

ADRA-UK appeal for Darfur

ADRA-UK has launched an appeal to support the people of Darfur, western Sudan. More than one million villagers have abandoned their homes as warring militia wreak destruction and terror. Many families are now living in overcrowded camps and are desperately in need of aid. Hundreds of thousands of desperate men, women and children face continued violence, starvation, malaria and other fatal diseases. This is Sudan's latest agony after twenty-two years of war. Internally displaced persons are sleeping in the open. They are running out of food, and drinking water is scarce. Floodwater from recent rains is washing human and animal waste into water sources, raising fears of outbreaks of disease such as cholera. The United Nations is calling the Darfur crisis 'the worst humanitarian disaster of the decade'.

The people of Darfur urgently need our support and prayers. Despite the challenges with security and transportation of aid, ADRA-UK is committed to responding to the immediate need to save lives, as well as to longer-term recovery. So far, ADRA has

airlifted 35 tonnes of relief aid, including blankets, tents, therapeutic food, and medicine to 45,000 people. 12,000 more are receiving clothing and seeds. Additionally, ADRA donor offices are seeking millions of pounds' worth of funding from government partners worldwide for immediate and long-term health, sanitation, and food security programmes.

Money raised by the 'ADRA-UK Darfur Sudan Appeal' is needed to provide emergency aid to two areas in West Darfur, Geneina and Mukjar. The aid items include shelter, food, clean water, sanitation, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, seeds, tools, clothing, plastic sheeting, blankets and water containers.

From past experience we know that Adventist church members, when they know something can be done, are hugely generous and will respond massively. Tremendous resources are needed right now and we are asking members to support this appeal and donate now. To give



by Raafat A. Kamal
ADRA-UK director



you an idea of what can be done, here are some examples: £14 will buy plastic sheeting, a water container and purification tablets for one family; £42 will provide emergency food supplies for a family of five for two months; £85 will buy two entire household kits including a mosquito net, blanket, water container and kitchen utensils.

What can you do? Please send your donations to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Make your cheques payable to 'ADRA-UK' and if possible, Gift Aid your donation by including a *signed* note saying 'Please Gift Aid this donation.' Alternatively, you can send your gift through regular church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for 'ADRA-UK Darfur Sudan Appeal'.

Thank you on behalf of the men, women, and children of Darfur, Sudan.

(In keeping with accepted charitable practices in the UK, up to 5% of donations will be retained to help with administrative expenses and to generate further funds).

MID TERM REPORT

This MESSENGER special marks the middle of the quinquennium that began at the York session three years ago. It contains the reports of Union Officers C. R. Perry, E. C. Lowe and Victor Pilmoor, and the Union departmental directors: Keith Davidson, Richard J. B. Willis, David Cox, Raafat Kamal, John Surridge, Alan Hodges, Heather Haworth, Michael Taylor and Desmond Boldeau. The reports begin on page 4.



An ordination with a difference

For most ordinands, joining the 'brotherhood' is a daunting experience: surrounded by hundreds, if not thousands, of people. However, the ordination service for Jon Gendle was a little different. He was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in a local church.

There were still many friends and clergy. But there was also an atmosphere of 'family' in this smaller gathering. United and with one purpose, we came to witness a service that has taken place across millennia – the setting apart of a man to serve as a shepherd of God's flock.

Jon Gendle returned to St Albans, where he

was first introduced to the Church and where he eventually accepted Christ. On the day of his baptism, Jon received a calling and he followed this by becoming a student at Newbold College, where he successfully completed an MA in Theology. After graduation, Jon served as an intern before taking up his current pastorate at the Hutton and Waltham Abbey churches.

Pastors Dalbert Elias and Ron Clemow spoke of Jon's intense compassion and love and his deep desire to serve God.

In his address to Jon and those who had come to support him, Pastor Don Lowe shared

many insights into sheep and shepherds, reminding us that, unlike today's society, God's sheep are not clients, constituents, patients or numbers. Rather, they are all brothers and sisters in Christ. He used this allegory of sheep and shepherds to look at the life and role of today's pastor.

Pastor Cecil Perry prayed as Jon felt the hands of his fellow clergy on his shoulders. This was a particularly moving moment with a deep sense of God's presence. Pastor Don McFarlane then charged Jon to minister as a servant; to spend time with God in prayer, meditation and study and to be 'an example to the believers'.

In his response, Jon, obviously touched by the events of the day, expressed the deep solemnity of the moment and the awesome responsibility of being set apart for God's service. He said, 'This is not *my* day, it is God's day.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Healthwise

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

It's the weather for it

It is a British occupation to blame the weather for virtually everything, but there is one area at least where this might be with some justification – the increase in infectious disease worldwide! A report has just been released by Jean-François Guégan (of the Institute for Development Research, Montpellier, France) examining the data on 332 human pathogens in 224 countries which shows that infectious disease is on the march.

Diseases long thought to be under control have been re-emerging and resurgent since 1990, and new diseases are increasing. These latter include: Guanarito virus (1991) and Sabia virus (1993) in South America; Hantavirus (1993) in the Western

USA; SARS (2003) and Bird flu (2003) in China and SE Asia. The main resurging diseases are: Toxic E. coli (1992) in North America; Dengue Fever (1992) Australia; Diphtheria (1993) Turkey; Anthrax (1993) Florida; Ebola and Yellow Fever (1993) Central Africa; Cholera (1993) Bangladesh; Rift Valley and Nile Fever (1993) Egypt; Dengue (1993) South America; Cholera (1994) Russia; Pertussis (1993) Canada; Dengue (1993) Inter-America; Meningitis (1996) West Africa; Hantavirus (1997) Chile; Lassa Fever (1997) West Africa; Toxic E. coli (1997) UK; Pandemic cholera (1996) South America; and West Nile Virus (1999) East USA.

