

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Messenger

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ADRA-UK and Ireland

Annual Ingathering Appeal 2004



by Pastor Cecil Perry,
president, British Union Conference

ADRA-UK launches the 2004 Public Collections Appeal (Ingathering) confident of raising funds to help alleviate human suffering and fulfil basic needs.

The increasing amounts collected each year reflect the willing commitment of our volunteers to engage a generous public to support the charity's chosen projects.

Although ADRA-UK is not among the big-league charities, its humanitarian work has made a significant impact in some of the most needy areas in the developing countries.

From Haiti to Kazakhstan; Guyana to Sudan; Peru to Nepal, the wheel of compassion turns to benefit the needy. At the end of 2003 twenty-one countries were beneficiaries of the charity.

All this has been made possible through public donations and grants from donor organisations valued at approximately £1.4 million.

As one of the chief promoters of this year's appeal I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2003 campaign that brought in £518,841.

Our appreciation goes to the veteran collectors who, year after year, have braved all weathers and circumstances to knock on doors. The participation of our youth is welcomed as they tread the miles on sponsored walks. The silent givers in the churches are not overlooked as they make their donations to the Ingathering agents.

We do not forget the efforts of our pastors, Personal Ministries directors, collecting agents and all

who seek to fulfil the Lord's command to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

This year we shall continue to enjoy the freedom to follow our traditional schedule of allocating two weeks to provincial collections and three to the metropolitan area. However, the Commissioners of Charities are proposing a change. Among the many recommendations for change is that charities with national exemption orders will have them withdrawn. All charities, big and small, are to be treated equally.

Charities will be vetted by what is known as a Lead Authority within a given region/county. The local authority/council will, as usual, give permission and time for any charity collections.

While the current arrangements last, let us take advantage of the opportunity to maximise our collections for the projects chosen by ADRA. Let us pray that the door of

giving from a generous public will not be closed by poor legislation.

Like the majority of staff members in the Union office I shall beat a path to doors of the houses I have been to over the past 17 years to do my Spring Collection for the charity.

May I request that you join us again in the March-April Public Appeals Programme to help ADRA-UK bring more relief to the socially deprived, sick, the homeless, educationally impaired and spiritually deficient. Your participation will make a difference to a child too hungry to cry or a village too poverty-stricken to give its inhabitants hope.

We are God's hands and feet to the world to express his tangible love to others.



**Annual Appeal
2004**

27 March to 11 April
(extends to 18 April
in London)



Changing the world one life at a time!

Fast Facts

- First satellite NET evangelistic meeting sponsored by ACN and It Is Written in 1995.
- ATN formed in 1997 to take satellite NET evangelism to the world.
- ATN develops a global network of 16,000 downlink sites by 2003.
- In 2003, ATN broadcasts the 65th satellite NET meeting, reaching millions.

Bringing God's last day message of hope to the world



Proclaiming God's love and truth 24 hours a day, the Hope Channel is a television satellite broadcast you can receive in your own home on a small digital satellite dish.

The Evidence series will replay Fridays at 7pm and 8pm GMT, Hope Channel, Hotbird Satellite. dates: 19, 26 March, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April, 7, 14, 21 May 2004.

1 million members baptized from satellite evangelism (8% of world membership).

ATN broadcasts to the world 24 hours on the Hope Channel.

Should you wish to get a satellite dish installed or make further enquiries about receiving the Hope Channel, email info@jdsatellite.co.uk or log on to www.jdsatellite.co.uk.

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Hair Today

... gone tomorrow! A writer of yesterday said, 'The average woman is composed of two hundred and forty-three bones, one hundred and sixty-nine muscles, twenty-two old newspapers and two hundred and ten hairpins!' Now it is not the styling that is being commented on but other concerns — enough to make your hair stand on end.

A European Commission watchdog is worried that some hair dyes could cause cancer. In particular, dark-coloured, permanent dyes used every 4-6 weeks. Scientists are studying the effects of two chemical ingredients: *paraphenylenediamine*, and *etrahydro-6-nitroquinoline*. Both have been

shown to damage genetic material and, in laboratory studies, have caused cancer in animals. Other studies have linked hair dyes to arthritis and damage to the unborn.

A University of Southern California study found that women who used permanent hair dyes were three more times likely to develop bladder cancer if they dyed their hair once a month. Currently, Edinburgh University are recruiting volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30 to take part in a skin cancer study. Blondes, brunettes and redheads are required to investigate the variation in sensitivity to sunshine.

Other hair study may benefit. Researchers at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Rockefeller

University, New York, have pinpointed the subtle chemical signals that stimulate hair production. It is hoped that this insight will help to explain the baldness of some people, and the way that delicate chemistry influences cancer growth. The research is centred on two proteins — *Wnt* and *noggin* — that contribute to the changing shape of cells. *Wnt* has been linked, in some studies, to the spread of breast and colon cancer.

More recently, concerns have been expressed about the use of deodorant chemicals and other cosmetics. Studies in Britain have shown that traces of chemicals absorbed into the skin migrate to breast tissue, especially traces of

chemicals called *parabens*. A University of Reading study tested twenty different human breast tumours and found traces of *paraben* in each. Animal studies have shown *parabens* to mimic the action of the hormone oestrogen.

