

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

# Messenger

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Since the beginning of this year ADRA-UK has secured major funding from the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID), and the European Union (EU). The two latest grants, announced in the first week of May, have brought the total funding from these organisations to £3,382,779. This money will operate six major ADRA projects around the world: three in Peru, one in South Sudan, one in Nepal, and one in Kazakhstan.

BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry, who is also chair of the ADRA-UK board, made this comment in response to the news of the grants: 'The Department for International Development is very careful in the way it allocates its money and it is a tribute to ADRA-UK that they have the confidence to channel this amount of funding through our charity. Of all the charities that applied for funding from DFID this year ADRA-UK was the only one to be awarded funding for three separate projects. Most only received funding for one or two. ADRA-UK was also the only charity to have a 100% success rate in its applications – we submitted three proposals and they were all accepted. We thank God for the way he has led in this work and we would encourage all our members to continue to do their part, through the Ingathering campaign and through other ADRA-UK collections, so that we can maximise our potential for obtaining matching funding from donor organisations.'

One of the projects in Peru aims to help 7,000 street children in Lima, the capital city, by raising awareness of child labour and decreasing its practice. It will build on a pilot project which was funded from Ingathering funds raised during the 2003 appeal. The total grant from DFID for this particular project will be £521,680 and will be spread over three years.

In February of this year ADRA-UK director Raafat Kamal visited the pilot project in Lima and met the 22 volunteers who are currently working with the street children. Speaking from his office soon after his return he said, 'The team recently won an award



## DFID and EU funding of £3.38 million

John Surridge, BUC Communication director

from the president of Peru for their services to the street children of Lima. These are highly skilled people, in fact eight of them are psychiatrists, and we are really grateful for the contribution they are making.'

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Information, 63% of Peruvian children under 18 years of age (around 1.8 million children) live in poverty, in an environment that does not support equitable or sustainable social development. As a result, child labour in Peru is a real and deep problem. An official survey carried out by the National Survey on Living Conditions, indicates that there are now around two million children aged between 6 and 17 who are involved in some kind of child labour. The majority of these working children can be found in urban areas where the younger ones support the family business by taking care of animals, looking after orchards, selling sweets, doing domestic work, or running errands. Those aged between 14 and 17 tend to work in street markets and other businesses where they polish shoes, sell newspapers and cigarettes, collect rubbish, or even carry out construction work.

'While I was in Peru I met 11-year-old Teodor,' said Raafat Kamal. 'He had a deep cut in his head and when he was telling me about his experience of living on the streets of

Lima he couldn't look me in the eye. However, he has been placed in a foster home by ADRA and is now happy. His new parents love him and he sings the songs that he was taught at our rehabilitation centre. It's exciting to think that the money we collected during Ingathering last year had a direct effect on Teodor's life, and it's even better to know that the project that was started with that money is now going to be greatly expanded by the new money from DFID.'



## Red-Hot-and-Famous @ Swansea.church/wales

Swansea church took its talents and tastes into the community on Sunday 29 February, to raise money, make friends and celebrate its international make-up plus St David's Day.

*Go Red for Wales* was the theme of The Prince's Trust fundraising drive over the St David's Day weekend. The Prince's Trust is a Welsh charity working for the inclusion and independence of disadvantaged young people. Swansea church members, who represent over ten different nations, decided to get involved in this particularly Welsh work which would develop links with the community for future ventures.

Food, songs, music, poetry, talks and dance celebrated at least eleven

different nations: Zimbabwe, the Philippines and India; Jamaica, Trinidad and America; France, Japan and Mauritius; England and of course Wales!

The evening was a huge success, and £160, as well as the church's profile, was raised as the event was promoted on the radio and in the newspaper.

Swansea members also held a *Cymanfa Ganu*, a Welsh music festival, on Friday 2 April, in celebration of the centenary of the 1904 revival in Wales that transformed the nation and the rest of the world. Maybe it'll happen again! To find out more, email [edsammons@hotmail.com](mailto:edsammons@hotmail.com).

SULOYA ELIN PAUL

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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](mailto:Administrator@roundelwood.fsn.co.uk)



## Healthwise

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

## Atkins and After

With nearly 2 million Britons undernourished, and whose problems cost the NHS £226 million per year, we may well wonder why all the fuss about the Atkins weight-loss diet. Going into hospital does not improve the situation either, as more than half of hospital patients eat so poorly that they leave hospital clinically malnourished!

However, it has been known for several years that high-protein diets overload and damage the kidneys. In a survey of 1,624 US women (aged between 42 and 68, and covering 11 years) 489 had some degree of kidney problem.

Women with normal kidney function were found to have a reasonably well-balanced diet, whilst those

using the high-protein diet showed deterioration in kidney function.

Where kidney problems were already present the high-protein diet compounded the problem. Leading researcher Eric Knight (at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts), said, 'The potential effects of dietary protein consumption on renal function on persons with mild renal insufficiency have important public health implications given the prevalence of high-protein diets'. There was also a tendency for people using these diets to feel tired and lethargic.

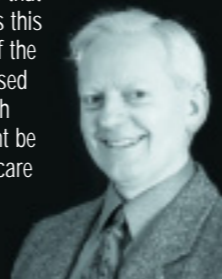
Another study at Harvard involving 47,000 male health professionals shows an increased risk of develop-

ing gout by people using high-protein diets. Gout is the commonest form of inflammatory arthritis in men, and affects the big toe and can lead to permanent joint damage. Related to kidney function, gout occurs when purine from the diet is broken down and deposits uric acid in the blood and tissues.

