

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

Messenger

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EVIDENCE

by Alan Hodges, LDi Executive director, BUC

The *Evidence* series of programmes presented by Pastor Dwight Nelson, senior pastor at Andrews University church, and Gillian Joseph, BBC London News presenter, commenced at Newbold College on 29 February.

The programmes, produced by the Australian Media Centre and transmitted by satellite on the Hope Channel at 7pm and 8pm, 1-5 March and 8-12 March, were attended by approximately 150 people on the first night. The transmission of this series of ten magazine-style programmes is a completely new and fresh approach at reaching the secular, unchurched in Great Britain and Ireland. The series, which is level 2 of the LIFEdevelopment.info process, will be repeated on the Hope Channel each Friday evening at 7pm and 8pm, commencing with programme one on Love from 19 March.

Over 100 people attended the LIFEdevelopment Centre at Stanborough Park for the viewing of the first programme on 1 March. Reports have also been received from members who have invited friends to view the programmes in their homes. Heather Haworth reported that she and her husband Paul had distributed *LIFE.info* magazines to their neighbours and invited them to view the first programme in their home. After receiving no response they gave another invitation to view the second programme. This time their next door neighbours told them how impressed they had been with the magazine and that they would like to view the *Evidence* programme.

In this 'Year of Evangelism', the *Evidence* series can be used effectively to show that God is the answer to the major issues that affect men and women in the twenty-first century. For those who do not have access to these programmes, they will be available on DVD and on the Internet at www.hopetv.org. Please watch for further announcements.

Annual Appeal 2004

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



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.





Teamwork brings success to Handsworth

by Winston Brown

In 2003 the Personal Ministries Team challenged the church to increase the monies raised for the ADRA-UK Appeal and also to increase the level of participation by the members.

An answer was sought to the question, 'Will you participate in the ADRA-UK Appeal'? The answers given allowed concerns raised to be addressed in the following ways:

- The church was reminded that the UK would benefit from monies raised.
- To dispel the belief that members were begging.
- To encourage people to perform a selfless act by collecting for total strangers.
- To introduce an element of competition and fun.
- To invite all departments to work collectively towards achieving the goal.

The Sabbath School department set aside ten minutes each Sabbath, several weeks prior to the start of the ADRA-UK Appeal, in order for the Personal Ministries department to talk with the members while they were still in their Sabbath school classes. This was done in order to encourage

greater participation. As a result of this, class goals were set.

Members in the church who previously had not taken part in the ADRA-UK Appeal were encouraged to do so. This led to their friends also taking part.

A letter of commitment to the ADRA-UK Appeal was given to all members of the church, and they were invited to indicate their commitment by signing a tear-off slip.

In order to introduce an element of fun, the Personal Ministries leader Winston Brown made a commitment to sing a solo (he cannot sing to save his life). This was on condition that the church reached its goal of just over £7,000.

To God be the glory! Handsworth church collected just over £10,000. An award ceremony was held to thank the church. Trophies were given to the top three collectors: Sister J. Gibbs collected just over £1,000; Brother A. Mattis collected over £700; and Brother R. Spence collected over £600.

The inspirational books, *Success Within Your Grasp* and *Take Charge of Your Health* by author Pastor Hamilton Williams, were given to those who collected in excess of £100. The Sabbath school class shield went to Class 1. As promised, the writer sang a solo, accompanied by a most talented live band. He received a hearty amen. And all this was possible because the members and the departments worked as a team and stepped out in faith.

'Changing the world, one life at a time', and that banner hung in the entrance of our church from 1 March through to the end of the campaign.

The church members were divided into four teams, and team leaders were appointed to each. We set each member or faithful friend a personal goal of £99. We didn't mind if it was collected or donated as long as the target was achieved.

Permission was given for us (the Ingathering Team) to promote the appeal and encourage the teams during divine service. It was felt that use of this time would demonstrate the

commitment that we had to the cause. Each week there was feedback from our star collectors and our first-timers.

By the end of the campaign we had failed to achieve our 'faith goal', but had collected £5,262.21. To God be the glory.

In 2004 we have started earlier. A number of members have started putting donations aside each week to get ahead of the race.

We have a soon-coming King. At Stoke Newington Community church we long to hear the words of our Saviour: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

Stoke Newington: Ahead!

by Wilma Williams, Ingathering Agent 2003

We had a faith goal in excess of £6,000, but a diminishing work-force and territory. This would have seemed an insurmountable problem had we not known that with God all things are possible.

It was decided to highlight the annual appeal by having an ADRA Emphasis Day on 1 March 2003. We were fortunate enough to have Raafat

Kamal, ADRA-UK director, accept our invitation to speak.

The church sanctuary was decorated with several world maps. Each of the countries that were to benefit from the appeal was identified and the project details attached.

