

# Messenger

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



## ADRA Annual Appeal 2003

by Pastor Cecil Perry, Chief Promoter for England and Wales

**T**he Ingathering programme comes to us with a divinely-inspired humanitarian label. It was introduced to enhance the mission and witness of the church to the world.

Operating as we do under charity regulations the need has arisen for us to emphasise the humanitarian aspects more strongly than before. A way but generous public wants its donations to be applied to medical, social, physical and educational concerns.

This is the second year we will be collecting under the charity ADRA-UK, which has a good track record of 'people helping people'. We can collect with confidence; ADRA-UK has a good system of accountability for all its projects.

Over the years Ingathering has been kept alive by volunteers. Hundreds of hours have been spent by intrepid collectors knocking on doors or ringing bells. They do this, not for physical exercise, but in the belief that soliciting public donations is one way of fulfilling the commandment, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

We appreciate, too, the generosity of those within the church who, because of circumstances that

prevent them Ingathering, make personal donations to the programme.

Nine projects were beneficiaries of the record £523,887 collected in 2002.

All the projects were people-orientated, serving large communities, some with family planning concerns, HIV/AIDS-related conditions, and various other medical and educational needs.

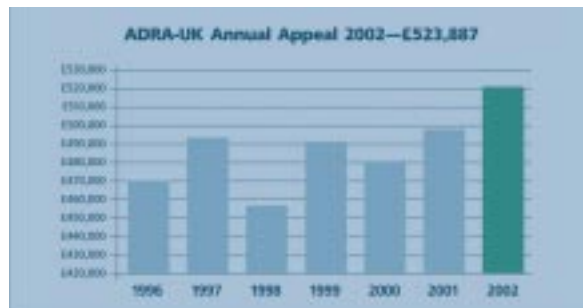
We need to double our efforts for the 2003 Appeal. We shall be collecting for projects in ten countries ranging from the Sudan to Wales. The funds collected under ADRA-UK will help children with disabilities, train workers in Type II Diabetes Control, provide Day Care Centres for street children and educational facilities and training for hundreds of people in lifestyle issues. Included among the projects will be an emergency fund set aside for disaster relief.

The number of collectors over the years has been dwindling. We need new recruits to fill the vacancies –



especially from among our youth, on whose shoulders the future of the programme rests. Whatever the weather or the size of your congregation, let me plead with you on behalf of the needy to increase

*continued on page 8*



**Crucial Question**  
When did we see you  
always thirsty  
always naked  
sick  
hopeless?

**ADRA**

Our new professional pack is designed to help you ask the right questions on the right issues to the right people at the right time for the right response.

**ADRA-UK**  
... means business

Changing the world ...

... one life at a time

ANNUAL APPEAL...

ADRA

# Multi-faith Relations - How far can Christians go?

by Helen Pearson

On Tuesday night, 4 February, Newbold College hosted the latest in its monthly series of lectures organised by the College's Institute for the Study of

Religious and Cultural Diversity. Guest lecturer at this first lecture for 2003 was Professor Paul Weller from the University of Derby – a

Baptist Christian. As Professor of Inter-Religious Relations and Head of the Division of Human Science, Professor Weller has been intimately involved in the development of the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby and its work over the last ten years to improve relations between those of different faiths.

Professor Weller's lecture was entitled, 'How far can we go?' and offered fascinating insights into the dialogue between people of different faiths. He challenged the members of his audience to move from the position which he described as 'we' talking about 'they' to a relationship where

'we all together talk about us'. 'Like Peter in the house of Cornelius, those of us doing inter-faith relations sometimes find ourselves both compelled and compromised by where we are,' he said. When asked about change in his own perspective as a Christian, he emphasised the importance of maintaining real and positive relationships with those who may differ from us theologically. 'Truth,' he said, 'must be characterised not by its ability to exclude, but by its ability to include and absorb those whom we traditionally see as "outside" our own group. The way to grow in knowledge is to do the truth.'



**Prayer Feature**

## The threat of war

It is wonderful to know how much encouragement the Bible gives us to pray and to believe that God wants to and 'therefore will answer us. In his book *30 Days to More Powerful Intercessory Prayer*, Joe Engelkemier usefully quotes Ellen White where she urges us to 'educate [ourselves] to have unlimited confidence in God'. In *Heavenly Places*, page 71. This education comes by reading the prayers of Bible characters and by meditating on what Jesus did about prayer in his life on Earth and what he said our attitudes and habits should be regarding prayer in our own lives today (Luke 11 and Matthew 6, for example).

Educating ourselves thus is more important than ever as Britain daily moves towards war, and with terrorism posing a daily threat. As peace-loving Christians we generally disagree with taking up arms, especially as we know that thousands of innocent lives will be lost. Even though time seems to be running out, we can be sure that our Heavenly Father knows our fears and our needs, yet we still need to pray 'for all men, for kings, and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty' (1 Timothy 2:1, 2), believing that he will answer our prayers 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20). War may be inevitable and war between the good and evil in our very selves certainly is, but let us hold fast to his loving promise to hear and answer us. To be heard we first must do the asking (James 4:2), then we must beg forgiveness for our sins (Mark 11:25, 26) and then we must believe that in asking we have received (Mark 11:24).