It is said that actions speak louder than words. The Atkins marketing people say there was no connection between the Atkins diet and the heart disease and 18 stone frame of the founder of the programme! What should we conclude about Atkins' colleague, Dr Fred Pescatore, who is now marketing – at £25 per bottle – a macadamia nut-oil mixture, claimed to be as or

more effective than the Atkins diet?

The overweight are desperate to lose, and help is on the way. An Austrian company are marketing caffeine-laced tights – yes, you did read correctly! The idea behind their production is that body heat will release and the body will absorb the caffeine, which will then break down the 'cellulite'. There is no evidence that caffeine has this effect, but if the tights are used often enough people might be too high to care about their weight!



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with David Marshall



## When God chooses leaders

'Will he look good on television?'

That question was asked with urgency, even passion, regarding a man about to be elected leader of a political party. In the ensuing discussion (on Radio 4) the TV performances of a whole raft of political leaders in the last twenty years came in for analysis. Gradually, I became aware that, as far as the analysts were concerned, 'Will he look good on television?' was the bottom-line question for political leadership. If it is, it could explain a lot!

In recent years I have experienced a deal of frustration with contemporary politicians. It seems to me that Tony Blair could not hold a candle to Clem Attlee, that Michael Howard is scarcely visible from the heights of Winston Churchill and, as for any comparison between Charles Kennedy and illustrious predecessors like Lloyd George and W. E. Gladstone – well, let's face it, there isn't one, is there? Then comes the question of 'George Dubya' filling the shoes of F. D. Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Abraham Lincoln. . . . With some notable exceptions, it is possible to respect contemporary politicians for their cleverness as well as for their TV manner. Is that what counts?

Churchill once said that Attlee was 'a modest man with a lot to be modest about'. But, along with Churchill, Attlee has been singled out as one of the two highest achievers at No. 10 in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> But the fact is that he was 'too modest' to be any good on TV. Churchill's bulldog looks, uncertain temperament and reliance on a script would *not* have made him an obvious success in front of Jeremy Paxman and his kind. As for Lloyd George – too small; Gladstone – too gangling, wooden-in-manner and eccentric (quite aside from TV, the tabloids would have made mincemeat of him!).

If present-day criteria had been applied, the greatest of our leaders of the past would not have heard the starter's whistle. Would the Americans put up with a wheelchair-bound president like F. D. Roosevelt today? Are they (we?) moving in a direction in which Hollywood is part of the preferred CV for politicians?

May I, respectfully, commend the Proverbs 10:9 criterion to you? It's the first leadership idea I want to recommend. And, like the other, it applies to Church as well as to State:

◆ 'The man of integrity walks securely' (NIV). *Integrity*, as you know, means *moral soundness, wholeness, completeness*. So what does 'walks securely' mean – 'will never fall flat on his face'? No. Joseph was morally sound in the matter of Potiphar's wife, but he still did time, right? Job was the most splendid of fellows, but he experienced a few reversals, right? Nevertheless, I want to suggest that Job and Joseph 'walked securely'. Integrity is its own reward: short and medium terms are in God's hands and, where there is integrity, he will make sure that long-term brings vindication.

There were times, doubtless, when doing the right thing was a bit of a bore for Daniel. Did anybody take any notice? There came a time when rivals for power under King Darius 'began trying to find a ground of accusation' against Daniel. They wanted to 'get the goods', 'dish the dirt' – or their Medo-Persian equivalents. What did they uncover? There was not so much as a whiff of corruption. Not a whiff! (Daniel 6:1-4.) Daniel walked securely.

'Honesty lives confident and carefree, but Shifty is sure to be exposed.' (Prov. 10:9, MGE.)

Do you have to be perfect to be chosen by God?

◆ That brings us to the second principle. God taught it to Samuel and Jesse. The former was sent to choose a leader from among the latter's sons. They were wheeled in, starting from the top. Eliab came

in first, the eldest. He really looked the part. Real star quality. Every inch a king. He would have looked good on TV. But God gave the thumbs down. Another six came in one after another, and Samuel shook his head six times. He then looked puzzled and said to Jesse, 'Is this the lot then?' at which point Jesse remembered David out tending sheep. And God had his man.

Notice what God said through Samuel: 'Do not consider his appearance or his height. . . . The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart' (1 Sam. 16:7).

'Jews look for miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom' (1 Cor. 1:22) but God works through other means. He is not overly enamoured of the surface. God is not impressed by externals: the brilliant people, the beautiful people, the successful people. God chooses 'the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; . . . the weak things of the world to shame the strong. *He chose the lowly things . . . so that no one can boast before him.*' (1 Cor. 1:27-29, italics supplied).

By contrast, Saul is very much the type chosen by the people. He looked good and could rally people to his cause. But, though 40 when he became king, he soon turned out to be thin-skinned and hot-tempered (to the point of murderous). He was the people's choice, but not God's.

David was God's choice. In the OT Abraham has 14 chapters written about him, Joseph 14, Jacob 11, and Elijah 10. *David occupies 66 chapters!* Twice David is called, 'A man after God's own heart' (1 Sam. 13:13, 14; Acts 13:22).