Our aim was to personalise the appeal and to create ownership over the task. We adopted the ADRA slogan,

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

Playing with Fire

A few years ago I knew a couple who had two middle-teen girls. Their family business was going through a rough patch which continued for several months. 'We'll be all right after the fire,' they would say. The next time I saw them the parents were driving a smart new van. They had had their fire, and their shop and accommodation had been destroyed. Tragically the girls had also perished in the flames.

Was it an accident or an insurance scam that went devastatingly wrong, as was thought at the time? Who would dare say? There is a mass of evidence to show that fire of another kind – smoking – also has dire consequences. The BMA reports that 120,000 men in the UK aged 30-50 are impotent as a result of smoking. Bad news for couples wishing to

start a family. Smoking also reduces the chances of a woman becoming pregnant by up to 40% per cycle.

If conception takes place, pregnant women are three times more likely to have a low-birth-weight baby. Unfortunately the problems do not end there. Babies born to smoking women also have increased risk of foetal malformations. Passive smoking has been linked to premature birth, cot death, respiratory infections in children and childhood asthma. Women who smoke may also produce smaller volumes of lower-quality breast milk.

BMA spokesperson Dr Vivienne Nathanson says, 'The sheer scale of damage that smoking causes to reproductive and child health is shocking.' Shocking, yes; and avoidable. Nathanson continues: 'We're not just talking about having children. Men who

want to continue to enjoy sex should forget about lighting up – given the strong evidence that smoking is a major cause of male sexual impotence.'

A study just published by the University of Sweden, Linköping, has found that the children of parents who smoke, even if they smoke outside the house and with the door closed, had twice as much nicotine residue in their bodies as children of non-smokers. Had the parents smoked inside the house the levels of the residue, *cotinine*, would have been 15 times that of children from non-smoking homes.

The UK organisation Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) states that around 17,000 children under the age of 5 in the UK are admitted to hospital a year due to passive smoking. In the light of these figures we do not need experts to tell us that the best way to

protect children is not to smoke at all. Yet I have met adults at smoking cessation clinics who say that although they are aware of the harm that passive smoking is doing to their children they still smoke at home.

Habits are hard to break, but if we consider that in playing with fire it is not only the player who gets burnt but other vulnerable individuals around us, the motivation should be strong enough to break the bonds. This is one area where we should not be afraid to get outside help – and be prepared to ask for it on our knees!



with David Marshall



Showcasing Jesus (Coming to a cinema near you, soon!)

In the days when we owned the New Gallery on Regent Street a film called *I Beheld His Glory* was frequently featured. It was, if I recall correctly, a Hollywood production that so impressed the General Conference that they bought it.

It had been made round about 1950. As a boy I was taken to see it and was enormously impressed. Twenty years later, in my capacity as Religious Affairs sponsor at Stanborough School, I hired the film and had the whole school in the hall to watch it. Big mistake! To the sophisticated teenagers of the early 70s the angelic choirs who sang from the skies and the Hollywood 'Christ', who seemed almost comfortable on the cross, made the production ridiculous.

I Beheld His Glory represented an extreme of one particular genre of film made in the 1950s and early 1960s. They were called 'biblical epics', were big budget and were often associated with the name of Cecil B. DeMille. While aspects of them said more about Hollywood than about the Bible, they were, in the main, inoffensive to Christians.

In the late 70s Franco Zeffereilli brought out an all-star, lengthy version of the life of Christ called *Jesus of Nazareth*. It was serialised on TV one Easter. Having no TV ourselves, we went round to Mother-in-law's to watch it. Mother-in-law was one tough cookie who had, during her sixty years, resisted the attempts of some of the church's finest to 'convert' her. She watched *Jesus of Nazareth* under protest (*Roots* was on the other channel) – at first, at any rate. During the crucifixion scenes I found myself watching Mother-in-law almost as much as the screen. And I saw one tough cookie crumble. It was three years before she was baptised but, in front of Zeffereilli's *Jesus*, a vital change took place.

In the 80s and 90s we saw a number of Christian (as opposed to Hollywood) productions of the life of Jesus. Each tried to stay true to one or other of the gospel accounts. At least one – the series of four *Matthew* videos (The Visual Bible) in which Bruce Marchiano played Jesus rather well, I thought – succeeded.

At the turn of the millennia there was much talk about a new Hollywood blockbuster about Jesus. It had, I read, premiered before an American TV audience of 24 million. But it didn't premier here until shortly after last Christmas, in two late-afternoon instalments – so most people missed it. TIMELIFE issued it on video/DVD on 15 March, and they sent me an advance copy to review. So what do I make of it?

It would not, I'm afraid, have had the effect on Mother-in-law that Zeffereilli's production had. Nevertheless it has merit – particularly as a watch-then-discuss piece.

The TIMELIFE *Jesus* has not blown its big budget on A-list stars. The weaknesses can be divided into 'obvious' and 'not-so-obvious'. *Obvious*: they have Jesus being sprinkled, not baptised; Mary has a much bigger role than in the Gospels; the crucifixion scenes are too gruesome for an audience that includes sensitive adults and, certainly, children.