I hope soon to have some of your prayer requests to add to my prayer list and to this piece on prayer, so that as a church we can pray more specifically and, therefore, effectively, for God's will to be done in our lives. Please send all requests to: Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Pnygroes Road, Caerbyrn, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, SA18 3BZ. Thank you.

TRACY DIXON

**Newbold College**  
Bracknell, Berkshire, England

is seeking to appoint a Director of Advancement commencing immediately

The successful candidate will have: Understanding and expertise in the areas of marketing, public relations and development; Passionate interest and abilities in fund-raising; Experience in managing projects and in co-ordinating the work of other team members; Proven skills as a communicator and good people-skills in a multi-cultural, multi-national context.

Once appointed, the director will, among other responsibilities: Co-ordinate the work of the Advancement department; Prepare and manage the annual budget; Direct the world-wide alumni programme, co-ordinating alumni events at the College and other locations; Oversee the preparation, publication and distribution of the *Newboldian*; Manage and direct the annual appeals, capital campaigns for funding and the planned-giving programme; Write funding proposals; Work with individual donors.

Salary will be according to the denominational scale. Letter of application together with current CV and the addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Principal, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 4AN, England. Tel: +44 1344 407400; Fax: +44 1344 407404; Email: [dpenner@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:dpenner@newbold.ac.uk).  
**The deadline for receipt of applications is 15 April 2003.**

## Healthwise

### Head over heels . . .

. . . may be a fun exercise for children but what about others who have been shut indoors for the best part of the winter? Enrolments in gyms and leisure centres are at their highest (a surprisingly high number of people join clubs but don't go), but exercise levels are low.

So much so, in fact, that the Chief Medical Officer of the UK, Sir Liam Donaldson, is poised to get us all active once more. He is going to make exercise an NHS priority (that's apart from getting us hopping mad running around for hospital appointments and beds!).

It's never too late to start, they say. If you are otherwise fit, have the appropriate clothes and shoes, then it's time to hit the road! The following is a 12-week starter course for the vertically-challenged devised by the British Heart Foundation in collaboration with Sport-Ex Health (a professional magazine):

#### WEEKS 1 to 3

20 minutes (or two lots of 10 minutes) brisk walking three times a week.

#### WEEKS 4 to 7

30 minutes (or three times 10 minutes) more vigorous walking four times a week.

#### WEEKS 8 to 12

30 minutes (or three times 10 minutes) still harder walking and using the arms (they suggest carrying weight approximating a can of beans in each hand) at least five times a week.

#### STEPPING UP

Once you have got up to the 8 to 12 week level, maintain it indefinitely. Additionally, use extra time for slow walking before and after reaching the weekly level. Don't make a walking race of it if you are out with others. Compete against *yourself*.

As you become competent you can extend your walking area and stay out longer. Instead of the recommended 'beans', carry a bottle of water and take regular sips to help stave off dehyd-

ration, especially in warmer weather.

You may like to include other forms of exercise when you are fitter, such as cycling or swimming. Try to avoid activities that involve just short bursts of intense activity until a good level of fitness is attained.

For people living in London (and other cities soon) the Mayor is trying hard to get you active. Congestion charges will mean extra walking for those who want to save money. Cancelled buses and trains are also a big help! In the absence of adequate public transport it might well prove to be an asset to walk and walk and walk. In the process, you might not only avoid congestion charges but heart disease, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, weight problems, and poor mental health.

It's up to us to take appropriate steps!



# Mankind is your business

Rarely has a man taken his marriage vows as lightly as Albert Edward, Prince of Wales. When his mother, Queen Victoria, was in extreme old age, one of his friends made a serious attempt to focus his mind on something other than the carnal. He took the Prince to 'the worst and poorest' slums in Clerkenwell and St Pancras.

The Prince was astonished by what he found in the slums. Going from alley to alley, his unescorted party of friends discovered entire families, each living in a single unfurnished room. There was a gaunt, shivering woman on a heap of rags with three nearly-naked children too dazed by cold and hunger to make any response to the Prince and his friends.<sup>1</sup>

The Prince returned to his palace enraged. Four days later he was still angry enough to make a speech in the House of Lords. He was amazed and alarmed. He had read no Dickens. For decades Charles Dickens had described the conditions of the poor in books that were read in the homes of the rich. In *Scrooge* he had caricatured a hard, selfish man of business who needed to be told, 'Mankind is your business!'

That's quite a mission statement! How do you relate to it? The Prince of Wales had lost interest within a month or two and returned to the arms of the amazing number of women who populated his life. When he discovered that he, among others, owned the freehold of some of the slum districts he had visited, he found that he had never been interested after all. . . . So much for all the righteous anger he had worked up.