There is no suggestion that dyes, deodorants and cosmetics pose major risks at this stage, so we need not let our hair fall out with worry. Keeping our hair on may be the bigger problem!



with David Marshall



When ignorance is not bliss — it's downright dangerous!

'A fundamentalist is a person whose religion makes him angry.'

That definition came out of a class of 10-year-olds. And I reckon it's a pretty good one.

Fundamentalists are to be found at the intolerant 'end' of the religious spectrum. Their take on the world is decidedly exclusive; and they believe that their religion requires them to dislike, even hate, those of other faiths.

About forty years ago, when it seemed important for Adventists to be classified as 'mainstream' rather than 'cult', we took it as a compliment when a prominent American evangelical described us as 'the intellectuals of fundamentalism'.

These days we would not take it as a compliment to be described as *any* sort of fundamentalist. Indeed, when Opus Communications were hired to check out the image of the Adventist Church in the 90s, they indicated that we should shun the fundamentalist label above all others.

'Fundamentalist' already meant something bad in the early 80s. One Friday night in Jerusalem I was woken about midnight by an unholy row beneath my window. Long ringletted Jews were breaking the skulls of Jews of another sort who were emerging from a late-night cinema. Their offence? *Sabbath-breaking!* Next morning the incident was being discussed over breakfast in my hostel. 'Fundamentalist fanatics!' was how the skull-breakers were dismissed. Their religion, you see, had made them angry!

And the odour surrounding the 'f' word did not improve. Those responsible for the murder of certain surgeons who had been responsible for conducting abortions in the American 'Bible Belt' were described as 'Christian fundamentalists'. The term 'fundamentalist' was one among many used to describe those responsible for Waco.

When watching an airliner impact one of the Twin Towers on CNN, the first words of the commentary that I caught were, 'Islamic fundamentalists'. And even those normally allergic to any word of more than one syllable were to learn to use the word 'fundamentalist' in the ensuing two years, and to associate it with religious anger and its consequences.

The consequences of public utterances about Islam and its fundamentalist wing have made most wary about making any. Those who have thrown caution to the winds have — like Kilroy — *not* come out ahead as a result of the experience!

In general, of course, Adventists have hunkered down into their sub-culture, muttered about 'the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets of Revelation 9' and combed Ellen G. White for clues.

Basically we have the feeling that we have two duties with regard to those of other faiths: one, to convert them; two, to be in ignorance of what they stand for. The fundamentalist influence in our own heredity works against anything that interferes with our natural ignorance of other faiths and favours factors likely to make us angry with them. Our ignorance and our anger puts beyond our reach any possibility of influence, let alone outreach.

Hence Islam is one of the aspects of the contemporary scene that we end up ignoring for all practical purposes. There are 1.2 billion Muslims in today's world, 300 million of whom live in the West. That's an awful lot of people to ignore! And a whole lot of ignorance!

Among those who have worked ever so gently and tactfully against the force of our ignorance has been my old friend Dr Borge Schantz. For fourteen years he ministered in Islamic countries and, when the General Conference moved to establish an Adventist Centre for Islamic Studies — and chose to do so on the Newbold campus — Borge was an obvious choice as director.

Before you begin to dialogue with Muslims, Borge argues, you must understand something about their religion. 'If, as soon as you open your mouth, you reveal your ignorance about their faith, they will not take you

seriously,' says Borge. 'The section of the globe in which Adventists have made the least impact — the so-called "10:40 window" — is the very section where the majority of Muslims live.'

The failure of Adventists to win Muslims, however, is not so much a failure in global strategic terms; certainly not since the 10:40 initiative began. It is a failure at local levels: 300 million Muslims live in the West, as many as two million of whom live in the British Isles. Pastor Oscar Osindo tells me that 15,000 of that two million are converts *from* Christianity.* He points out that that is approximately equivalent to the size of the SEC!

The place where the Adventist ignorance of Islam is especially inappropriate is in our major cities. It is in our inner city areas that the mosque can appear to be in direct competition with the Adventist church for the allegiance of our youth. To youth with even the most minimal exposure to Islam, who then encounter the stone wall of ignorance on the part of the leaders of Adventist congregations, that ignorance can appear like an argument for Islam. While the activities of Al Qaeda may make our youth recoil against Islam, a fundamentalist Adventist reaction of anger toward Islam (an anger born of ignorance), may well make them recoil against Adventism.

What has been done to help Adventists in the British Isles overcome their ignorance of Islam and to take the first tentative steps toward dialogue and outreach?

- Since its session in September 2003, the South England Conference has appointed Oscar Osindo as director of Adventist-Muslim relations. He also lectures in Christian-Muslim Studies at Newbold.
- On the second anniversary of 9/11 The Stanborough Press published Borge Schantz's *Islam in the Post 9/11 World*. This book explains the basics of Islam — what Adventists need to know to carry on an intelligent dialogue — and accounts for the high profile Islam has in our news bulletins.
- On 1 January 2004 the British Union published an issue of FOCUS in which a major feature on Islam appeared. That issue is still current and available through the Adventist Book Centres.

Last year saw a heightening of tensions between Islam and the West on the international stage. That was evident in British cities, too. The major factor accounting for it would, arguably, be the Iraq War, in which the UK appeared as the most significant ally of George W. Bush's United States.