One extra-biblical assumption made in the film is that Lazarus, Mary and Martha were distant cousins of Jesus. (John Wenham argues for this in *The Easter Enigma*.) More controversially, Mary is portrayed as being 'in love with Jesus from a distance'. Mary has to come to terms with the inaccessibility of Jesus because of his special mission. Christians in the US fussed about this, but it seemed to me legitimate as a continuity device.

The more disturbing weaknesses were the less obvious ones. The script often collided with Christian understanding of the nature of Christ.

The film has John appealing to Jesus to confess his sins before baptism. It has Jesus asking his Heavenly Father to raise Joseph, his earthly father, from death. In Gethsemane it has Satan revealing to Jesus all the atrocities that would, down the centuries, be done in his name – and we are left wondering why Satan knew the future and Jesus did not.

However, the Jesus film about which you are likely to have heard the most is Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. I went to see a sneak preview on 4 March.

For months I have been reading everything written about it. So much, in fact, that I really had to screw up my courage in order to attend the preview.

What do I think about *The Passion of the Christ*?

To begin with, something in its favour! Mel Gibson, an ultra-conservative Catholic,¹ has put US\$30 million of his own money into the making of it. It represents the outgrowth of a spiritual experience Gibson had some dozen years ago. Good on ya, Gibson!

The film, in the words of Jim West, president of the Faith Television Network, 'is the most graphic, gritty and gripping depiction of Christ's arrest, trial and execution ever made. . .'. It is not about the life of Christ, nor the ministry of Christ. It is about the death of Christ. You will miss the resurrection if you blink. . . .

That is a problem for me in the same way as all those statues of Christ writhing in agony on the cross are a problem. They celebrate death, not resurrection. In a TIME magazine essay,² David van Biema calls the film 'a relentless, near pornographic feast of flayed flesh. Gibson gives us Christ's blood, not in a communion cup, but by the gallon. . .'. He goes on to trace the RC obsession with the gory detail of the crucifixion to the fourteenth century, and sees Gibson's film as (he hopes) the final flowering of medieval Catholicism.

Having seen the film, I have to say that that is not a legitimate criticism. The film is an accurate portrayal of death-by-crucifixion which is entirely in line both with the gospel accounts and with historical accounts of crucifixion.

If you visit the Hollywood Jesus website and look under *The Passion of the Christ*, you will notice that many Christian thought-leaders in the US – *inter alia* Billy Graham, Chuck Colson, James Dobson, Jerry Falwell – have found positive things to say about the film. Tim La Haye calls it 'Hollywood's finest achievement to date'.

Nothing would make me happier than if they were proved right. Lee Strobel wrote: '*The Passion* will stun audiences and create an incredible appetite for people to know more about Jesus.' Wouldn't it be great if he was right? *The Passion* is a long way from *I beheld His Glory*!

And the GC will not be buying this one! My feeling is this: If that is what it takes to make journalists write about Jesus and the people to think about Jesus – so be it! If you want to know what I think in any more detail – you'll have to read FOCUS!

The president of Youth For Christ (USA) wrote, 'I tried to imagine what young people would think and how they would respond. My hope is that they will be captured by this presentation.' Wouldn't it be great if they were?

References:
¹Newsweek, 16 February. ²Time, 1 March.

MP and High Commissioner attend High Wycombe event

The climate felt exceptionally warm for the time of year for those who attended an evening of Vincentian Culture and Entertainment held at the Cressex School in High Wycombe. Approximately 200 people came out to show their support for a charity event in aid of the Children's Ward, Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, St Vincent, West Indies.

The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (formerly known as Kingstown Hospital) was completed and renamed in the early 1960s. It is located at the western end of the island's capital, Kingstown. Apart from a medical centre and a few village clinics, this is the only hospital to serve a population of 120,000.

Outside St Vincent, High Wycombe has the majority of Vincentian people. Therefore what better place to start asking for support for Vincentians?

On the evening of 17 January the Men's Ministries group at High Wycombe Sands church, supported by registered charity GESTURE International, organised an evening of traditional music with historical heritage dialogues from descendants of the Carib, African, Indian and Portuguese communities. The evening was hosted by Decent Henry, former school teacher in St Vincent, who entertained those gathered with his comical stories of days gone by in our mother country.

Guest dignitaries joining us for the evening included His Excellency Cenior Edwin Lewis (High Commissioner for St Vincent and the Grenadines), MP for High Wycombe Mr Paul Goodman accompanied by his wife, Councillors Day and Cox from Bucks County Council, and Mrs Venice Williams, Chief Operating Officer for GESTURE International.

The evening began as the congregation stood to sing the St

Vincent national anthem, 'St Vincent Land so Beautiful', after which a presentation from the children's ward was brought to us by Venice Williams, who had recently returned from a trip to St Vincent and had made a special visit to the children's ward where she met the children, staff, Area Nursing Supervisor Sister Jacqueline King, and Minister of Health Dr Douglas Slater.