What about yours? Righteous anger, I mean. You take in the images on television, become seriously concerned – but what do you *do* with your concern? At heart we know that mankind is our business – but the images fade, the comfort zone beckons, and our vested interests conflict. We desperately search for some wriggle room – just in case we might have to spend some of our money, our time, *ourselves* on mankind's business. . . .

'I saw the Ethiopian famine images on television,' said the man, 'and I decided on the DIY approach: Don't Involve Yourself. Get it?' I got it, but I didn't want it. Thankfully, millions of others who saw the same images on television *did* involve themselves; people as diverse as the very wealthy – and the attendees of the Live Aid Pop

Concert. They all decided that mankind was their business; and everyone was astonished by their self-sacrifice.

Dickens did not originate the concept, 'Mankind is your business.' It is a foundation-stone of Christianity. Do these words ring any bells? '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, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' (Matthew 25:35-40.)

The words of Jesus are chilling when they are expressed in the negative. 'Depart from me. . . . For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat. . . . Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' (Matthew 25:41-46.) Up close and personal, or what?

Do you remember the context of these words of Jesus? He had been talking about the signs of his coming (Matthew 24); Adventists like that part. Then (Matthew 25) Jesus tells three stories that illustrate what constitutes readiness for his coming;<sup>2</sup> some Adventists are a bit uncomfortable with that – perhaps because it is so, well, *personal*.

Jesus' final call for readiness is in the story of the sheep and the goats. His coming is at the *beginning* of the story; and the setting is the last judgement. The point of the story, in part, is to demonstrate that 'the union between Christ and his people is the most tender and endearing of all connections. . . . He considers favours shown to his people as shown to himself.'<sup>3</sup> In part, also, the point of the story is that the criterion of judgement is how we relate to 'these little ones', the least of these the brothers and sisters of Jesus: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. And that is where some people get alarmed. They are at home with theology and prophetic scenarios, but pained by the idea that to make theology real you have to translate it into life.

There is something slightly indecent about the glee with which we rub our hands over the signs of the second coming. Why? Because many of the signs of the end concern the frequency and scale of disasters that impact negatively upon the lives of millions. Could that be the reason why Jesus

called upon his people to demonstrate their readiness for his return by serving 'these little ones', the least of these his brothers and sisters – victims of disaster and displacement?

'Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything?' asks the apostle James. 'Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? . . . Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?' (James 2:14-26, MESSAGE.)

When Jesus said, 'Then the righteous will answer [the judge upon his throne], "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?"' (Matthew 25:37) the word translated *righteous* denotes both character (behaviour) and the fact that the person has been 'acquitted', has received a favourable verdict from the judge.<sup>4</sup> In short, 'the righteous' – those who serve the person of Jesus in the least of these his brothers and sisters – are those who have been saved by grace through faith (and who have demonstrated that faith through service).

The best way to delight a parent's heart is to help his child. That's how it is with Jesus and 'the least of these'.

Francis was rich, high born and high-spirited. But he was not happy. His life was incomplete. Then one day he met a man with leprosy. Something moved Francis to dismount and fling his arms around the sufferer. As he did so the face of the man changed into the face of Christ.

The statements 'Jesus is my business' and 'Mankind is my business' are not two, they are one and the same. When we grasp that, the impetus to service will not fade as the images of suffering fade from our memories. It will fade only if the image of Jesus fades. . . .

When the Son of Man 'finally arrives, blazing in beauty', he will say: 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me – you failed to do it to me.' (Matthew 25:31, 45, MESSAGE.)

Uncomfortable. Maybe disquieting. But true.

Mankind is your business, because Jesus is your business.

References:  
<sup>1</sup> Stanley Weintraub, *The Importance of Being Edward* (John Murray, 2000), pages 285-289, 377. <sup>2</sup> R. T. France, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Matthew (IVP)*, page 354. <sup>3</sup> Albert Barnes, *A Popular Family Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew and Mark* (Gresham, 1832), volume 1, page 271. <sup>4</sup> R. T. France, *op cit*, page 357.



## Eighty at LD Training Weekend

The icy roads and inclement weather were not a deterrent to the 80-plus individuals who attended the Life Development training weekend from 31 January to 2 February, at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, organised by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School department of the SEC. The attendees represented over thirty churches. The dynamic presentations on groups and centres, the sharing in small groups and worship renewal sessions, not

only resolved the questions but provided new ideas and impetus for fulfilling the Saviour's mission to reach his lost children.

The Holy Spirit used Pastors Richard DeLisser, Dalbert Elias, Paul Haworth, and Aris Vontzalidis to inspire, bless and motivate all present to a renewed vision for their lives and for their churches. The song 'Crown him with many crowns' took on a whole new meaning. Jesus was lifted up as the One whose methods we



Left to right: Rohin, Rohan, Inge and Ethan, and Inge's parents

## Ballinacrow baptisms

January 25 was a very special day for one particular family. The Vermeulen family travelled to Dublin from South Africa a little over a year ago in search of a better life. Rohan worked with computers and had little difficulty getting work with one of Ireland's largest IT firms. Inge and little Rohan travelled to Ireland a little later and they began to make a home for themselves in Bray, just outside Dublin.