The suicide of weapons expert Dr David Kelly, the failure of anyone to produce evidence of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the publicity surrounding the Hutton Report, has led to the widespread perception that the war was undertaken on false pretences (and, some have argued, that the real issue was oil).

Both the US presidential election and the British General Election will take place within the next sixteen months. The issue likely to dominate both elections is, Did our political leaders mislead us about the Iraq War? Indeed, unless Al Qaeda is responsible for further atrocities, that issue is likely totally to eclipse the War Against Terrorism declared after 9/11.

The profile of Islam is not going to diminish. On 23 February TIME talked of 'global jihad' (p. 32). We owe it to ourselves, to our Church and to the Gospel Commission to find out the answers to such questions as 'What is Islam?', 'Is Islam a religion of peace?', and 'How typical of Islam is Al Qaeda?'

In an interview given to the Adventist News Network last week, Borge Schantz said: 'What I want to say to my Christian brothers and sisters [is that] prejudice against a person because of colour of skin, race, sex, language and religion is unchristian. Witch-hunts against individual Muslims due to deeds committed in the name of Islam are unworthy. However, to witness, to try to convince [others] about false and dangerous teachings and what you believe as a truth from God is a Christian duty. Evangelism is not a hate crime', he concluded.

*The source Pastor Osindo cites for those statistics is an article in *The Daily Mail*, 17 October 2002, p. 54.



The picture, from *The Nottingham Evening Post*, is of a part of the massed choir practising on 25 January 2004. Members from the Nottingham Community Gospel Choir, the Promise Choir and New Horizons Choir from Cotgrave and members from the Mt Zion Church in Lenton joined with Adventist choirs from Leicester, Tamworth, Birmingham and London.

Young Soulful Messiah

by Shaun Douglas

Be among the privileged few who will make it inside the Nottingham Albert Hall to see the UK's first live performance of the *Young Soulful Messiah*. An evening of praise, music and dance based on the ever popular work of Handel's *Messiah*, but brought up to date with arrangements by Mervyn Warren (Preacher's Wife, Living Out Loud) and Greg Nelson (Sandi Patti, Steve Green). Nottingham's own Community Gospel Choir will be part of the YSM Massed Choir, which also includes the Youth Choirs from Camp Hill, Chiswick, Willesden and Leicester Adventist churches, bringing you a musical experience unparalleled by any other you will see in the NEC this Easter.

The date: 20 march 2004.

A 100-strong+ Gospel choir, 40-piece string symphony orchestra (IASO), brass quintet, full session band, 12-piece chorale, Hutchinson & Gayle (2003 inners of the GMTV Gospel Singers award), Nottingham's Brendon Guyatt (Power Praise Team-Hillsongs UK), Mark Bunney (Coming Soon), and an opportunity to buy

Middlesbrough 10-day Prayer Fast

From 1 to 10 January 2004 was a time for the congregation of the Middlesbrough church to set aside a special time to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Prayer Fast was an opportunity to draw close to our Lord and Saviour by freeing more of our time for prayer and reflection. Over the ten days individuals made a personal commitment to abstain from any unnecessary secular media such as television, radio, music, books, magazines and internet/computer use.

DVDs, CDs, books and multimedia from the Adventist Book Centre, Strictly Gospel (Adventist business) and Wesley Owen Books – all in one fantastic evening!

To top it all, there will be a special evangelistic 15-minute introduction to the concert by Pastor Henry Wright, following the NEC Youth Day of Fellowship & Evangelism.

Any profits will be used to establish the Nottingham Community Gospel Choir as a permanent community and evangelistic venture. If you have an interest in learning gospel music singing for personal interests, vocal development, or for a fulfilling challenge, this choir will be for you. It is open to anyone with-in driving distance of the Nottingham Central church.

Tickets now on sale: £15 adults; £13 concessions (NUS card is required). If you order 10 tickets *in one booking*, one will get in for only £10; 20 or more, one will pay only £8. Doors open at 6.30pm, Sabbath 20 March. Ring Reginald (Kelly) on 0115 989 9081 for tickets and details.

To assist in the Prayer Fast a special booklet was prepared with ten thought-provoking devotional readings and a daily prayer focus. Prior to the Prayer Fast over thirty of these booklets were distributed among the congregation. The Bible tells us how the disciples came together in the days preceding the day of Pentecost. During these ten days we met in the church and members' homes throughout the Cleveland area, and what a wonderful blessing this was to all who attended.

At the meetings someone would read the devotional, a short time would then be taken for those

present to share how the devotional impressed them. We then spent time in prayer, initially using the daily prayer focus. At some of the meetings we began by singing a few praise songs and a song would also finish the programme.

Sabbath 10 January saw the Prayer Fast brought to a close with a communion service, followed by the final devotional reading after the divine service with over thirty people attending. When the local evangelism committee put together the idea of this Prayer Fast they never envisaged the response they would have. It was truly an amazing experience. It was only as the programme began that we discovered that there was a worldwide week of prayer and that the accompanying booklet was close to the devotionals that we had produced, praise the Lord!

We would like to give thanks to Pastor Dennis Smith, whose book and programmes on 3ABN on the Holy Spirit inspired these meetings.

COLIN WOODFORD

New Life at New Hope Centre

Last year the New Hope Centre Stockport church was blessed by God with four members of our family. Dad, who had led the way, would have been the fifth person but sadly he passed away.