During her opening speech Venice gave an introduction to GESTURE International and its work to fulfil its mission of providing compassionate, humanitarian and educational aid without restrictions or boundaries and to encourage personal growth by empowering people to live fuller, productive, less dependent lives.

While on her visit, Venice spent time with all twenty-six sick children on the ward and some of their parents. Photos of the visit were projected on to a screen while Venice described the hospital's condition. In her conversation with Sister Jacqueline King, Venice discovered some of the needs of the children's ward. At present the hospital functions on one ancient nebuliser, and nurses are still using mercury thermometers. There is only one incubator, which is shared with the maternity unit, and cots and beds are desperately in need of replacing. In her tour of the hospital Venice described the obvious lack of toys, games and books which can often be taken for granted but which help take the children's minds off their pain and discomfort.

While chatting to the hospital staff, Venice felt encouraged that the ward was staffed by a team of dedicated doctors and nurses who took time to talk to the children.

The evening was a great success, raising £650 to date.

PATSY THOMAS

Men in the kitchen

The ladies of Brixton church were guests of honour at a breakfast organised by the men of the church. The ladies came out in their numbers and over seventy seats were filled. Pastor H. Williams conducted a short devotional on the theme of love, after which he took his place in the kitchen.

It was a wonderful experience – and a glorious sight to see! – the men 'sweating in the kitchen' making sure that every item of food was up to the highest standard. The room was renamed The Dutch Pot Restaurant, and the four courses, ranging from Sunrise to Sunset, were expertly prepared. The food was cooked and seasoned to perfection by the master chefs of the church.

The happy, satisfied expressions that were evident on everyone's faces epitomised the foretaste of that glorious day when those who accept Christ's invitation will participate with him in the messianic meal that he himself will provide.

Thank you, men of Brixton! You did us proud!

JOAN REID

The relevant message

Personal Ministries Day in Burngreave church, Sheffield, started with a challenge: 'Are we satisfied with the church? Do we want to fill the church? Then the message we give must be unique and relevant,' said Pastor David Cox.

The programme was taken by Pastor Cox and Laverne Byng and focused on the idea of operating in small groups, explaining that God was calling us back to the original church, calling us back to small groups. What was really wonderful is that they both proceeded to show how to start a small group, with lots of ideas and resources and advice. They played worship music, simulated small group worship and demonstrated the successes they already had in bringing non-Christians into church.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT
North England Conference
 Notice is hereby given that the Fifty-ninth Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 17 June to Sunday 20 June 2004 at the Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.

70th Wedding Anniversary

On Boxing Day 2003 two of Croscombe church's senior members celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

That in itself would be noteworthy. But Jim and Doris Hardy are, in fact, cousins and were born and lived in the same road in Croscombe village in Somerset. Their parents were founder members of the Adventist Church through the efforts of Brother A. C. Johnson, a colporteur.

Jim and Doris were married in Shepton Mallet Baptist church by Pastor H. W. McCrow, following which they lived in Croscombe, meeting with other members for Sabbath worship and prayer meetings in the rear room of the disused Wesleyan Chapel which they rented. Later, this Wesleyan Chapel was to be purchased by the Adventists and is to this day their meeting place.

In 1952 their son Philip, who at that time was 17, emigrated to Canada where he worked in a lumber mill owned by Lamming Brothers who were Adventists. He suggested they join him, which they did in 1953. Jim worked in the bush, which was hard work. Later, Philip went to Canadian Union College and Walla Walla and Loma Linda during which time he trained first in physiotherapy and later in dentistry.

In 1960 Jim and Doris moved to Loma Linda where Jim was engaged in landscape gardening at the hospital. Doris worked as a nurse's aide in the hospital. Later she studied at San Bernadina College to qualify for a government nursing home licence following which she ran her own retirement home at Mentone, California, for six years.

On their retirement they returned to Canada for a few years and, when Philip moved to Saudi Arabia, they came home to England and settled in the city of Wells, which is about three miles from Croscombe.

Many family members were unable to be with them on the actual wedding anniversary, but a great celebration and family reunion is planned at Easter.

Jim, in his 95th year, and Doris, at 89, are wonderful witnesses to their faith and a careful, healthy lifestyle. Jim still drives them to church each Sabbath where they are faithful and regular worshippers, and few are the times when they are not to be found in their usual seats.

Their fellow members and friends wish them God's richest blessings and contentment as they continue sharing life together.

YVONNE BAXTER

Mid Somerset Newspapers



Women's Ministry retreat

by Georgia Dacres

The North England Conference Women's Ministry retreat is building a good reputation for compassion by taking action on its participants' needs and concerns.

In response to questionnaires sent out with application forms, this year's theme, 'Twenty-first-century Female' explored what Adventist women have to face in postmodern life, and provided hope and ideas.

The weekend retreat, held at Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, was much more than a Christian woman's jaunt away from partner, kids or reality for nearly 200 participants. It sought to provide a safe place for women to speak without fear of retribution, rejection and hypocrisy. *Remember, approximately 70% of the Church is female!* There was much to talk about – and not just for church members.