Didn't God know that Bathsheba was in David's future? Of course he did. God sent Nathan who said, 'Thou art the man!' But David repented; and he was forgiven and restored (Ps. 51).

That reminds us of the reason why God had chosen David and rejected his seven brothers.

It was not David's appearance God liked. He looked on the heart, remember?

And when God looked at the heart of David he saw qualities that would make him a good leader. \* One of the things God saw was David's humble application to his duties as shepherd; he even returned to them after he had been anointed king and after he had become court musician.

\* But God also saw in David *integrity*. The sort of integrity – remember *moral soundness, wholeness, completeness* – that would make him repent when he had done wrong.

God cares more about character than charisma. God cares more about authenticity than about image.

God chose David *before* Samuel went to his home and interviewed his brothers. God had been to his home in person, spotted Jesse's youngest and said, 'That's my man!'

The sorts of men and women God chooses are fundamentally in tune with God's character and point of view. There are no locked rooms in their lives. When evil is revealed they admit, confess and come clean. They *grieve* over wrong, as God does.

Integrity is what you do when nobody is looking.

Saul looked good: he was man's choice.

David had integrity in his heart. Far from perfect, capable of spectacular mistakes – he was big enough to get on his knees before God and repent (and, in Psalm 51, to make *public* confession).

Remember God's principles of leadership?

*Integrity*. When we have it, we can 'walk securely' – and leave the rest to God.

Not outward appearance; *rightness of heart*.

As we choose leaders of Church and State, God grant us the ability to see beyond the obvious.

God's great leaders were Joseph, David and Daniel. They weren't perfect men. But they were men of character – not slick, diplomatic and Teflon-coated – but men of integrity: morally sound and right-in-the-heart.

Reference:

Peter Hennessy, *The Prime Minister: The Office and Its Holders since 1945* (Penguin, 2000). Hennessy is Attlee Professor of Contemporary British History at Queen Mary, University of London.

# West Bletchley Community Church: 0-60 in four months

by Pastor Colin Stewart

We all know about the Milton Keynes church and the achievements of that church in the last ten years or so. But now, at just the right time with the right challenge, we have the West Bletchley Community church planted as a result of the vision and dedication of the people of Milton Keynes, the mother church.

Let no one be fooled, this new church exists because of the determination and will of the members both in Milton Keynes Central and West Bletchley. The Spirit of God led us to plant the church in the winter-time and – have we seen results! The church plant began on 20 December 2003 after a lot of prepa-

ration, planning and praying. A decision was taken to plant a church which would be there for the needs of the community. We wanted to have a kind of praise and worship that the community could identify with and, at the same time, we wanted to reach every single house in West Bletchley with the Gospel of Hope.

With the mother church giving financial support, the project was born and we opened the door of this well-presented community centre and set up church. With a group of 15-20, which included boys, girls, men and women, the Spirit of God blessed us in a mighty way.

We planned church with the emphasis on the community and so because we only have the hours

mostly from 9am to 1pm, after which time we have to vacate the building, we utilise the time well. The first thing we do is set up the hall, and then come together for prayer and sharing where we sing, pray and prepare our hearts for the worship and activities of the day. After this we have two further services, one called 'Cross Talk' in which we study the Word, and the next one where we receive the message in word, by preaching but mainly in seminars.

One of the best features of the Sabbath is after the services when we schedule a time for fellowship and so we prepare light refreshments for all. After this we go straight to knock on the doors of the community and invite people personally to attend church and find out if they are receptive to prayer or want to join us for worship. This part of the West Bletchley programme has been a revelation as we have seen the church become a community church overnight!

It didn't take very long before we had people from the community popping in for a quick chat and joining us in praising God. In fact, this activity of going to the community has become the most successful part of the project. We now have community

members just walking in off the street, coming on a regular basis, inviting their friends, and calling this their church. The make-up of the church is taking a different look as indigenous community people identify with the church and come with their families.

The regular attendance of the church is now over 60 after just a few months, with many coming directly from the community and being non-Adventists. It's exciting to know that the direct approach still works. This is the Jesus method. He went to the people; he didn't wait for them to come to him. This is a very, very exciting project and we solicit the prayers of the saints as we continue to step in uncharted waters. Please also pray for the big visionary plan of Milton Keynes district to plant another church in the Newport Pagnell area of Milton Keynes. As the area town councillors continue with their plans of massive expansion for the region so the people of God and West Bletchley and Milton Keynes Central seek to follow the vision of God and enter unentered regions.

Finally, let us mention for continued prayer those who led out and still lead out in the project at West Bletchley: church elder Robbie Addaih and family, church elder Rock and family, church elder Seidu and family, Brother Golding, Andrew Rock, Don and Charmaine Barrett and family, Mike and Nicky Arnold, Sister Scott, Vernon Noel, Thembe and family, and many others who support and pray for success.



Pastor Simpson, Nokuthula, Mahalia, Pastor Stewart

## Joy for Bedford Central

There was great joy in the Bedford Central church as two very precious souls were baptised at the Milton Keynes church. Nokuthula from South Africa and Mahalia from Jamaica gave their hearts to the Lord after a lot of prayer from the saints in Bedford.