The ball was set in motion many years ago by Karen, when she accepted the Advent message after being brought up as a Catholic. Though considered mad for making such a move, she quietly and consistently witnessed to her newfound faith whenever the Lord opened an opportunity. Then around eighteen months ago her sister Dee began asking some interesting questions about God. Unable to answer all the questions Karen involved friends – Carl, who is now her husband, and Brother Douglas from Pendleton – to give Revelation studies in their home. With support from Pastor P. Jeynes the family became more exposed to the warmth of Adventism.

Unfortunately, Denni Mac (the father) had become ill. Then Pastor Rashford-Hewitt of the Stockport church and church elder Dunkley visited and had Bible studies with him at his home in preparation for baptism where he constantly expressed his love for the Lord. However, he was later admitted to hospital. Visits continued until



LifeQuest retreat

What connection exists between Moses, Sinai, 102 Adventists – and a wedding? The answer – the LifeQuest Retreat, held in the Sinai Peninsula from 12 to 18 January.

Organised by David Cox (BUC), Paul Haworth (NEC), and Aris Vontzalidis (SEC), this spiritual retreat proved to be a success from the start. Originally we sought to fill 50 places, but interest was so high that we had to double that number and still had a waiting list!

Why the LifeQuest retreat? We recognise that many go to Camp Meetings, but at the same time some do not and, for whatever reason, they do not get that opportunity for spiritual blessing and encouragement. We wanted, therefore, to plan something that would provide an atmosphere in which church members alongside their family and friends could rediscover their spirituality and, at the same time, enjoy a relaxing, challenging and exciting holiday experience.

Pastor Llew Edwards, Scottish Mission president, presented most morning messages on the essential disciplines of a disciple – prayer, study of the Word, witnessing and worship. We were inspired by worship that touched all our senses and concluded with people studying the Bible together in small groups.

Most days had organised activities like the visit to the Bedouin encampment in the hills of Sinai, an incredible experience as we each felt as if we were one of the wandering Israelites. Though we did not find 'manna', we were thankful for the food that the Bedouins provided.

For those who could swim and snorkel, this part of Egypt boasts coral with an abundance of life, fish of every shape, size and colour. The majority of the group took an exhausting but memorable trip to Cairo during which we visited the Sphinx and the Pyramids, but the highlight of the week for many was the Sabbath visit to Mount Sinai. We watched the sun rise from the highest peak in the Sinai peninsula, Jebel Musa, and to the strains of 'Far from all care we hail the Sabbath morning' we worshipped the Creator, Lawgiver and Redeemer of us all.

The mountain is over 5,000 feet and takes three hours to climb and at least two of our party were smiling like no one else; they were both over 70!

On top of Sinai two of our group sealed their lives together in a sacred ceremony of marriage. We wish Rose Lewis and Ismael Gomez every happiness and God's blessing.

PASTOR PAUL HAWORTH

unfortunately he passed away, but not before speaking warmly about his new church, the resurrection, the new earth and meeting Jesus in the Kingdom.

Following on from Dad's example and the continued support of the family by members of the local church, four family members were baptised at the end of the 'Love Lifted Me' campaign, which was blessed by the anointed messages from the Holy Spirit through Pastor

Stefan Burton-Schnull from Gloucester church.

Seven young children from the local community witnessed the baptism. These young people are members of the Noah Ark's play scheme, run by the local church and members from the community. The attendance of the young people of their own volition shows that the process is working.

In a brief interview one of the new members, Ann (or 'Mum' as we

affectionately call her), said: 'I feel that when I pray I can talk with God as a friend – anywhere and at any time.' Mum's so proud of her newfound love for Christ that she's now witnessing to her family back in Ireland.

LLOYD LAMBERT

Chingford church growth

November 8 was a day of rejoicing for the Chingford church when five precious souls were baptised by the newly-ordained Pastor Michael Mannix. They were welcomed into membership of the Chingford church.

Two young members, Shanice Sterling and Nicole Davis, both aged 9, were among those making a commitment to give their lives to Jesus. Also baptised were Samantha Rodney, Ruby Mighty and, rebaptised, Veronica Hart.

JULIANA BLACKETT

Five baptised at Brixton

Sabbath 27 December was a memorable day for five ladies and one young man who became members of the Brixton church through baptism. Their determination to be baptised before the year ended brought great rejoicing among the members, families and friends who were present to witness the event.

It was heart-warming to know that all the candidates had an earnest desire to serve the Lord. This was attested to by the moving testimonies they gave as to how they were led to the Lord and by the smiles they wore as they emerged from the water.

The baptismal service was conducted by our minister Pastor Hamilton Williams and the focus of his sermon was 'Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift'. He admonished the candidates, as well as the members, to acknowledge the time (when the gift was delivered), purpose (why the gift was sent), composition (how it was wrapped), and the value (how much it was worth), of the gift God gave to us, and ultimately to accept this gift (Jesus) as the only sure way to salvation.

The candidates were Tamara Barrett, Christine Biggs, Jessica Mitchell, Hannah Doe-Venn, Tina Ekwuribe and Richard Surfright.

JOAN REID

Can a church be planted in Limerick?