Non-churchgoer Jennifer Brown came to the retreat with her sister and revealed her anguish before coming to Staverton: 'I was thinking that life wasn't worth anything. But the retreat has picked me up to the point that I want to know what gives you that glow, what keeps you up tempo. In fact, I would like to know more about the Church. I'm really, really happy,' she says.

The organisers – NEC Women's Ministries leader Heather Haworth and her team – provided for both the technological advances of the twenty-first century to reconciling the emotional expectations of Christianity when circumstances may be far from conducive.

Heather was a living example of this paradox. In spite of the fact that her mother was seriously ill in hospital, Heather continued to work through the weekend focused on her role as God's servant.

The workshops, which ran over the entire weekend, covered topics like 'A woman's look at computers', 'Recovery from abuse and rejection', 'Self and community development', and 'Prayer is more than talking'. And women were encouraged to make friends by bringing small presents with a verse attached to give away to other participants on Friday evening.

Later, Huddersfield church elder Eugene Moses revealed how, through her turbulent childhood, her faith and God had helped her come to a

greater understanding of others. Her account of her early childhood is now part of a book of similar reflections.

On Sabbath, American guest speaker Rena Majors had flown in from the States with her team, partly to fund raise and to heighten awareness of her project. She revealed that she survived sexual abuse by her father, then an elder in the Adventist church, to set up 'A Door of Hope Ministries', of which she is director.

The Door of Hope Ministries has international outreach and seeks to help women who are hurting – be it from abuse or addictions like anorexia – and gives them the chance to stay in an American facility to start recovery through a Bible-based programme.

'We assist our guests to identify responses to hurtful events and experiences, recognise patterns of dysfunctional thinking and behaviour, see God's healing hand in the pain, and have the opportunity by the exercise of the will to walk free from the bondage of past hurts,' she writes.

A gifted speaker, Rena drew attention to Proverbs 13:12 in which the psalmist describes a sick heart, an emotional condition caused by loss of hope. 'A woman's true desire is to be loved,' she explained.

Rena drew a heart on a flip chart into which the listening women could place all the yearnings of their

hearts. Into it went affirmation, acceptance, affection, protection, attention, discipline and guidance and comfort – all of which, if not met, lead to a broken heart.

'God places in us a lively hope' (1 Peter 1:3), but these desires often are not fulfilled and substitutes such as food and shopping provide only temporary relief. God promises women a new spirit and new heart, a process a woman has just to acknowledge, accept and allow God to do,' continued Rena.

Sharon Scott of Ladywood church, Birmingham, revealed that before she arrived at the hotel she had become aware of the same Bible verse Rena preached on, and which never left her (Isaiah 61:1-3), until it was repeated in the Texan's sermon. 'I was touched by Rena when she said that Jesus releases us from whatever imprisons us, whatever circumstances, thank God, by the power of Jesus,' she said.

Women seeking more earthly comforts were well supplied with food and a chance to dress up and perform at the Saturday evening concert. Staverton Hotel has generous golfing facilities, jacuzzi, sports equipment and swimming pool that a number of women took full advantage of.

Angela Madhoo of Handsworth, Birmingham, said: 'I enjoyed meeting so many women. Normally at church you don't get the time. It's been lovely with the workshops and swimming – far too much food though. I don't know why I didn't do it previously.'

The water is troubled again in Preston

The icy cold wind on Sabbath 20 December could not prevent the brethren of Blackpool, Lancaster and Preston churches assembling together to celebrate the baptism of Alex Chandra Lubinga Chizyuka. Alex, who works in Cleveleys as a qualified pharmacist, has been attending the Blackpool church for approximately fifteen months with his wife Malambo and son Lubingia.

Although Malambo could not be present at her husband's baptism as she had just recently given birth to a baby daughter, she said 'nothing must prevent the baptism from taking place!'

A long established Blackpool member expressed her joy at having Alex join their congregation and said 'he always wears a smile and is humorous in character and always takes an active part in the Sabbath School lesson.'

Pastor Kevin Johns chose the theme 'Our purpose – what have we been called for?' The answer: Go, teach and baptise. When we recognise our purpose, then as a congregation we will grow. He urged each individual to recommit their lives to God so that they would not miss out on heaven.

COMMUNICATION DEPT.



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 Now available for distribution.
 Order in quantity through your PM secretary or on our credit card hotline (01476) 539900.

WANTED: Good children's stories REWARD OFFERED!

John Arthur, Publishing Ministries director, Trans-European Division

There is a great need for the church to produce modern children's storybooks. Therefore, the Trans-European Division Publishing Ministries department is launching a writing contest.

The denominational publishing houses throughout our Division have expressed interest in co-producing a volume comprising 20-25 character-building stories for children aged 6-11 years.

An award of US\$50 will be paid for each story that is published.

Basically, we want to make the manuscripts available to our publishing houses at the lowest possible cost – especially those in the low-economy regions.

