he shared his student days at Aston University in Birmingham. After several years of study, Tristan, Anna and her brother Andrew were baptised in 1999 at the Leamington Spa Mission. Tristan now is the Youth elder, and Anna holds various church offices. Her love and passion is playing the drums in the Leamington Mission Worship Band. After seven years, Anna and Tristan committed their lives to each other in matrimony. The Mission was beautifully adorned with gold and red flowers by Anna's friend Yolande Wall. Anna was proudly given away by her father Terry, who was assisted by her mother Hazel at the altar. She was accompanied by her cousin Elizabeth Layland and her friend Brenda-Louise Pretorius. Rebecca Elliott was the flower girl, and James and Alex Blencowe were page boys.

Borneo coast. After WWI they returned to Newcastle where she attended high school. Next the family moved to Jersey a place Melita loved to talk about in her later years. There she trained in the grooming of dogs, allowing her to earn money doing something she loved. In 1938 they left Jersey for the mainland and lived near Bognor Regis. Melita moved to Bournemouth after WWII where she lived a very private life, caring more for her dogs than her own personal comforts. In the mid-1970s she attended meetings by Pastor D. Currie and was baptised in 1977. She would cycle to church well into her 80s, until an accident ended her cycling days. In her last days she was well cared for at a local nursing home where she passed away quietly. Bournemouth church is greatly saddened at her loss. Pastor M. Anthony expressed our hope in the face of death, the 'last enemy', that our Lord is alive, and 'because he lives we shall live also'.

DOUGLAS VINE

DUBLIN, Albert Alexander – d. 26 December. Albert, a member of the Leicester Central church, died peacefully aged 65 years, leaving behind a large family and many friends. The funeral service, conducted by Pastor Paul Liburd, took place on 8 January. Born in 1937 in Antigua, Albert was the eldest of ten children. In the 1950s he emigrated to England where he worked on

Peter Rao was best man. Andrew Layland, Timothy Simmons, Daniel Pearce and Matthew Woodyat were the ushers. Pastor Alan Conroy gave words of wisdom after he had joined Tristan and Anna together in matrimony. There was a lovely surprise poem read to the bride and groom by Mrs Christine Conroy. The music was accompanied by the Leamington Mission Worship Band. It was a perfect day. God was an invited guest. To Tristan and Anna we wish God's richest blessing as they begin their life together walking with Jesus.

TERRY AND HAZEL LAYLAND

SOUTHCOTT-MURRAY. On Sunday 8 December, family and friends from Britain, Canada and the United States gathered at the Parkway South church, New Jersey, for the marriage of Nigel Southcott and Amy Murray. The church was beautifully decorated with Christmas greenery and poinsettia plants. The wedding was very much a family affair. In response to the minister's question, 'Who giveth this woman to be wed?', Amy's father

The challenge of witness

Sharing one's faith with one's non-Adventist family members, friends, neighbours and acquaintances seems an impossible task to many of us, however relevant the LIFEdevelopment programme. On 25 January Pastor Cedric Vine, now ministering to churches in the Derby area, showed the congregation at Stanborough Park church how just one chapter in the Bible can answer many of the objections thrown at us when we talk about the Bible. Pastor Cedric Vine was here at the invitation of his father, Pastor Robert Vine, who is our senior pastor.

Under the title 'The Perfect Portable Toolbox' Pastor Cedric directed us to well-known parables in Matthew, chapter 13; and pointed out that, just as we'd choose a spanner for one kind of job and a screwdriver for a different kind, each of the parables was written for a different use.

He reminded us that if someone wants to be found of God, then God wants to be found. In the context of our great gospel commission in Matthew 28:19, 20, God himself will give us the ability to use the seven portable tools he has provided for us.