Nokuthula was the first to admit that she should have been baptised a long time ago. She says, 'Each time I attended a series of meetings, I knew what I wanted to do and planned to go all the way with Jesus, but on the day of the baptism I would disappear. . . .' Nokuthula grew up in the Adventist Church but had never been able to make that final commitment. Everyone believed she was already a member as she has been attending the church in Bedford since coming to the UK. She is also very involved in singing and is a member of a Bedford singing group. It was just before the Dwight Nelson *Evidence* series, broadcast from the church in Bedford, that she approached the pastor and decided that there was to be no turning back. The church board met and on hearing her story happily agreed to her baptism and Nokuthula wasted no more time for she was baptised with great joy on 20 March.

The other person, Mahalia from Jamaica, had been attending the Bedford Central church for about two years after she came to the UK to study nursing. Mahalia had a clever way of staying very much in the background. After the divine service she would be one of the first to make her way to the exit doors, the exit where she did not have to greet the platform party after the service. One day the pastor who saw what was happening wanted to meet this person and so got to the exit before she could leave. From then on a positive relationship developed with the pastor and with other members. Mahalia is presently part of the AY team and also sings in the church

## Family Ministries Weekend Dublin & Ballinacrow churches, Ireland, Ovoca Manor House, Avoca, Co. Wicklow

12-14 March 2004

by Betty Sisson

Those of you who are familiar with the television programme *Ballykissangel* would know the beautiful countryside in Avoca, Co. Wicklow, where the series was filmed. It was there, surrounded by nature, that families from our Dublin and Ballinacrow churches came for the weekend. Forty adults and 34 children retreated from the stresses of city life and came to relax, to come closer to God and to learn about God's plan for ourselves, our spouses and our children. Our other focus was to have fun, to socialise and to get some exercise in the fresh air.

Ovoca Manor is a self-catering establishment comprising several houses. This complex is operated by the Scripture Union and we felt very welcomed and supported by the staff.

Our programme was to begin on Friday evening with Inge Vermeullen welcoming everybody with a worship service entitled, 'There's no place like home', but Inge unfortunately became ill at the last moment and our pastor's wife Annie McCormac and Linda Soriton stepped into the breach with a lively Singspiration-styled musical evening.

Betty Sisson led out in the morning with a programme for parenting based on the book, *How to help your child really love Jesus*, by Donna Habernicht. One moving part of this programme was when Betty asked the question, 'How can we love our children if we don't feel loved ourselves? What if your "love cup" was never filled during your childhood?' Some of us come from broken homes where violence and abuse took place. The answer is to immerse yourself in God's love. Betty handed everyone a letter from God containing many texts from the Bible

telling us of God's love: 'I love you with a love that will last forever, I became your friend because of my love and kindness.' (Jeremiah 31:3.) As people read out the texts, they inserted their own names and personalised the words as if it was a message from God directly to them.

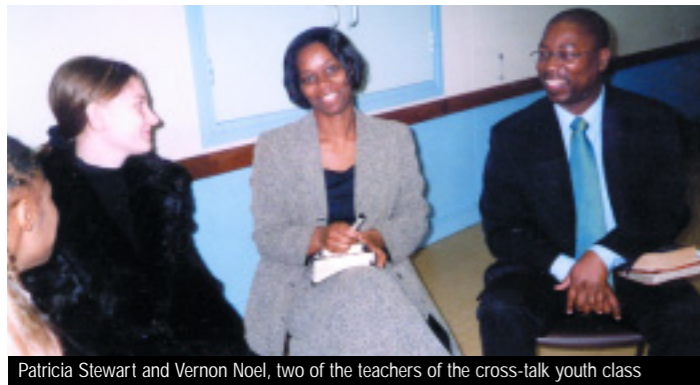
The children were well catered for during this time with their own programme organised by Annie McCormac. Lunch was a hectic affair which went well, with Mildred Hill and Martha Murphy taking command of the kitchen with their usual efficiency.

The afternoon started with nature trails organised by Douglas McCormac and Ray Sisson which everyone loved. Martin Mapa, Rik Dambaza and Gerard Chimbwanda could not agree on the number of steps down to the gate (98) so had to make many trips up and down, counting and recounting, much to the amusement of their children. There was a short, comic programme covering the differences between men and women, followed by a musical session with many children (Kari and Shawna Rothwell as well as Victoria and Rachel Donaldson), family groups (the Mapa family, Gerard and Sibo Chimbwanda), and our very talented young women from Dublin church all taking part.

We closed our session on Sunday morning with John and Alvern Roche and their two children renewing their wedding vows, a service that was very moving and tender for all the people who witnessed it.

Over all, the weekend was a great success. Many people clamoured for more weekends like this. My observation is that families love to come together with like-minded Christians where they can have fun together, share their experiences and problems, hold each other up with prayer, encouragement and love, and most of all feel God's presence in a very real and beautiful way.

We learned a lot from the weekend – what we will include next time or leave out. I am saying 'next time' because we will have to include a Family Weekend in our church calendar every year!



Patricia Stewart and Vernon Noel, two of the teachers of the cross-talk youth class

## Top London job

Recently the Adventurer and Pathfinder Club director for Stanborough Park church has been promoted to a top London job. Bernell Bussue is the new Royal College of Nursing (RCN) regional director for London. He is responsible for the college's 47,500 members in the London region – 13% of the total RCN membership for the UK. The RCN has 370,000 UK members and aims to 'represent nurses and nursing, promote excellence in practice and shape health policies'.