Bearing in mind the secular climate in which

we live, the initial book will need to appeal to families of non-Christian background. It will be sold by literature-evangelists with the aim of establishing good customer relationships. At a later stage, books of a religious nature will be introduced to those who are interested.

If you are a minister or children's storyteller, let us have your best story by 30 April 2004. Send electronically to: jarthur@ted-adventist.org. Alternatively, typed copies may be sent to: Writing Contest, Publishing Ministries Department, Trans-European Division, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY.

Pray that God will bless the production of this first volume in a range of new books that are being designed for today's generation.



TED Writer's Contest (Children's Stories)

Objectives

1. To develop specialist writing skills among Adventists so as to widen the range of suitable publications for today's generation of Europeans.
2. To initiate at low cost a range of manuscripts from many countries for use by Adventist publishing houses mainly within the Trans-European Division.

Guidelines

1. All manuscripts should incorporate original material, which has not previously been published.
2. Stories should contain between 800 and 1,000 words in the English language and be suitable for the 6-11 age group.
3. Each story should relate to a moral value which is common to the major religions of the world (eg: honesty, patience, courage, respect towards others, tenacity, self-discipline, aid to the needy, etc.)
4. Entrants can submit any number of stories.
5. Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic form (ie: email or diskette) to jarthur@ted-adventist.org.
6. The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2004.

Selection Process

1. The TED Executive Committee will appoint an adjudication panel to select the 40 best stories for an initial volume for children.
2. This selection of stories will then be made available to denominational publishing houses throughout the Trans-European Division.
3. The worldwide copyright for published stories will reside with the TED Publishing Ministries department.

Awards

1. A one-off payment of US\$50 will be made by TED for each story which is published by any of our denominational publishing houses in TED by 31 December 2005.
2. The decisions of the TED adjudicating panel will be final.

ADRA-Ireland launches website

For nearly five years ADRA-Ireland has made a difference to the lives of thousands of families across Brazil and Africa. With funds raised from the Irish government and through the yearly door-to-door collections of Ingathering, ADRA-Ireland has built day-care centres for the impoverished children of Brazil, dug wells in Africa and, most recently, built a school for the deaf in northern Nigeria.

They have recently launched a website to publicise this work. If you wish to read about the work of ADRA-Ireland you can find the website at www.adra.ie. We appreciate the generosity of Blacknight Solutions, a local Irish company, who donated the webspace, and the hard work of Niall Sisson who, as secretary of ADRA-Ireland, put together the material and published the site. The success of ADRA-Ireland lies in the hands of all the volunteers and the country directors who work so hard together to make each project a success.

DOUG MCCORMAC

ADRA-Ireland AGM
ADRA-Ireland will be holding its AGM on 23 May 2004.

Book Review

A Thousand Shall Fall

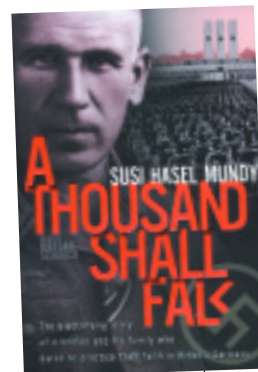
John Arthur

This is an electrifying story of a soldier and his family who dared to practise their Adventist faith in Nazi Germany.

Two of the children featured in the book, Kurt and Susi, later attended Newbold College.

A former literature-evangelist and publishing leader, Franz Hasel was drafted into the German army in 1939. The alternative was death. In the midst of much ridicule, he openly read his Bible, prayed, and observed the Sabbath during six years of military service, which took him to France, Poland, Russia and the Caucasus. Hardships were phenomenal. Out of his 1,200-man elite unit only seven survived, and only three of those were not wounded. Kurt Hazel was one of them, even though he had substituted his pistol for an imitation gun right at the beginning of the war. His wife Helene and four children also experienced some amazing answers to prayer in connection with physical security and provisions of food during Germany's darkest days.

A Thousand Shall Fall will certainly strengthen your trust in God's all-powerful ability to protect his faithful people.



A Thousand Shall Fall
Susi Hasel Mundy
Review & Herald
Publishing Association,
172 pages,
£9.25.

GIL STEEL d. December 2003. Gil had only been a member of the church for a few weeks when he died just before Christmas. He was the joint head of a very strong and close family, many of whom gathered for the funeral at the Bolton Adventist church. Vilma, his wife, and Gil were together for fifty-six years, and over the years Gil had accompanied his wife to church at Bolton, making many friends in the process. His military background gave him not just a straight back but a gentlemanly bearing with a dry sense of humour. Of late, Gil and his wife attended the Bury church where friendship with Stan and Josie Hensman was resumed. Out of this relationship Gil made his decision to join the church Vilma had loved for so long. Sadly illness cut short the years we hoped to have Gil with us. The funeral focused on the hope we have as Christians in the return of Christ. Gil's brother-in-law Veyne, a pastor from Kent, preached at the funeral, while significant tributes were offered by members of the family. The funeral was not in itself a 'celebration of life', rather a celebration of the hope that we have in Jesus, that we will see Gil and his friend Jesus once again.