They very quickly became a part of the fabric of the Dublin church, being involved with the youth and children's programmes. But due to work commitments they moved and found themselves living not a stone's throw from Ballinacrow church, which is about thirty miles from Dublin. They now support this company and not with only one boy, Rohin, but two. On the 25th we dedicated the newest addition to the Vermeulen family, Ethan Jeffrey. This was also a special occasion for Inge as her parents had travelled over.

But that was only the beginning of our service, for we also celebrated the baptism of Rohin and Ethan's parents, Rohan and Inge. Rohan shared his testimony with those who had gathered,

friends and family, and paid tribute to those who had touched his life and in part helped him and his family settle in Ireland and also those who had testified to the living and loving God.

IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION SPONSOR

need to emulate, as the One in whom all power resides, as the Saviour of all mankind.

Watch out, for many Life Development Groups and Centres will be springing up within your churches. Did I hear you say, 'What is a Life Development group or centre, anyway?' Why not ask your church's Life Development co-ordinator, or contact

## Girls' night out

The decision of the Wimbledon Women's Ministries department to hold a Girls' Night Out was greeted with much scepticism. It is a truth universally acknowledged that whenever women get together they have nothing better to talk about than men!

Thus the scene was set for Wimbledon's first Women's Retreat that was held on 14-15 December. A small group of nine ladies, comprising members and friends from Wimbledon's international congrega-



Pastor A. Vontzalidis at the SEC, or visit the website:

[www.lifedevelopment.info](http://www.lifedevelopment.info)

Through this heaven-inspired strategy and process, the lost will hear the story of Jesus, and your joy will overflow when they say to you: 'I liked the story.'

LAVERNE BYNG,  
LD co-ordinator, Chiswick

tion, travelled to a secret location (hotel) far, far away for an overnight session of fun, laughter, pampering and fellowship. It was decided that a secret venue was vital, for the pampering could not be interrupted by telephone calls or emergency visits from those of the stronger sex who were unable to cope with our absence.

Upon arrival our first obligation was to test the jacuzzi, sauna, gym and swimming pool which set the tone for a fun and relaxing evening. One of the ladies was nicknamed 'Queen of Jacuzzi' while another member was chased out of the gym for undisclosed reasons! The ladies were also treated to relaxing facials by a cosmetics expert who posed for a photo with them in a makeshift studio – one of the en suite bathrooms.

Topical discussions on the role of women in God's ministry, as well as issues such as stress and the menopause, conducted by Dr Gita Wijeyesinghe, focused on the women individually in their personal, professional, social and spiritual lives.

The subtext for the weekend was, as predicted, men. Indeed, they were the primary focus of every aspect of the weekend from 'jacuzzi' to 'menopause'.

ASHA WIJE



Left to right: Pastor F. Mapp, Renson Ongaro, James Haslam and Pastor K. Johns

## Baptism at Preston

Preston church was overjoyed as two young men decided to take a stand for the Lord and be baptised on 23 December.

Renson Ongaro, 14, was brought up in an Adventist home. He decided that he wanted to be baptised and his main influence was his family and their Christian values. He has always taken an active part in the church services at Lancaster and is a regular member of the Pathfinder Club.

Renson said, 'This is one of the bravest choices I have ever had to make, but thank God I made the decision to follow him.'

James Haslam began practising Christianity at the age of 15, but it wasn't long before he started to challenge the doctrine of the church to which he had become accustomed. For the next four years he began spending his time in Riverside, California, home of the La Sierra University, where he was introduced to a doctrine which refreshingly, was fully in line with Bible teaching.

Since then, James has regularly

attended the Adventist church and taken part in missionary work in Mexico, working with orphans, which he found to be a rewarding experience. From March 2002 he has regularly attended the Preston church and, on occasions, helped out with the Pathfinders.

Both candidates were appointed spiritual guardians – Evadne Whyte and Connie Jeffers.

JENNY JEFFERS



Left photo: Pastor Llew Edwards, Crieff Pathfinder leader Malcolm Logan and Communication director Pastor Paul Tompkins, with the Crieff Pathfinders. Right photo: Pastor Tompkins, Pastor Bob Rodd, and Scottish Youth sponsor Marcel Ghioalda with the new Crieff Master Guides



## Biggest investiture

Sabbath 1 February was an exciting day for the Crieff Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs because it was their Investiture service. TED's Pastor Paul Tompkins was the visiting speaker and he said he was thrilled to be present for what was probably the biggest Investiture in the history of the Scottish Mission. Eleven Pathfinders and Adventurers received their honour badges and had been inducted in the various course levels. Honours as varied as sculpture, glass painting, textiles, keep fit and camp craft were obtained. The Sabbath was the result of two years of hard work, and Pastor Tompkins wanted to thank Moyra Rodd who had started the club and Malcolm Logan and his team of helpers who had carried on so conscientiously.