BROWNEN ATKINSON

the London Underground and then for the Post Office. Accepting the seventh-day Sabbath, he left the Post Office when they refused to allow him time off to keep the Sabbath. This led to his being called to work as a literature-evangelist, moving to Aberdare, South Wales in 1965 and then to Leicester in 1970, where he continued serving the Lord, carrying out preaching appointments primarily in the Midlands region. For a time he was a successful Publishing director of the North British Conference. Albert then commenced a career in psychiatric nursing where he remained until ill health forced him to retire in 1996. A strong faith in God sustained him throughout his illness. Never complaining, he always declared God's goodness and was thankful for the blessings he had received. His condition during the later stages of his illness made him unaware that his youngest grandson Isaac Cameron Dublin, aged 2, tragically passed away very suddenly on 20 December 2002. However, he believed in a heaven beyond this mortal life and it is in this heaven to come that Albert and his grandson Isaac will be reunited. Let us all dedicate our lives to Christ and be determined to join that great reunion when Jesus returns at last, when we will never again have to part from those we love, when sickness, pain and death will finally be defeated. Come soon Lord Jesus!

VERNON DUBLIN AND DENISE ROBERTS

responded: 'Her mother and I do.' The groom's father, Pastor Watson Southcott, gave words of counsel to the newly-weds. Scripture passages were read by the mothers of bride and groom. Sister of the groom, Pauline Allcock, accompanied her husband at the piano as he sang 'Silent Wedding Prayer'. The matron of honour was the sister-in-law of the bride, and two good friends were bridesmaids. The deep red colour of their dresses complemented the Christmas decorations. Four- and six-year-old nieces made angelic-looking flower girls. Best man was Adrian Taylor, cousin of the groom, assisted by groomsmen Peter Southcott and Douglas Lethbridge, brother and nephew of the groom. Douglas had helped bring Nigel and Amy together through the computer-based Adventist 'Shining Star' organisation. Nigel and Amy are making their home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. Their family and friends wish them every blessing in their new life together.

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOTT

International News

Moderate drinking for heart health?

While recent news reports suggest that having one or two alcoholic drinks a day can have a beneficial effect on heart health, the adaptation of a healthy lifestyle can yield similar benefits without the risk of alcohol's side-effects, one health expert said.

Dr Alan Handysides, Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church, said that following the healthy lifestyle promoted among Adventist Christians 'will produce all of the heart benefits - without the risks'. He stated that regular consumption of alcohol is likely to cause serious health problems - addiction or cirrhosis or other conditions - in one of every fifteen people.

'Depending on the degree of adherence to a healthy lifestyle, people can add 7-14 years to their life,' he said. 'By exercising, changing the nature of fats in their diet, eating more nuts, people can live healthier and longer, and we have statistical evidence of that.'

'Alcohol is a carcinogenic compound,' Handysides said. 'People who have more than two or three drinks a day will increase their stomach cancer risk.'

300 Churches Project gains momentum.

The work isn't finished yet, but they're getting closer. Some 300 Adventist Global Mission pioneers and their families are planting member-led congregations across the countries of the former Soviet Union. The so-called '300 Churches Project', launched in the spring of 2001 at Zaoksky Theological Seminary near Tula, Russia, includes purchasing 300 houses to be used as churches.

'We're finding that new Christians who participate in small groups are more likely to remain church members,' says Becky Scoggins, associate Communication director for the Church in Euro-Asia. 'The small-group model has worked in countries as diverse as Brazil and Korea, and we believe small groups are also the future of evangelism in our territory.'

When the project began, the pastors received intensive training and returned to their native countries to start member-

led congregations in areas with no Adventist presence.

Scoggins says, 'We've seen how these humble house churches can bring together people from all walks of life: a policeman, an actress, the sister of a high-ranking Soviet leader, a former death row inmate. These people are the greatest sign that the 300 Churches Project is a success.'

More than 2,000 people have been baptised as a result of the project. Adventists in Euro-Asia have purchased nearly 240 house churches and hope to purchase the remainder for each new congregation by autumn. *ANW*

Gifts to Macedonia. In the Katlanovo refugee camp, Macedonia, 160 Roma Gypsy children from Kosovo, aged 1-14, were waiting for the ADRA van to bring a little joy and happiness. There was excited anticipation as they were ready to perform their New Year's programme of folk music and dances, and to receive a promised present (most children had never received one before).