Sabbath 31 January was a day rich in blessings at the Newmarket-on-Fergus church in County Clare. There had never been such a crowd. When Pastor Ashley Kongari arrived in Newmarket, he was told that there were potential members of our church in Limerick city. He began to make contact with them, and managed to meet several of them in the refugee hostel at Knocklisheen Centre, Limerick. After visiting them for several weeks, he invited them to the special Sabbath service of foot-washing and Holy Communion. They came and filled every seat in the church – about 45 adults and 25 children! The church was crowded and it was a joyous moment for the regular believers. Several non-Adventists took part in the communion, and Pastor Kongari had the privilege of explaining why Adventists wash one another's feet while other denominations do not. He also emphasised the importance of the spirit of humility that we should have in our Christian life.

As part of the service there was also a child dedication and acceptance by profession of faith. Seven children were dedicated; some of them were older but had never been dedicated. Only three parents were Adventists and the rest were not. They represented South Africa, Ghana, Liberia and Rwanda. 'Can I bring my child for dedication too, Pastor?' asked Vivian from Ghana. Pastor Kongari did not want to copy the disciples, when they turned away the children, by saying, 'No, you cannot bring your child for dedication because you are not an Adventist.' He responded, 'Yes! Bring your child!' The challenge for the parents and the congregation was to take up the responsibility of raising the children in line with the instruction God has give to us in the Scriptures. It was a good opportunity for Pastor Kongari to talk to non-Adventist parents and let them know how important it is to raise their children God's way.

Marie Irakiza was accepted by her profession of faith into the church at Newmarket. She has two daughters and they were both dedicated on the Sabbath. She has been a faithful Adventist and was baptised in Rwanda. However, her member-

ship could not be located as all the church records were destroyed during the civil war in Rwanda. Her husband Andre is a non-practising Roman Catholic. Pastor Kongari is having Bible studies with him and Marie regularly in Ennis.

After the service there was food for everyone. Most of those present had brought food, but Pastor Kongari had cooked extra food, and after everyone had eaten enough there was some left over. Nobody went home hungry that day. It was an occasion of great fellowship as we had our lunch, people met one another and got acquainted, and discussed many things, including the differences Adventists have with other Christian denominations. It was an occasion to witness to the Adventist faith with others.

Joseph Adam from South Africa made several trips from Limerick to Newmarket, making sure those without transport could get to the service! The success of the special Sabbath day has continued, with 27 people attending on Sabbath 14 February.

Pastor Kongari is having Bible studies with a group of women in the refugee hostel at Knocklisheen. There is one Adventist lady by the name of Rita Dickson, who has become the link between our church and the other refugees in the centre and she organises the meetings every Friday. There is another smaller group having Bible studies from Pastor Kongari in the heart of Limerick city, and it has the potential for growth and baptisms in the near future. Sue Lyn has been the key person behind the group Bible study, seven members of which have registered their names for Bible study through correspondence course.

There is the potential for a church to be planted in Limerick city. Pastor Kongari, with the help of some believers in Limerick, has looked for a location which could be rented for church services there. Now he intends to have a service in Limerick on the first Sabbath in April, and expects no fewer than forty people to attend. The believers in the Galway and Newmarket churches are thrilled at the possibility of planting another church in the west coast of Ireland.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Bristol youth baptism

Sabbath 29 November was a day of many blessings for Lodge Causeway church, Bristol. The baptistery looked beautiful as three new members were baptised and accepted into fellowship.

It was lovely to see Grace and Simon Ashman enter the water together. Earlier in the year, Grace and Simon had committed their lives to each other in marriage, and now in the same church they were making another commitment, this time to their God.

Also making his decision to follow his Lord fully, after much soul searching, was Daniel Cowley. What a delight for the Lord to have three young people dedicate their lives to his service.

Many friends and family were present and took part in the service, reading scriptures, singing and giving their testimonies to the wonderful event taking place.

The baptisms were conducted by Pastors Brian Martin and Ron Edwards, who both helped these young people in their studies.

S. HATCHER

Gorleston outreach

Members of the Gorleston church, near Great Yarmouth, held a candlelight Carol Service on 21 December. The object was to attract local people as one or two had expressed an interest. As a result, eight of the church's neighbours attended the service and offered money to a charity for terminally ill children.

The service consisted of readings outlining the nativity story interspersed with musical items. The highlight of the evening was Pastor Marc Rasell with his two little boys singing 'Away in a manger'. This was followed by a beautiful solo, 'O little town of Bethlehem', sung by Raviro. A special thank you to our stand-in organist Glyn Jones who travelled all the way from Norwich.

It was a very successful evening, which finished with mince pies and grape juice in the upstairs room. This gave the members an opportunity to get to know the visitors and have a friendly chat. The service almost had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions but the Lord was with us and held back snow and gales until exactly after the service and everyone was safely home.

ROGER HILL

Special baptism in Bury

July 19 was a big day in Bert Davies' new life — a baptism in front of his brothers and sisters and a special friend, Lesley, who had flown in from New York for the occasion. Just a few

months before, Bert was just your average man, not a God in the world. Then he met Lesley in a Bob Dylan chat room and found a woman who loved her God so much she couldn't keep quiet about him. The relationship developed, trans-Atlantic worship by telephone began, which led eventually to Bible studies. During those studies Bert found himself giving Bible studies as well as understanding much of the scriptures well before they were explained by human expression. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was speaking to Bert well in advance of the lessons.