As well as the investiture of the Adventurers and Pathfinders a really historic event occurred when seven members from various churches in Scotland were invested as Master Guides. This was the result of a training scheme started by Pastor G. Smith and carried on by the new Scottish

Youth Sponsor, Marcel Ghioalda. The biggest applause was for Andy McKie who was one of those invested. He has been helping to run Pathfinder clubs for decades and received the General Conference Medallion for service to Pathfinders at the last BUC Camporee held at Auchengillan. Pastor Tompkins said the Pathfinder programme had been established in 1949 by the General Conference, and when he asked for a show of hands in the congregation of those who were Master Guides, he found some who had been involved right from the beginning.

PASTOR A. R. RODD

## Sydenham: Two baptised

Two candidates were baptised by Pastor W. Blake at the Sydenham church on 12 December. Victoria Dedrick was formerly a Baptist but her husband, Rafoil Dedrick, was brought up in an Adventist home.

Gloria St Martin, the second candidate, testified powerfully to the saving grace of God.

MALCOLM ANDERSON

## Would you believe it? (see right)



## ◀ Would you believe it?

About a third of the pastors and Bible workers who attended the Swanwick Ministerial Council failed to appear in the picture, reproduced on pages 6 and 7 of the 14 February issue of MESSENGER. Know why? They were missing in cyberspace. Pastor John Surridge has now located them and we herewith reproduce the whole picture! We apologise to the pastors who did not appear last time; and especially to Southampton's Pastor Barry Alen and Newark's Miss Phyllis Coldwell – who were chopped in half. Ouch! The editor has looked in vain even in the complete picture for the faces of his old friends, and has drawn the conclusion that even this is only a random sample! But at least we have not left anyone hanging about in cyberspace!

EDITOR

## Onward in the Welsh Mission:

President: Brian P. Phillips



The Welsh Mission was always the largest in membership of the three missions within the British Union Conference. Since 1911, with a few interruptions in the 1920s, its territory has included the English

Border Counties of Hereford, Shropshire and a small portion of Worcestershire. These counties were included in the Mission because the main road and rail link between South and North Wales runs through this border area.

### Wrexham

In 1909 Pastor W. E. Read began services in North Wales in the village of Rhosllanerugog, near Wrexham. For many years we had a few members living in that area, but regular services came to an end a number of years ago. Much to our delight as a Mission, regular services began once again on the first Sabbath of 2003 in Wrexham. A few weeks before Christmas a student from South Africa, K. R-Rowe, spoke at a reaping campaign following a great deal of seed-sowing by Pastor T. du Buisson and a band of helpers from the North Wales churches. Seven members from the surrounding area have joined this group and several new people are studying in preparation for baptism. Wrexham, with a population of 126,000, is the largest Welsh-speaking town in North Wales. Please pray for this group as they worship the Lord each week.

### Small groups

Prayer is uppermost in our minds in the Mission. Small groups are developing all over the Mission territory. Attending these small groups reminds one of the 'Experience Meetings' that gave a solid foundation to Methodism in the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival. Prayer is an important part of all these gatherings and we are asking the Lord for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to enable us to finish the work.

A number of dedicated sponsors have been appointed to enliven the work in our churches and to encourage believers to be prepared to spread the Gospel message in the churches and in the community.

Last year was an experimental year when we asked the department directors from the British Union to come into the Mission on a regular basis. They responded with enthusiasm; and so much so that they gave some of our congregations spiritual indigestion. However, we now have a list of dos and don'ts for the future.

### Moving to Wales

The year 2002 will be remembered for the number of people who moved into the Mission. We have not got around to including them in our membership lists yet, but we have the assurance that God is using those who have come to join us. Many are now receiving Adventist Television 24/7. A few have

admitted that they are watching more television and even stay up late for some of the 3ABN programmes! Many who were unable or did not have the courage to share their faith are now sharing recorded programmes with their friends and neighbours.

One of the most successful churches in the small group movement in the Mission is Ystrad Mynach where Pastor Richard Vine is the minister. They started with one group that grew last year until they decided it was time to split into three and meet once a week. Another group that meets once a month is also to be found in that area of South Wales. The monthly group is the most diverse, with three Adventists and a dozen others coming from across the Christian spectrum. There are signs of small groups beginning in many parts of the Welsh Mission.

### Bangor

Last year regular services also started at the university town of Bangor in North Wales. Ten years ago the work was dying in North Wales. Today there are five places where worship services are taking place. We praise the Lord for his guidance in the work in the Mission through a dedicated band of workers and church officers. Our only prayer must be, Lord glorify your name. May we diminish in stature as we exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

## God is leading in Ireland

President: Curtis Murphy

"Ireland, once visited, is never forgotten," it said. For once the blarney rings true. The Irish landscape has a mythic resonance, due as much to the country's almost tangible history as its claim to being the home of the fairies and the "little people". Sure, the weather may not always be clement, but the dampness ensures there are fifty shades of green to compensate – just one of the reasons Ireland is called the Emerald Isle.'