Bernell joined the RCN as a regional officer in 1998 with a clinical background in cardio-thoracic and intensive care nursing. Later he was promoted to be acting diversity advisor. He was instrumental in setting up the RCN London Equality Network (LEN) which has grown to a membership of over 200 from small beginnings. The LEN celebrates its fifth anniversary this year.

Bernell lives with his wife Angela and 8-year-old daughter Francesca. In addition to being Adventurer and Pathfinder Club leader he is a

deacon and a member of the church's growth committee, but his passion is for nurturing and developing the children and young people in the church. He believes this is an essential area of service.

He says, 'My Christian upbringing, and my belief in God, have been significant factors in shaping my life and in determining the kind of person I am. I owe a great deal to my parents and brothers and sisters. My prayer is that Francesca will grow up in a more tolerant and less indifferent world and that my contribution, however small, will do something towards reducing all forms of discrimination and intolerance.'

He feels strongly about something else, too. He now holds a Master of Administration (MBA) degree from Oxford, a diploma in Management Studies, three nursing qualifications, and

a number of post-registration certificates, but he left school with only a handful of CSEs. He says, 'Young people should try to excel at school, but even if one leaves school not having done well, it is not the end of the story and one should persevere doing the best one can with the talents God has given.'

Early in his clinical nursing career, Bernell spent almost five years working in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. After returning to the UK, he worked in the private sector before returning to the NHS, firstly to Guy's Hospital as a night charge nurse, followed by a period at the Royal London Hospital where he was senior nurse manager of a surgical and orthopaedic unit. His last job before moving to the RCN was operations manager for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Tower Hamlets, London.



BRONWEN ATKINSON

## St Austell baptism

April 24 was a special day for the St Austell church as we were blessed by the ministry of two visiting pastors, Patrick Boyle and Dalbert Elias; but even more thrilling, the Lord himself was there with many angels, rejoicing because two of God's precious children publicly committed their lives to him in baptism.

'Praise Team'. She is definitely a warm person and has a lot to offer the church.

The church board and the whole church family was very happy to be in a position to welcome these two new members into church fellowship and look forward to their ministries developing in the church. On the day of the baptism, our guest speaker Pastor Mike Simpson gave the address, and local minister Colin Stewart performed the baptism.

PASTOR COLIN STEWART

Shirley Matthews attended the Croydon church many years ago when Pastor Boyle was the minister. Over the years she wandered away from the Lord. Shirley moved to Cornwall and again the Holy Spirit spoke to her heart. She came back to church and had Bible studies with Pastor Michael Walker. Her love for the Lord has been demonstrated by her participation in all the outreach programmes of the church, including Ingathering and knocking on doors with a 'Jesus Video' survey.

Hilary Colliver, a St Austell member, met Keith Pascoe at a Sankey evening. They became friends and she invited him to our church. Keith started attending regularly and had Bible studies with Pastor Walker. His love for the Lord and for Hilary grew, and Keith requested baptism. Hilary



Left to right: Pastor Dalbert Elias, Keith Pascoe, Shirley Matthews, Pastor Patrick Boyle, Pastor Michael Walker

and Keith are planning to marry and set up a Christian home in May. Hilary's father, Frank Colliver, sang a beautiful solo.

In his address Pastor Boyle referred to the Ethiopian eunuch who accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and did not hesitate to be baptised when he found sufficient water. Pastor Elias went through the wonderful biblical truths of our church, to which Shirley and Keith acknowledged their belief and acceptance. They were then baptised by Pastor Walker, and the members were delighted to welcome them into church fellowship.

PEARL WALKER

# 'ISLAM is well on the way to becoming the world's dominant religion'

Jack Mahon discusses Borge Schantz's *Islam in the Post-9/11 World*

In a demonic parody of Revelation chapter 14, three Satanic 'messengers' flying through mid-heaven annihilate strategic buildings in two major cities in the West while untold millions stare, hypnotised and unbelieving, at the unimaginable horror unfolding before their eyes on small screens around the planet. As a 'watershed' of history it eclipsed even the mushroom cloud of Hiroshima and has introduced to the whole world a new dimension of fear under the blanket term 'terrorism'.

Dr Borge Schantz, first director of the Adventist Global Centre for Islamic Studies, author of several books and a multiplicity of articles on Muslim lifestyle and theology, published at the beginning of this year a slim volume which not only incorporates in its title the 9/11 formula but provides in the first twelve short chapters a comprehensive account – mercifully free from any theological 'gobbledegook' of the history and beliefs of Islam. This aspect of the book, at a time when Sunday newspaper supplements and radio/TV features proliferate sensationally-biased newsworthy accounts of Muslim lifestyle, is particularly useful to Christian readers. In remarkably few words Schantz has condensed a lifetime of experience living among

Muslims, from the comparatively primitive in West Africa to the highly sophisticated in Saudi Arabia with a wide range between, including Pakistan where believers are even more Muslim than those in the 'prophet's' own homeland!

In the seven years he directed the Islamic Studies Institute in Britain, Schantz had many opportunities to observe the steady increase of Muslim immigrants into Western countries and to talk to them one-to-one, as for instance in Stuttgart, Germany, chatting with Turkish 'guest workers' outside the mosque thoughtfully provided by their employer, a well-known automobile manufacturer. During these years also he interceded in several heartbreaking cases of the break-up of marriages between Muslim men and Christian young women when children of the union were kidnapped and taken overseas to be nurtured in a Muslim environment.