Lesley, herself a new Adventist from New York, came over for the baptism. Like Bert she came from very much an unchurched background. Like many of the members of Fishpool Adventist Community church she took part in the ceremony — with a big smile on her face. Pastor Fred Mapp, from the neighbouring district, came over to support us with members from Bolton, and surrounding areas heard him preach a very practical sermon.

At the same occasion Gil Steel* was accepted by profession of faith as a member. Gil attended church at Bolton and latterly at Bury for many years after his wife Vilma's baptism. As with Bert, Gil's decision came as the result of a long relationship with Christian friends. In this case Stan and Josie Hensman have prayed and provided much support. Gil himself was too frail to attend church on this occasion. His brothers and sisters had prayed for him during a recent illness and had encouraged him to be anointed for healing while in hospital.

PETER JEYNES

*We regret to advise that since receiving this article, we have heard that Gil died in December. His obituary is scheduled to appear in the next issue of *Messenger*.

EDITOR

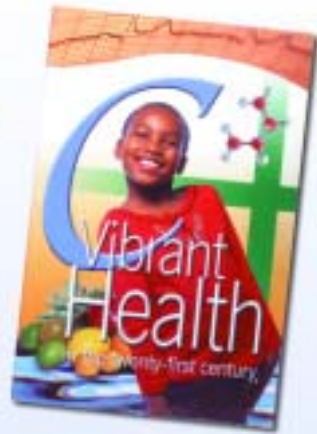
Africa Day in Sheffield

A Sabbath in which African brethren from far and wide assembled in one place for joint fellowship was held in the Burngreave church, Sheffield on 16 August. Joshua Maponga of Zimbabwe (currently studying in London) was guest speaker for the day. The theme of his divine service sermon was 'The Touch of Faith'. 'Touch Jesus,' he said, 'and don't rush God.'

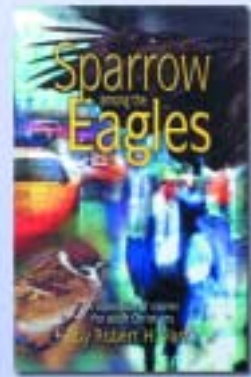
Singing groups from outlying sister churches joined fellowship in the afternoon with 'Heavenly Melodies', the local African choral group, for an afternoon of song. Pastor Desmond Rafferty closed this session with plaudits and prayer. The day finished with a fund-raising concert in the evening.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Available from your ABC



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Written by a distinguished team of doctors and medical consultants, this self-help guide covers such topics as reducing your risk of heart disease and cancer, coping with stress, weight loss, fitness, healthy diet, child health, allergies, and simple home treatments. **Hard cover, Full colour, 276 pages £14.95**



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Ring the ABC credit card hotline on 01476 539900. Order through the Personal Ministries secretary of your local Adventist congregation.

Obituaries

GRACE BROOKS (1909-2003) d. 14 December. Grace was born in Islington and moved to Stanborough Park, Watford, in the late 1920s to begin working at the Granose Food factory. It was there that she met her future husband, Leslie Brooks. Grace enjoyed playing tennis and participating with the ladies' gym team. Leslie and Grace were invited to lead in the Health Food production in Madison College, Tennessee, for a number of years before being called to join the staff at the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital. Later they moved to the Loma Linda area where Leslie was stricken with an incurable brain tumour. Grace was devastated by the loss, but with two children to support, she served as a Licensed Vocational Nurse in various Adventist facilities. She was last employed in the Cardiology department of the Loma Linda Medical Centre. To supplement her income, she worked weekends doing private nursing. Her son Vincent, who was born in Watford, practises dentistry in North Carolina and her daughter Elizabeth completed her degree in nursing. Grace was so proud of her children and grandchildren. She lived and enjoyed many of her retirement years at Fletcher Park Inn, Hendersonville, NC. Recently she moved to Tennessee to be with daughter Elizabeth. There Grace passed to her rest with the full assurance that she would be soon reunited with her beloved Leslie.

CHARLES WATSON

EDNA BRYAN (1924-2003) d. 21 December. Edna Woolley Bryan (née Gregory) died in her sleep aged 79 some weeks after suffering a massive stroke that, initially, she miraculously survived. She was born in Maidstone, Kent. Her mother had joined the Adventist Church when Edna was still a very small child and so brought her up as an Adventist. In 1942 she enrolled on the Bible Workers' course at Newbold. In 1945 she married George Bryan, who came from a long-standing Adventist family in Birmingham and who, at the time, was in the family silver trade developing his own business. In 1951 George Bryan decided to close his successful business operations and go to Newbold to train for the ministry. Edna and the family of three had to brace themselves for what was to be a very different life-style. Whatever discussions there might have been, Edna supported her husband's decision and the family moved down to Newbold. After graduating they took on the task of full-time ministry; and a very successful team they were. Over the years they ministered in the Scottish and Welsh missions and in the North England Conference. During these years Edna was not only the mainstay behind George's pastoral ministry, encouraging members and helping behind the scenes, she also gave support to George's constant evangelistic campaigns and helped organise the prolific number of baptisms that always followed. During the Birmingham years at Camp Hill, between 1965 and 1971, George Bryan baptised close to 500 people, including the writer, and established four churches in the area, all still flourishing. There were few at the time, or probably since, who could match the sheer flow of energy, love and dedication that this 'dynamic duo' put collectively to the service of their Lord and to the expansion of the Adventist Fellowship wherever they ministered. After George Bryan's untimely death in 1979 Edna returned to Birmingham and played an active role in the Camp Hill church, before moving to Telford. She had an ability to organise and work out the logistics of how to feed large numbers of people at local church gatherings and especially weddings, which she revelled in. She also enjoyed flower arranging, gardening (she could grow anything), sewing, tri-chem painting, and was a prolific knitter. Edna was not uncritical of her Church, but, despite problems that she and George had encountered during their ministry from time to time, she remained a loyal member, who crucially believed unreservedly in the assurance of salvation in Christ, and in the efficacy of prayer. She also liked services that were full of song and the joy of celebration, and complained about the painful 'dirges' found in the official hymnal! She would have approved of her widely-attended funeral service, where her life was celebrated in songs and choruses she loved, to a shifting PowerPoint presentation containing a range of photographs of her from a few months old to 79 years of age. She was the Bryan family matriarch. She had an almost telepathic ear for the activities and achievements of her expanding family clan, all of whom she loved, cared about and of whom she was very proud. As a further testimony to her life, her children and grandchildren are still in the Church; two of her own children and a son-in-law are in the min-