PETER JEYNES

GLADYS ATKINSON BRAILSFORD (1908-2004) d. 3 January. Chris Peake, the minister of the Norwich and Oulton Broad churches, conducted the funeral service at the Gorleston crematorium. A memorial service on 15 January was led in the Chelmsford church by Pastor Malcolm Taylor. The church was filled with family, friends and church members who came to honour this special lady. Gladys Brailsford was born in Battersea, London, on 22 July 1908. In her words: 'I had a very delicate start. My life was saved through the Lord's providence and my mother's careful nursing.' Her doctor apparently did not expect her to live. She went on to live 95 years and outlived her older brother Arthur and younger brother Douglas. After her parents' house in London was destroyed by a bomb during the war, she moved with her family to stay briefly in Norfolk and subsequently moved to Chelmsford. She would live for almost the next sixty years at the same address on Highfield Road in Chelmsford, and spent the last year and a half of her life in her own flat at the Dell retirement village in Oulton Broad. She shared last Christmas there with her close friend Alva Smith. Gladys was baptised by Pastor F. C. Bailey in 1920. She devoted many years of her life to caring for and

assisting her mother, the former Mary Lawson, who had also been baptised by Pastor F. C. Bailey in 1919 after receiving the Advent message through the colporteur ministry. Gladys was a gifted artist and teacher. Throughout her career she taught Design, Needlecraft (embroidery, bobbin lace making, lingerie, toy making, and glove making), Wood Painting, Lino Cutting, Textile Designing, and Lettering and Illuminating. She trained at the Battersea Polytechnic School of Art, the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, and the Royal School of Needlework. She was subsequently appointed instructor of Embroidery and Design at Battersea Polytechnic and taught needlecraft to post-graduate students at the University of London Institute of Education. She won many awards for her own art work, including the Royal Society of Arts Lewis Forman Day Memorial Prize in 1930 for a 'design for a piece of embroidery suitable for presentation to a national museum'. This work, entitled 'Knowledge in Youth is Wisdom in Age' took her a year to complete using old Chinese stitches that she researched at the Victoria and Albert Museum, very fine silk threads and double needles. Her work was exhibited at the V&A Museum in 1931, the New Gallery, Edinburgh, in 1932, the Brussels International Exhibition in 1935, and the Embroiderers' Guild Festival Exhibition in 1951. From 1948 to 1968 Gladys taught art and embroidery in Chelmsford at the Rainsford Girls' School. During this time her pupils consistently won virtually every embroidery award given by the Embroiderers' Guild and had outstanding success competing against pupils from all over the country. In addition to her career as an artist and teacher, Gladys had nursing experience during and after the war from 1941-47, receiving the Hospital Final Certificate in 1946. Following her retirement from the Girls' School she started full-time work as a colporteur and later continued on a part-time basis until 1979. In 1969 she was the leading literature-evangelist in the SEC. Many different expressions were used by those attending the memorial service in an attempt to pay tribute to the impact she had had on so many lives – 'one of a kind', 'a diamond', 'a real lady' – but all shared remembrance of her faith, her humility, her kindness and her dignity. She is survived by her nephews, Philip Brailsford, a businessman, and Paul Brailsford, an ophthalmologist, both of California, USA.

PHILIP BRAILSFORD

Newbold Reunion Class of 1954

All class members and friends are invited to meet on Sabbath May 15 at 1p.m. at Newbold College (Graduation weekend). Bring photos. Let's relive our memories of 50 years ago and rediscover the faces behind the wrinkles and under the grey hair! For more details if you wish to attend please contact Jean Hardy-Baerg. email: Jaman_j@hotmail.com

Internet: aycongress.info

**Come and join us at the first
Pan European Adventist
Youth Congress of this Millennium
August 4-8, 2004
Wroclaw
(Poland)**

Adventist Book Centre announcement

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Congratulations

to Violet Ng on obtaining a BSc (Hons) in Professional Nursing from Canterbury Christ Church University College in Kent.

Corrigendum . . . Please note that in the obituary for Audrey Hush (MESSENGER 109/5), Audrey's sister was called Marie, and not Margie as stated. We apologise for this mistake. *EDITOR*

Urgently needed for Ghana Mission Project 24 June-11 July: Bibles and Bible study lessons to take with us to Tamale for the purpose of evangelistic campaigns that will be conducted there. Complete sets of lessons preferred please.

If you have, or know someone who has, a generator or any building equipment that could be donated to the project I would like to hear from you also. Please contact Pastor Des G. Boldeau at the BUC office by phone: 01923 672251, or email dboldeau@adventist.org.uk or fax: 01923 893212 for arrangements to be made to receive these donations.