Potential readers in the Western hemisphere may admit that the author's experience and learning qualify him to write with authority about Islamic subjects, but since Schantz is perceived as a Dane and a distant electronic observer of the 9/11 scenario and so could not have experienced at first hand the full impact of the horrendous events, they may



Five minute timed exposure of Beirut taken from the Adventist compound, 1978.

Photo: Jack Mahon

question his justification in including the formula in his book title. How could anyone not physically present in New York or Washington even begin to understand the explosive emotional impact, or the real-life horror of immolated human flesh as hapless workers in the Twin Towers who had milliseconds only to confront the death-choice – leap or burn? In actual fact, however, Dr Schantz was far away from his Danish base, lecturing less than a dozen miles from the Pentagon at the moment of impact! In any case, his understanding of what might be termed the '9/11 factor' goes back almost three decades before the fatal impact on the World Trade Centre.

Although he makes no mention of it in the introduction to his latest book, Schantz has his personal four-digit formula of what might well have been his own explosive exit from this troubled world – 1976. In the spring of that year began the sixth and most destructive phase of the tragic Lebanese civil war. At that time Schantz was based in Beirut as director of the Adventist Churches in the Eastern Mediterranean. Counselling by the Danish embassy to leave his apartment in Sabtieh Beirut and return to Denmark, his concern for his 'flock' and his self-imposed role of escorting Arab and African students of the Adventist Theological College in the

City through the lines of conflict to and from the international airport, outweighed any personal risk factor. There is no doubt that the presence of a European bearing a neutral Danish passport had a noticeably calming effect on the militia manning the many city checkpoints. Airborne projectiles, however, lack any such discriminating faculty as Schantz and his wife Iris were about to discover.

Fighting had flared up in the Christian district of Sin-Al-Fil next to Sabtieh where a strong force of Shi'ite Muslims had occupied a strong point in the nearby village of Dekwani. Shells from the conflict had begun to 'take out' buildings close to the Schantzes' home so they prudently stayed in the rear of their apartment, as far as possible from the more vulnerable front lounge. Beirut city at that time lay under a pall of smoke from the burning port and the Lebanese equivalent of the World Trade Centre – the large downtown 'soukh' where goods from every trading nation used to proliferate. On the spring morning in question, Iris was preparing to walk up the hill to Middle East College and Borge to go down to the local Bouscheriah church where daily services for the community were being held, when suddenly there was a massive impact which shook the sturdy apartment block to its foundations.

From the lounge area a crashing, whirring, thunderous noise continued as Iris and Borge clung to each other, expecting in the next second the explosion which would end their earthly sojourn. . . .

When the blast failed to arrive, Borge made his way through swirling dust and smoke into the lounge to find that the familiar decor and furniture had been considerably rearranged and from a shattered radiator a black oleaginous liquid was gently glugging. Harmless on the veranda lay the source of their alarm, a sleek two-foot cylinder of tungsten steel which the armaments officer of the International Peace-keeping force would later define as a 110mm howitzer shell which, after decanting its lethal explosive charge, he would present to the Schantzes as a permanent reminder of the day they just failed to join the daily civilian death-list. If their personal projectile had exploded on only one of the many impacts as it ricocheted around their lounge, they and their fellow tenants would in any human reckoning have been doomed. One might close this paragraph by simply asserting in terms of Borge Schantz empathising with those who experienced the 9/11 factor – his case rests. And it did not end there because for months and years of that conflict Schantz would smell the sickly-sweet odour of death, in massacre-sites like Karantina, witness the coffins piled on the streets near his Ashrafieh office, preside at funerals for fellow-Christians caught in the crossfire and weep with grief-stricken parents over tiny coffins.

From the horrors of that conflict with its authentic records of massacres by Christians of Muslims and Muslims of Christians, there are also heart-warming stories of Muslim families risking their lives to shelter and sustain Christian neighbours and of Christians showing similar compassion for their threatened Muslim friends or work colleagues when 'gun law was king' and human life cheap.

There are good reasons why every Adventist should read *Islam in the Post-9/11 World* quite apart, that is, from the most obvious purpose of becoming acquainted with Muslim faith and lifestyle since in most countries of the world it is the fastest growing religion. In terms of population statistics there is bound to be massive growth in view of Islamic attitudes to

birth control and in some countries to Koran-justified polygamy. Its authoritative teachings and precisely defined programmes of prayers, feasts and fasts are compulsively attractive in both physical and psychological terms to a substantial percentage of young people. It is not necessary to read much between the lines of Schantz's small book to recognise that Islam is well on the way to becoming the world's dominant religion. It is not necessary to use such pejorative terms as brain-washing to recognise that religions such as Christianity, which typically involves worship on only one day a week, cannot compete with a process of five times daily prostration and the oft-repeated *Shahada* prayer formula 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet'. Islam is not only built into mind, muscle, bone and nerve of its adherents, it regulates every part of life so that there is no distinction between *religious* and *secular* in the Muslim vocabulary. But is Christianity to be outclassed by a religious system which has no place for the Holy Spirit, dismisses Jesus from the Godhead and diminishes him to merely mortal prophet-hood?