istry. In fact, since 1916 five generations of the 'Bryan clan' have been members of the Adventist Communion, and the sixth is already being raised within the church family. Essentially, Edna Bryan's life can be summed up as one full of love, generosity, compassion, faithfulness, hospitality, concern and Christian service, underpinned by a

JOHN ROSIER

things. I will make you ruler over many. Enter now into the joy of your Lord.'

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Headteacher Required for September 2004

The John Loughborough Seventh-Day Adventist School (VA) Holcombe Road, Tottenham London N17 9AD

Telephone: 020-8808-7837
Fax: 020-8801-6719
11-16 Co-educational Church School
Salary Range: L11—L 24
Group 3 School. Number on roll: 300

The governors of this unique church school are seeking to appoint a committed, dynamic and knowledgeable school leader to build on the school's growing achievements. The successful candidate will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist who will demonstrate: vision and leadership skills to motivate and inspire the staff in fulfilling the mission of the school; sound grasp of educational leadership and management principles and the ability to be an effective professional leader and team builder; the skills to manage and develop the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils, the community and national changes; the ability to work with governors in developing school policies, formulating the strategic plan and managing the school's improvement strategy for raising achievement; evidence of adequate financial management and decision-making techniques; a successful track record in creating an effective teaching and learning school community; an understanding and commitment to the school's nationally acknowledged role in leading the drive for raising the achievement of African Caribbean pupils. Further details and an application pack are available from the Clerk to the Governors at the above address or telephone number. **Closing date for applications: Friday 19 March 2004. Interview dates: 31 March and 7 April, 2004.**

Harper Bell Adventist School

Headteacher Post (September 2004)

Due to the impending retirement of the headteacher, Mr Oscar Stewart, at the end of the present school year, the North England Conference is seeking to appoint a headteacher for 1 September 2004. This provides an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and experienced practitioner to build on the accomplishments achieved by the school under the leadership of the incumbent.

Harper Bell Adventist School is located near Birmingham City Centre. The school offers a safe, friendly and caring learning environment delivered through the work of a dedicated team of teachers and support staff.

The school is specifically looking for a practising Seventh-day Adventist with a commitment to the Church's values and educational philosophy. The person appointed will also be expected to provide leadership in implementing the principles of faith and learning throughout the school. He or she will ensure that the curriculum provides the opportunity for all children in the school to achieve their full potential. The successful candidate is required to demonstrate experience in team leadership and good interpersonal skills.

For further details and an information pack, contact: Mr O. Stewart, Headteacher, Harper Bell Adventist School, 29 Ravenhurst Street, Birmingham B12 0EP. Tel. 0121 693 7742.

Closing date for applications – 2 April 2004. Interviews – 29 April 2004.

SITUATION VACANT South England Conference seeks Senior Accountant to work in their Watford office. Applicants must have at least five years' accounting experience, preferably with formal accounting qualification, also experience in working with accountancy software packages, spreadsheets and payroll systems, ability to work in a team, but show initiative working alone.

A full job description is available on application. Salary benefits according to current denominational scale. Letters of application, with CV, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Human Resources Director, South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1PZ or msparrow@secadventist.org.uk. **URGENT RESPONSE NECESSARY.**

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For full details contact: Pastor Martin Bell, Good Health Association (Scotland) Ltd, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4AN, Tel: 01764 653806. Email: Administrator@roundelwood.fsn.co.uk.



190,000 LIFE.info magazines for Scotland

The Scottish Mission Executive committee has launched a massive evangelistic magazine campaign focused on the city of Stirling. They have placed a regular order for 32,000 LIFE.info magazines per issue to be distributed in Stirling over the next year. In a separate campaign members of the Crieff church have placed a regular order of 6,000 LIFE.info magazines per issue to be distributed in and around Crieff. In total, over the next twelve months, 190,000 LIFE.info magazines will be distributed in this campaign, with most of the distribution work being carried out by the Royal Mail. The city of Stirling was chosen as, at present, there is not a single Adventist living there.