So says the introduction to Ireland that one finds when surfing the net. Yes, I know that's no longer an 'in' word, but I'm still catching up. Unlike my cyber vocabulary, however, I believe that the Irish Mission isn't playing the 'catch up' game. God is leading, directing and moving us on!

We are about 335 members on an island that is divided into two countries, has two currencies, but the Church one aim: to tell someone of the saving grace of a loving Lord.

Our pastoral team is dedicated and hard working, serving in eleven centres of worship. Our members are from the diaspora – representing peoples as far afield as Africa, Eastern Europe, Philippines, Australia; the list goes on. But our focus is on the millions who live in Ireland. 'Evangelism' is our clarion cry. And to help us this year we are looking forward to welcoming friends from near and far.

The first group will be with us during March. They are from Portland Adventist Academy and consist of students and staff who will be involved in cross-community projects in Belfast during the day, and

### Membership figures\*

Welsh Mission: 446  
Irish Mission: 332

\* 30 September 2002



Bible-based projects in Larne during the evening. This initiative will be conducted under the banner, 'A Vision of Jesus'. We look forward to the arrival of Loma Linda Academy's Symphonic Wind Orchestra at the end of July, who will be at the Galway Arts Festival, Galway; St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; and Banbridge Academy, Banbridge, where they will present an orchestral concert in praise to the God we all love.

As a Mission, we have been well served by our own Union and we acknowledge their continued encouragement, but we are delighted for the support being given by the General Conference, who, under the leadership of Elder Ted Wilson, is honing an eighteen-month programme specifically for the Londonderry area beginning this May and concluding during the autumn months of 2004. This programme will have a wider impact on the Mission as skills learned and materials donated will be available for use in many other areas of Ireland.

We are excited about what our Lord is doing in Ireland. Grianach House School in Galway continues to be recognised as a place of excellence to be proud of. Under the headship of Thelma Rhodes and Galway's pastor, Phil Rhodes, a lot has been done to raise the profile of Seventh-day Adventists.

Our church plant in Cork, led by Pastor Mike Logan, continues to grow.

In Dublin Pastor Douglas McCormac meets the challenges that a multicultural, multilingual church provides, where there are a large number of Romanians.

Banbridge with Pastor Nathan Stickland, Belfast and Larne, served by Pastor Mart de Groot and Adam Keough, Coleraine and Londonderry directed by Pastor Rudika Puskas, are all places where the Name that is above all names is being lifted up in praise and love.

We do not minimise the challenges of being a part of God's team in this difficult pitch, but we are awed and humbled as we see a Spirit, God's Spirit, moving in his particular way to reach the hearts and minds of those who live on this Emerald Isle.

Vickie and Curtis Murphy



Adventist faith and has built up a wide range of contacts through his involvement in disability issues.

OLIVER MARTYN

### Club growing

The last few years have seen the West Bromwich Adventurer and Pathfinder Club grow from strength to strength, largely due to the leadership of Brother Joseph Spencer. He has motivated his committee and the children, introducing the church to a new concept of Pathfinders since his election to the office in 1997.

The children and officers have enjoyed the numerous camporees that they have attended, gaining gold awards and trophies. An outstanding achievement was accomplished this year by one of our Pathfinders, 16-year-old Shanique Sanderson. She wrote the theme song for the Pathfinder Camporee in Poland entitled 'Jesus for You'.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

### Singles' Ball

The New Year Adventist Singles' Ball, a black-tie charity event, was held at the Advent Centre. Organisers were Maureen Linda Helen Raphael and Joonya Jackman-Jones. Maureen is a new member of the Mottingham church, and Joonya is a member at Greenwich.

Maureen, in the second year of a Psychology degree, is LIFEdevelopment.info co-ordinator for her

## Obituaries

**BATES, Percy** – d. 5 December. Percy was born ninety-three years ago in 1909, in Chorlton, Manchester. He attended the Central School before going to Barnsley Grammar School where he graduated with a higher certificate. While studying at Goldsmith's College in London, to be a teacher, Percy met Margaret Brown whom he married in 1937 in Bournemouth. Percy and Margaret adopted 3-year-old John, who was to become a nurse, but died in his mid-30s. During these years they lived in Welwyn Garden City while Percy pursued his teaching career, finally to become head of Hatfield Sixth Form College. In retirement Percy and Margaret moved to the beautifully-situated Dell View Retirement Flats in Oulton Broad, Lowestoft. Sadly Margaret died in the mid-1980s leaving Percy bereft. He stayed for a while with his niece, and lifelong friend Irene in Beaconsfield, before returning to his flat at the Dell. Here Percy found love and companionship with Elsie Bullard, whom he married in 1986. Percy will be greatly missed by many. The Oulton Broad church will miss his wisdom, experience and faithfulness. Although he retired from eldership and preaching some time ago, he assisted on the platform virtually every Sabbath until only two months before his death. In his early years he was a founder member of the Adventist church in Manchester, and he is still remembered in Hampstead where he served as elder. Friends and ministry from London attended Percy's funeral, which was conducted by Pastor Ian Lorek, assisted by Marc Rasell, in the Oulton Broad church. Also in attendance were Percy's wife Elsie

and a number of family members. May God comfort all who mourn.