But Jesus is the One who claimed: 'I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.' What inference should we gather from the way in which thousands of Muslims are currently flocking into Middle Eastern cinemas to see Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*? Is it because they want to gloat over an anti-Semitic movie or could they actually be drawn to the Son of Man himself? Reports from Doha, the Qatar capital and from Kuwait City and Ramallah in Palestine indicate that crowds continue to flock to every performance of the film and are deeply moved by the Scripture narrative so familiar to Christians, so strange and unexpected to non-Christians. What a novel concept comes from the Cross 'Love your enemies . . .' surely the antithesis of suicide bombers? Is there in the Mind of the Infinite an outcome when the two symbols of the 'Final Gospel' missing from Muslim theology, the Cross of the Christ and the Dove of the Spirit, must yet be manifested? Let us not leave the 'other sheep' of the Islamic fold, representing a tenth part of the world's population, out of our reckoning. Jesus says, 'Them also I must bring and there shall be one fold and one shepherd' – 'twere a consummation devoutly to be wished!

*Islam in the Post-9/11 World* £6.95 by Borge Schantz (Autumn House 2004) Order through your PM secretary or on the credit card hotline 01476 539900.

**NOEL FITZGERALD GREEN (1922-2004) d. 28 March.** Just two weeks after the Green family rejoiced in the baptism of Shaun, Noel's grandson, they met again on 8 April in Bradford church to celebrate the life of Noel Green, a much-loved Christian family man. The church was full, as members, family and friends praised God for a faithful member who has now gone to his rest until Jesus comes. Several of Noel's children and grandchildren took part in the service. Two of his grandsons, Shaun and Dominic, and great-nephew Robert, read poems. His son Justin, who was able to bring humour into the situation (as I am sure Noel would have wished), gave a particularly fitting eulogy. Justin gave an interesting summary of his father's life as follows: 'Noel Green was born in the Machionelle district of Portland, Jamaica, and first came to England during the Second World War, serving in the RAF. After the war ended, he decided to return to Jamaica, where he worked for many years as a shop manager. Veta caught his eye and romance blossomed across the shelves. They married in 1954, and started to build what was to become their large family. Following a fire, Noel decided that he would return to England to try to make a better life for his family, and came over on his own in 1957, settling in Bradford and leaving Veta to look after the children. Eventually he had saved enough money to send for Veta. The younger English-born siblings started to arrive, and their brothers and sisters joined them over time as they were brought over from Jamaica. From a young age, Noel was a devout Methodist, but later in life he accepted the Adventist faith and was baptised in 1975. As a member of Bradford church, he held a variety of roles from church caretaker to head deacon. He was very faithful and reliable in the offices that he held, and was much loved by all. Noel had a quiet and unassuming nature. He was hard working, loyal and dependable with a sense of humour that at times could surprise even those who knew him well. After retiring, Noel suffered from ill health, notably Parkinson's disease. While he struggled on with this condition for many years, he was nevertheless able to retain a cheerful spirit despite the difficulties he faced. Even though, with his passing, it may seem a dark and sad time, we should take heart that Noel is now at peace, and the day when he meets his Maker is close at hand.' A collection of £223 was taken for ADRA, which Noel and Veta always supported. Noel was laid to rest in the same grave as his wife Veta who had passed away almost two years ago. He

leaves behind 10 children: Courtney, Ewart, Hazel, Hepburn, Islyn, Jackie, Justin, Lloyd, Norman and Sonia, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, who all look forward to the wonderful day when they will meet again.

JOHN MCGOLDRICK

## Weddings

**SCHIMP-HASLAM** Despite the blustery weather on Friday 19 March, family and friends gathered at Littleover Methodist Church, Derby, to witness the marriage of Kristi Schimp and James Haslam. The service was conducted by Revd Ian Worrall. During the ceremony the mothers of the bride and groom were invited to light two candles to symbolise the uniting of the Schimp and Haslam families. Two solos were beautifully rendered by Kristi's father and brother, entitled 'The Prayer' and 'The Lord's Prayer'. Elvaston Castle Country Park, with its attractive grounds, was the venue for the reception and wedding photographs. In his speech, James said, 'A friend once told me that God has the perfect partner for everyone; you just have to be patient and wait. I waited and waited and thought that maybe I should go out and search for myself, but I believe that God has found the perfect partner for me.' After a few weeks honeymooning, the couple now reside in Preston, Lancashire. We wish them every blessing in their new life together.

JENNY JEFFERS

**HOLDEN-BEATTIE** Family and friends gathered together on 14 September 2003 at the United Reformed Church in Sompting, Lancing, to witness the marriage of Anne Holden and Norman Beattie. Norman was ably assisted by his best man and longstanding friend, Herschel Santineer. The service was conducted by Pastor Patrick Boyle who spoke of the importance of marriage and Christ's role in their lives together. Anna and Jenny Holden, Anne's nieces, complemented their aunt as bridesmaids and assisted in the service by reading 1 Corinthians 13. Celebrations continued at the Wickwoods Country Club, Albourne, where, after taking advantage of unexpected sunshine, guests sat down to a sumptuous meal and entertaining speeches. In the evening a small concert conducted by Ken Burton rounded off their happy day. We wish Norman and Anne God's richest blessings as they set up their home in Crawley and continue to worship at Hove.