'This is an initiative launched in faith by the Executive committee of the Adventist Church in Scotland,' said Scottish Mission president Pastor Llew Edwards. 'Our intention is to try to plant a group in an unentered city and, in preparation, we are organising a day of fasting and prayer for the whole mission. A project like this must have God's blessing if it's going to succeed,' he said.

JOHN SURRIDGE

300,000 Evidence leaflets sent to churches

On 12 February more than 300,000 leaflets reached Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. The

majority of the leaflets promoted Dwight Nelson's Evidence series broadcast by satellite during the first two weeks of March. 'Enough leaflets were produced for every member to be able to give out a handful,' said LIFE.development co-ordinator Pastor Alan Hodges. 'The idea was for every church to have a plan for inviting friends and contacts either to the homes of members, or into the church itself to view the Evidence programmes.'

Other leaflets sent out to the churches included one which promoted the setting up of LIFE.development groups and one which promoted the installation of satellite equipment to receive the Hope Channel.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Web Discussion Forum

The London Youth Federation's recently launched Web Discussion Forum is attracting significant interest from Adventist young people in London and elsewhere – including Holland, France and the USA.

'At the moment we have a small membership,' says LYF webmaster David Adams, 'but there are very topical issues from "Do you think you have to be married to have a complete Christian life?" to event listings and special prayer requests. We also give members the ability to start their own discussion threads. The forums are monitored daily for abuse and have "bad language" filters for anyone who decides to abuse the service. The

forums have been running for a month now and have been greeted with very positive feedback.'

The London Youth Federation Discussion Forum is located at www.londonyouthfed.org.uk/forum.

20 million Sabbath-keepers

Seventh-day Adventists – some 13 million church members world-wide, and an estimated 7 million others who attend weekly worship – are united in keeping the Sabbath, Saturday, as a holy day.

These facts emerged from a recent doctoral dissertation that summarised a 51-nation survey on how Adventists keep the Sabbath. May Ellen Colin, an assistant director of the Sabbath School department of the GC, entitled her dissertation 'Sabbath-keeping practices and factors related to these practices among Seventh-day Adventists in fifty-one countries'.

Colin began her doctoral programme in 1991, and highlights the variations in the application of biblical Sabbath-keeping across the various cultures. Her research included more than 3,000 survey forms returned from members in fifty-one countries. Surveys were prepared in English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.

Attending church and Sabbath school was the most visible example of church members keeping the Sabbath, with 26% of respondents mentioning activities such as visiting the sick, the needy and missing mem-

bers in their Sabbath-keeping.

Church co-founder Ellen White at first kept the Sabbath from 6pm Friday evening to 6pm Saturday evening. Her husband, James White, asked J. N. Andrews to study the issue more thoroughly. In 1855 Andrews wrote in an article that Sabbath was sundown Friday evening to sundown Saturday.

ANN

Adventist Radio Milton Keynes

On Saturday 10 January Adventist Radio Milton Keynes completed its eighth annual radio broadcast. The programmes were broadcast from the Milton Keynes church under a Restricted Service Licence which lasts for twenty-eight days. According to programme director Mike Johnson, industry figures and the number of contacts received by the station indicate that ARMK was heard by an audience of up to 120,000 people between 14 December and 10 January.

The range of programmes in the schedule included family programmes, preaching services, interviews, Bible studies, good Christian and Gospel music, and various discussion programmes. All the presenters gave their time freely and it was their personal dedication that made the whole project possible, says Mike Johnson.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Welsh Mission Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 9 May 2004 in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church 8.30-9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the session. B. Phillips, president and V. Pilmoor, secretary/treasurer

Have your emails arrived? You need to use our new address: **EditorDNM@mac.com**

If they have not, it is almost certainly because you are using our old email address. Our NEW ADDRESS is **EditorDNM@mac.com**

Your pictures can still be sent to: **prepress@stanboroughpress.co.uk**

In addition: the postman still calls! EDITOR

ABC BOOK SALES

Mar
20 NEC Youth Day Nottingham
21 Newbold
28 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Stars In Their Eyes

Charles Ngandwe reports that he will be participating in the 'Stars In Their Eyes' programme hosted by Matthew Kelly. The live final will be on 13 March when the nation votes for a winner from the ten finalists.

Nottingham Clarendon congregation . . .

has moved to the Baptist church, Netherfield. From Sabbath 6 March services will be held in the afternoon, Sabbath School commencing at 1.30pm. ELEANORE STOLTZ

Messenger

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Festival Of Performing Pastors & Elders with Pastors Don McFarlane, Michael Mannix, Colin Stewart Nigel David, Leslie Ackie, Richard Delisser, Steve McKenzie, Dr Keith Davidson, Elder E Hector, Hyland House Choir, Hyland House Mime Team	Sat 13 March 7:30PM (Doors Open @ 7:00PM)	The Advent Centre, 37 Brendon Street, London W1H 5HD TUBES: Edgware Road (Bakerloo Line and Hammersmith & City Line)	All money raised will go to the Hyland House School	Enquiries to Hyland House School Tel: 020 8520 4186

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.

Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Mar 12	6.01	6.13	6.04	6.11	6.22
19	6.13	6.25	6.17	6.25	6.36
26	6.24	6.37	6.29	6.39	6.49
Apr 2	7.36	7.48	7.42	7.54	8.03

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