PASTOR IAN LOREK

**BATES, Elsie** – d. 10 January. Just one month after the funeral service of her beloved husband Percy, family, friends and church members attended Elsie's funeral. Although frail, Elsie had cared for Percy in his short, final illness, and his death was a terrible blow from which she never recovered. Elsie Bullard was born in London, her parents having moved there from Suffolk. She worked as a nurse during the Second World War, and then trained as an SRN at Whipps Cross Hospital in London. While working in Watford Elsie met and became lifelong friends with Mrs Iris Metcalf. Together they moved to Bristol in 1962, and ran a retirement home for eighteen years. While in Bristol Elsie attended the Central church. When retirement came in 1981 the two ladies moved to the Dell View Flats, where they lived in neighbouring properties. Elsie married Percy in 1986, in the Oulton Broad church, where sixteen years later, on Monday 20 January 2003 the writer conducted her funeral service. Following the service Elsie was laid to rest in Kirkley cemetery beside her husband Percy, where they await the resurrection call of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

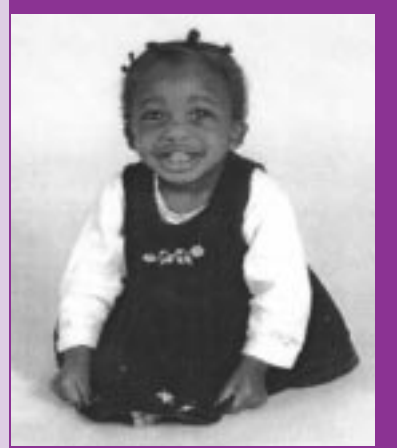
PASTOR IAN LOREK

**WARMAN, Dora** – d. 9 January. On 18 January at the Isle of Wight crematorium, the funeral service of Dora Warman took place. Dora died at St Mary's

## Sponsored by SEC Family Ministries department

Esther is 2 and her foster carer describes her as a 'happy loveable little girl. She needs a lot of attention but all your efforts are always abundantly rewarded.' Esther likes going out in her pram and feeling the wind on her face. She enjoys looking at books, singing, watching the Tweenies(!) and playing with other children. Diagnosed as 'Globally Developmentally Delayed', Esther has no underlying medical condition. She is progressing daily and becoming a more confident child. Esther needs security to develop to her full potential. She needs a family of *Black Caribbean origin* of *Adventist* faith to reflect both her cultural and religious background.

Could you give a warm and loving home to Esther? Please contact Ruth Montoute: 020 8356 6318 (direct line); [rvalentine@gw.hackney.gov.uk](mailto:rvalentine@gw.hackney.gov.uk), The Fostering & Adoption Unit, London Borough of Hackney, 205 Morning Lane, London E9 6JX.



congregation. The innovative strategy of a singles' ball was hers. Her aim was to target an often marginalised group of people and 'to allow singles to mingle'.

A hundred and twenty guests came from many parts of the country. Clive Richardson and his helpers dished up a superb meal. Funds raised went to the Salvation Army Training College, Denmark Hill, the 'Buy a Chair' campaign at the Greenwich church and the building fund of the Mottingham church.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## FeedBack

MESSANGER 31 JANUARY 2003

Dear Editor, It is not often that I feel moved to write to editors of magazines or newspapers (I wonder if it is a sign of my increasing age!) But I have two reasons for this missive:

Firstly, I very much wish to thank you for your editorial 'Rediscovering the Edge' which I appreciate. We sometimes get so concerned with what 'hooks' we should use to catch our 'fish' that we pay far less attention to the basic Gospel and letting the Holy Spirit work through us. My mind has been exercised recently with some of the suggestions I have heard for 'meeting people where they are'. For example:

– Why don't we have bingo sessions in the church hall to bring the people in?  
– Why don't we watch Eastenders on TV so that you can talk to people about things they are interested in?

I bring these together with a statement made to me a few months ago by the non-churchgoing husband of a lady I visit regularly – 'The reason the churches have empty pews is that professing Christians don't adhere to the principles laid down in the Bible, and the leaders don't speak out for what is right.' While he was specifically referring to homosexuality, it is true in a much wider sense. As another lady said to me, 'Christians must be rock bottom basic and true.'