IRENE SANTINEER

**Full-time Secretarial/Book-keeping vacancy at the BUC Office**  
(Temporary position to cover for maternity leave/absence starting 1 October 2004)  
An exciting and demanding role is open for an energetic, efficient and highly organised person with good secretarial/book-keeping skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The responsibilities will include routine secretarial and data entry tasks, book-keeping, and will require competency in the use of Microsoft Office 97 or comparable software packages. Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request. Interested individuals are invited to send a CV to: Raafat Kamal, Executive Director, ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 681723. Email: rkamal@adra.org.uk.  
Closing date for applications: 18 June 2004

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Iris and Borge clung to each other, expecting in the next second the explosion which would end their earthly sojourn.



## Visit of GC Public Relations director

On Sabbath 17 April General Conference Public Relations director Reger Smith visited the Willesden church in London as part of a wider trip to England and Slovenia. As well as being involved in the work of public relations and communication, Reger is also a keen musician and songwriter. He has sung with the Heritage Singers in the past and has toured with the Breath of Life Quartet for many years.

During the morning service at Willesden, Reger played and sang one of his own compositions, backed by the church band, and then preached on the subject of faith. During the sermon he surprised the congregation by illustrating his topic with a short DVD recording of himself doing a parachute jump. 'Sometimes the Lord brings us to a place where we have to make a leap of faith in order to move forwards,' he said.

The Willesden church is one of the most technologically advanced churches within the BUC. It uses video cameras to relay the weekly services to 'overflow' rooms within the building, and hosts its website



Reger Smith

using an onsite server and computer network. The services are also streamed live on the Internet. In the afternoon workshop Reger commended those involved in the communication work at Willesden and fielded a number of questions relating to the broader issues of communication and public relations within the Adventist Church.

On Sunday 18 April Reger was the main presenter at a Communication Workshop held in the Harper Bell School in Birmingham. Approximately thirty communication enthusiasts attended the event which involved some media relations practice in front of a video camera,



Members of Willesden technology team in their computer audiovisual control centre

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Chessington World of Adventures	Monday 31 May	London Chessington World of Adventures	London Youth Federation	E28 (including coach & entry) Contact: 07956 688 923 or 0207 723 8146
The Golden Chords & Friends Concert	19 June 7pm	Salvation Army, Regent Street	The Golden Chords	Contact Andrew Davis: 07939 875 325 (Book in advance)
All-London Five-a-side football 2004	Sunday 20 June 10am start	Wandle Recreation Creation Centre, Wandsworth	LYF Sports Council	E45 entry before 28 May; E55 thereafter. Contact Sasha Daytes: 07961 405 912
Youth Rally	25-27 June	Dublin	Pastor Le Clare Litchfield	Contact Douglas McCormac: doug@adventist.ie
All-London Netball 2004	Sunday 27 June	London	LYF Sports Council	Contact LYF: 07956 688 923 or 0207 723 8146
Divorce Care Ministry	Sabbath 10 July (pm)	Newcastle church	Merrily Richie, DivorceCare administrator	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
All London Sports Day	Sunday 11 July	London	LYF Sports Council	Tel London Youth Federation on 0207 723 8146 or 07956 688923

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



## Oil in the lock

Asuka met her first Christian at an Adventist language school in Tokyo. A young volunteer gave her a Bible and said it was important.

When Asuka moved to the West, the volunteer connected her with church friends, and Asuka asked them to teach her about Christianity. At first she studied it like geography: Christians believe this and do that – how interesting.

Meanwhile her friends explained the Gospel every chance they got, and prayed for God to make this less like a school subject and more personal, more spiritual.

Asuka had been raised on spiritualistic Buddhism. The story of Jesus seemed so weird, such a foreign paradigm. Sins forgiven freely? God died? Guilt removed? How quaint!

Slowly it made sense, especially when she heard evidence of prophecy fulfilled in history.

Her friends kept in contact, patiently repeating the Gospel (more than 30 times) and praying that the Holy Spirit would work like oil in the rusty lock of Asuka's heart.

One day it clicked. With tears Asuka said, 'It was for me? But why would he bother?' There was only one answer: 'Love.'

Today Asuka is a missionary herself in Korea. She knows God's Spirit can break through in answer to prayer.

'But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify of me.' John 15:26.

as well as an interesting presentation on the structure of the Adventist Church. Emphasising the role of the individual member in good public relations, Reger said, 'Public relations takes place when members of the public meet members of the Church. It can't all be done at the head office.'

JOHN SURRIDGE

### ABC BOOK SALES

<b>May</b>	23 West Midlands	10am-2pm
<b>June</b>	6-13 NEC Camp Meeting Southport SEC Camp Meeting Breen Sands	
	17-20 NEC Session Scarborough	
	27 West Midlands	10am-2pm

### HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

The South England Conference wish to recruit a Human Resource Manager to provide a comprehensive and quality Human Resource Management service to its staff and volunteers. Ideally the person should be CIPD qualified/part qualified or have at least two years' experience working at senior level. The candidate, in consultation with the Executive Officers, will be required to develop a Human Resource Strategy for the organisation that enables the delivery of its aims and objectives.

For a comprehensive job description, please email [cboldeau@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:cboldeau@secadventist.org.uk).  
The closing date to receive all CVs is midday 28 June 2004.

### Messenger

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EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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### Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 21	8.55	9.07	9.06	9.31	9.34
28	9.04	9.16	9.16	9.42	9.44
Jun 4	9.12	9.24	9.24	9.51	9.53
11	9.17	9.30	9.30	9.58	9.59

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