Members of the Newbold Choir visiting Lisbon Photo: Kay Choudray

Newbold Choir International tour

On 26 February the Newbold Choir left for a ten-day tour of Southern Europe. Forty-three students, staff and alumni from nineteen nationalities had raised much of their own funding for the trip and taken their mid-term holiday to sing at Adventist churches and colleges in France, Spain and Portugal. As always, the choir has made a particular effort to learn songs in the languages of the countries they are visiting – not an easy task for some who are learning English at the same time!

'We have had a lot of help from the choir members who are native speakers of French, Spanish and Portuguese,' says Sandra Rigby-Barrett, who has lost count of the number of choir trips she has led but thinks this is about the thirteenth!

This year the choir will sing not only in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese but also in Latin, with a Hebrew folk song thrown in for good measure. The concerts offer a variety of music from Schubert to spirituals and in some numbers a flute, guitars and bongo drums will accompany the choir. 'Some of the music we are singing is quite different from the contemporary music which students are used to,' says Sandra. 'But they have really risen to the challenge of Bach and Schubert.'

Students looked forward to the ten-day tour. 'Having someone else organise accommodation in three different countries and arranging a trip where you can ride with friends and get a chance to sightsee and meet the local people is a great way to travel,' said one. 'And it's a lot cheaper than going alone!'

Ellen Who?

The job of promoting the writings of Ellen White among contemporary young people may be easier than it was twenty years ago. Less knowledge among students about the early leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church may mean less prejudice.

When she visited Newbold from 6-12 February Cindy Tutsch from the Ellen G. White Central Office was taking no chances. The title for her Sabbath morning sermon was: Ellen Who?

As a former youth leader in the United States, Mrs Tutsch is no stranger to students, their interests and needs. Her sermon recognised the sort of leadership that many young people want to see in the Church. She talked about Ellen White as a social activist and a family woman as well as a church founder and leader.

During her stay at Newbold Mrs Tutsch preached on several occasions, lectured in

UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Next generation of preachers	16-18 April	Bilberry Hill Centre, Birmingham	Pastors I. Sweeney, S. Burton-Schnull, G. Gordon, S. Palmer, Dr P. Herbert, Cathy Boldeau and Andrew Hazel	NEC office: 0115 9606312.
ASNA Respite and Training weekend	22-24 April	Frontier Centre, Northampton	ASNA Training and Support	Tel: 01491 833395; email: asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk , www.asna.co.uk .
BIG New LETS Day of Fellowship	24 April		R. Morgan, NEC	Contact R. Morgan, NEC, 0115 960 6312.
Lone Parents' Family Day	Sunday 16 May 10am-5pm	Advent Centre	Bernie and Karen Holford	Tel: Janet Guthrie at SEC 01923 232728; email: jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk .

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.

Mission boat



Most Christians' idea of a mission boat would be a floating clinic on the Amazon.

Graham's is a red speedboat with a loud V8.

Most Sundays in the summer, Graham and his wife Jenny round up two car-loads of teenagers and take them to the lake to water-ski.

They think it's great because lots of them don't play much sport – unless you count *PlayStation*. And often they don't have much fun interaction with adults, especially men. Their parents are stressed out at work and wasted on weekends, and about 40% of them don't live with their dads.

In winter they play basketball in the church hall.

Graham and Jenny build quality, mentoring friendships with the teens. Parents appreciate their interest, and the positive alternatives to drugs and crime. They really open up and Graham and Jenny get opportunities for ministry.

They don't outright preach, but they get a lot of chances to discuss values. They've had dozens of people to church for community-friendly visitors' days. And this year they've started a 'Life Wisdom Discussion Group' in their home, where a dozen teens are reading Solomon's *Proverbs*.

Your mission field is in your street. How are you trying to reach it?

'Pure . . . religion in the sight of God our Father is to care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to let the world corrupt us.' (James 1:27.)

'If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.' Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 189.

some classes and got involved in many conversations with students.

Her presentations ranged far and wide over topics like the Church's understanding of Ellen G. White's authority, the relationship of Ellen G. White writings to the Bible, the role of literary assistants and the plagiarism charge.

In all her presentations Mrs Tutsch encouraged members, theology students and ministers to study the Word of God more eagerly. She emphasised the importance of a balanced approach to the writings of Ellen White, and stressed the priority of the biblical revelation as central to the development of doctrine and practice among Adventists. Nevertheless, she pointed out: 'The miracle of the Adventist Church would not have happened if God had not intervened through the ministry of Ellen White – the "weakest of the weak".'

[WITH DR RADISA ANTIC, CURATOR, ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE]

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28	West Midlands	10am-2pm
April		
4	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
18	Manchester South	10am-1pm
25	West Midlands	10am-2pm
May		
9	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
16	Newbold Graduation	
23	West Midlands	10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Mar 26	6.24	6.37	6.29	6.39	6.49
Apr 2	7.36	7.48	7.42	7.54	8.03
9	7.48	8.00	7.54	8.08	8.16
16	8.00	8.12	8.07	8.22	8.30

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