Secondly, I want to applaud the proposed prayer feature for the Messenger. In the North, there were several of us who were members of Gavin Anthony's TAPNET and were very upset when it came to an untimely end. A couple of years ago we decided to use the idea and publish a monthly prayer network in Sutton. We seem so reluctant to pray; so many distractions are put in our way by the devil. (Have you heard that definition of busy: Being Under Satan's Yoke.)

MRS ZELDA HALL (SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD)

JOHN HEMMING



## 'I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I do not want to be inherited.'

by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director

It is very sad when a husband dies of HIV/AIDS. It is even more tragic when a widow and her two sons are mistreated after a husband's death.

On 30 January I had the opportunity to visit one of our ADRA-UK projects in Kisumu, western Kenya, supported by the 2002 Annual Appeal funds. I met Ana and her two sons Dialou and Omondi. Ana lost her husband to the AIDS epidemic in December 2002. During our conversation, I asked her if she receives support from her husband's family. Immediately, she broke down in tears. She looked at me and said in a sad voice, 'I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I do not want to be inherited.'

Following her husband's death, Ana's in-laws tried to force her to marry one of her husband's brothers, as tradition in western Kenya has long dictated. Ana refused since she strongly believes that such cultural practices are contrary to the teachings of the Bible. As a result, Ana's in-laws rejected her and drove her out of her home and community to face starvation with her two children.

Most of the 12,235 widows who are receiving support from our 2002 Annual Appeal funds possess little education, have no property, do not hold jobs and do not have the skills to find one easily. They

must choose between 'inheritance' or face starvation.

Ana is one of these fortunate widows who are receiving help from our ADRA funds. Through your dedicated efforts last year, she has received shelter, food, clothing and free education for her children. Ana is also receiving vocational training in basket-making, weaving, tailoring and knitting, and the income generated by these activities is helping her to build her life.

It is wonderful to be part of God's compassionate ministry. 'Changing the world one life at a time' is ADRA's slogan. Thank you for changing the lives of Ana, Dialou and Omondi.



### ADRA Annual Appeal 2003

continued from page 1

the ranks of our willing collectors.

The results for this year can exceed that of last year's if we get more people to participate. To interface or engage with the public during Ingathering is one way the church can make friends with the community. Mingling among the crowd gives us a unique opportunity to do them good.

God is depending on us to do our part. In so doing we shall not fail those who are depending on us.

I was delighted last spring when my colleagues and I were able to collect on behalf of the charity. It is my solemn pledge to join you on the beat this spring. Pray with me that donors

will see beyond the matter of merely giving to a charity and come to acknowledge a God who is the Father of all mankind.

#### HEMOCARE MANAGER WANTED

Luton Friendship Homecarers specialises in providing a range of services for the elderly. We are looking to recruit a manager with a flexible approach and good inter-personal skills and relevant managerial qualifications. Knowledge of homecare provision and NCSC regulations is essential. For further information and an application form, please contact Sam Davis on 0207-723-8146. **Closing date 31 March.** Salary to be negotiated.

**The treasurer of the South England Conference** acknowledges with thanks £4,150 tithe from Anon, and £250 tithe from C/11.

UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
<b>Gospel Concert – Come Taste and See</b>	15 March, 7pm	Battersea Adventist Church, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW8 4BL	Adults £5; Children under 12: £3. Refreshments will be on sale!	Contact: Tel 07762 707610 or 02087 883259 or email <a href="mailto:insignia_ministry@hotmail.com">insignia_ministry@hotmail.com</a> . Trains: Battersea Park, Queenstown Road. Buses: 44, 137, 156, 344.
<b>Mini Newstart</b>	16 March, 10am (Sunday)	Newbold College	Fee £10	email: <a href="mailto:aims_uk@btopenworld.com">aims_uk@btopenworld.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.btinternet.com/~aims_uk">www.btinternet.com/~aims_uk</a>
<b>Adventist Int. Medical Soc. Day of Fellowship</b>	22 March, 10am	Newbold College	Dr Clarence Ing	email: <a href="mailto:aims_uk@btopenworld.com">aims_uk@btopenworld.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.btinternet.com/~aims_uk">www.btinternet.com/~aims_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).

# MISSION Festival

## Wembley Arena

### 26th April 2003



people need the Lord

Speakers

**dwight nelson** **cecil perry**

miroslav pujić **don mclarlane**

Full 60-piece orchestra

Afternoon **Adventist Prom Praise**

Starts 10.00am Doors open at 9.30am



For more information, contact the South England Conference:  
25 St Johns Road, Watford, Herts WD17 1PZ Tel: 01923 232 728

### ABC BOOK SALES 2003

#### March

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

#### April

27 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

#### May

11 West Midlands 10am-2pm

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**EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL**

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Mar 14	6.03	6.15	6.06	6.13	6.25
21	6.15	6.27	6.19	6.28	6.38
28	6.26	6.39	6.31	6.42	6.52
Apr 4	7.38	7.50	7.44	7.56	8.05

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