ADRA-Germany provided over 3,000 boxes of Christmas parcels for children in Macedonia. These presents had been collected from churches and schools all over Germany. *ANW*

Growth in Israel. Some of the more spectacular growth in the Trans-European Division is taking place in Israel. In 1985 the field had about 50 members. After a special division-initiative called the Shalom-Project, started in 1997, it now has over 1,200 members and a regular group of worshippers between 1,500 and 2,000. But the field leaders are not satisfied with this. They are convinced that the way to continue growing is through small group ministry, and a Small Group Seminar was held in Jerusalem, 16-18 January this year. The meetings were held in facilities rented from the Hebrew Union College between Advent House and the Old City of Jerusalem. The field president, Richard Elofer, led out and was assisted by the division president, Pastor Bertil Wiklander. *ANW*

Headteacher required for Grianach House School in the Irish Mission for September 2003

Grianach House School is a small Seventh-day Adventist School with 42 pupils, and is operated by the Irish Mission, with financial support from the Emerald Foundation.

The school is located in the City of Galway (Republic of Ireland) and began operation in 1983. It is a fee-paying school staffed by four full-time teachers. The majority of pupils are from Christian backgrounds. This has made the school an important flagship for the local Adventist community in Galway.

The successful applicant for the post is expected to meet the following criteria:

- Be a practising Seventh-day Adventist
- Committed to the philosophy and practice of Seventh-day Education
- Have appropriate professional qualification(s) and evidence of a successful teaching career
- Proof of good leadership and administrative abilities
- Good interpersonal skills and the capability for developing team spirit and partnership among the staff, pupils, parents and the church community
- Be a competent communicator

Each candidate should submit a letter of application, with a supporting CV to: Pastor Curtis Murphy, President, Irish Mission, 9 Newry Road, Banbridge, Co. Down, N. Ireland, BT32 3HF. Telephone/Fax 028 406 26361 Email: sdairland@aol.com

For further details contact: Dr Keith Davidson, Education Director (BUC) 01923 672251

Closing date for applications: Friday 21 March 2003

Adventist Book Centre



North Wembley

SDA Community Church

217 East Lane, HA0 3NG

Tel. 0208 9081776

Opening times

Tuesday 6pm - 8pm

Wednesday 6pm - 7:30pm

Thursday 5pm - 9pm

Sunday 10am - 12, 2pm - 5pm

Bibles, books, CDs, videos and vegetarian foods all available

Our commitment is to serve you through excellence of service and quality of product



Correction

We apologise to John Loughborough School for wrongly attributing the 'Agenda of Excellence' article on pages 8-9 of issue 108, 2/3, 31 January. The writer was Bridget Taffe.

Congratulations

Members and friends of the Erdington church warmly congratulate John Osei-Bempong upon obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Law. *CHURCH CLERK*

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

March

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

April

27	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
----	-------------------	----------

Volume 108/5 - 28 February 2003

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR NO. 7 - 5 March

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@nm@aol.com

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed by Wazgoose, Sleaford.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

SEC is recruiting a part-time Trainer in Child Protection

The successful candidate will be part of a team implementing the BUC Keeping our Church Family Safe (KCFS) Child protection policy

- work with and supervise a team who are training children's and youth workers in child protection policy and practice
- travel to local churches to conduct awareness and training events
- have considerable professional experience working in child protection
- show demonstrable training skills
- have experience in successful team leadership.

Most of the training will take place on Sundays. Salary in line with denominational pay scale. The contract will be for six months with possible extension depending on an evaluation of the KCFS implementation process.

Please contact the SEC Secretariat for an information and job application pack on 01923 232728 or bcoysten@secadventist.org.uk. Applications ASAP. Deadline 5 March.

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

	Lond	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Feb 28	5.38	5.51	5.40	5.44	5.57
Mar 7	5.51	6.03	5.53	5.59	6.11
14	6.03	6.15	6.06	6.13	6.25
21	6.15	6.27	6.19	6.28	6.38

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