The major underlying cause for the spread of these diseases is the

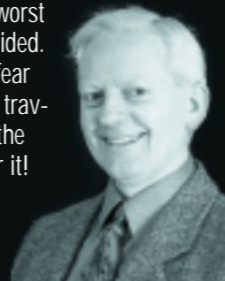
climate change. Some conditions flourish in drought, others through the heavy rains occurring when drought is broken. During dry periods ticks increase in quantity and predators (such as owls or snakes) are reduced. Thus the balance in nature which would control the circumstance surrounding the spread of disease is upset.

Other conditions occur as a result of flooding and subsequently unsafe drinking water, contaminated with sewage and various pathogens. An increase in the mosquito-borne Ross River Virus in Australia has been shown to be linked with rainfall patterns in the area.

It should also be kept in mind that travelling to distant and exotic spots has also increased; hence there is a greater prospect of exposure to diseases previously encountered only by the few who

ventured that far. With the UK weather being so unpredictable more people are heading for warmer climates. So the weather is to blame in more than one sense.

It is wise to prepare for most eventualities and to observe strict hygiene principles at all times. The preparation should include adequate travel insurance. Treatment can be quite expensive, especially if it includes hospitalisation. However, by taking simple precautions in most cases the worst can be avoided. Do not let fear put you off travelling. It's the weather for it!



Mary Jones is 200!



with David Marshall

2004 is the Year of Anniversaries. It's 25 years since the Pearson Package, a hundred years since the Great Welsh Revival, and 200 years since the Bible Society was founded.

It is the Bible Society's birthday that's got me fired up. That, you will recall, also had a Welsh connection.

I was never a big-shot Pathfinder. Indeed, the only thing I can remember about my Pathfinding days are the reading lists. Yes, they actually made us read books in those days! The best book they had us read

was one called *Mary Jones and Her Bible*. That story, read when I was 8 or 9, had a decisive effect on my life.

The biggest thing it taught me was: THE BIBLE IS IMPORTANT.

Two hundred years ago Mary lived in a mountain village in central Wales. At 10 she learned to read.

After that, Priority One

in her life was to buy a Bible of her own. The only Bible in her village was at the chapel. Back then Bibles were very scarce and hideously expensive. Put it this way: it took Mary six years' work to save up enough money to buy one.

After six years she set off on a long mountain trek to a town called Bala where Bibles could be bought. Her feet blistered and bleeding, she arrived – only to be told that a Bible could not be had even for ready money. She pleaded. A clergyman called Thomas Charles sold her his own copy.

Enthused by the story, Charles became part of a movement to get Bibles at low prices for the people of Wales. In London, Joseph Hughes caught his vision. 'If for Wales, why not for the whole world?' he demanded. That was how the British and Foreign Bible Society came to be founded – just 200 years ago.

It seems to me that Seventh-day Adventists have a major vested interest in the Bible. Back along – 20, 30, 40 years ago – we were always hearing in missions appeals of lands in which Adventists, as a matter of course, were called 'The People of the Book'.

To celebrate the Bicentenary of the Bible Society:

- features in FOCUS and LIFE.info
- a book about the Bible



I have always thought of us as a people whose beliefs are *rooted* in the Bible. I can recall being taught the proof text references for all our key beliefs: Salvation, the Sabbath, the Second Coming, the State of the Dead – down to Baptism and Our Eternal Home. In my Bible all those key texts were underlined in different coloured inks.

Of course, when we matured, we learned that the key text approach had its problems. 'A text taken out of context is a pretext,' we were taught. But that did not invalidate Bible study. Far from it. It obliged us to consider every text in the context of its chapter, even its book. That was when some discovered that there was more to Daniel than chapters 2 and 7 and that there was more to Revelation than chapters 13 and 14.

Right about then we also discovered the spiritual, intellectual – *nutritional* – value of studying a whole book at a time. Say, Matthew or John. Then, as we progressed with the whole-book-at-a-time method, we discovered Paul's letters. Somewhere about Romans, Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians we discovered the whole Gospel dimension of the doctrines. Indeed, we discovered the wholegrain Gospel. That's how it seemed to me, anyway. You knew about it all along, right? Good for you!

Few things are more rewarding than Bible study. Think about it. Salvation is by grace through faith: the faith that comes through hearing, and the hearing that comes through the Word of God. 'These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life through his name.' (John 20:31.) The Word is the sole source of 'the Gospel of Christ' which is 'the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth'. (Romans 1:16.)

The Bible could be the making of you – now and eternally. There is no life except that rooted in it. Truth is rooted in Scripture. Are *you*? The Bible is the source of the truth of the Gospel.

That is why you should be celebrating the 200th birthday of the Bible Society. It made possible the distribution of 578 million Bibles last year alone. It has translated the Bible (all or part) into 2,303 languages.

- God uses the Bible to change millions of lives every year: believe it.
- The Bible Society makes it possible for millions of people every year to afford a Bible in their own language: it's a verifiable fact.
- The Bible Society has been doing that work for 200 years: celebrate it.

The Pearson Package was a milestone in British Adventist History.

The Welsh Revival of 1904 ended in 1905, and Wales, like every country in the British Isles, is struggling with secularism today.

But the work of the Bible Society goes on – and its full effects will only be told in eternity. For the Bible is the source of the Gospel, the Book about Jesus – written that you may believe in him and have life through his name.

Hats off to Mary Jones, I say.

And, in the Kingdom, I'll say: 'Mary, your scrimping and saving and walking were all worth while. You got it right. We owe you.'



The President's overview

Cecil Perry
President

The theme 'United by the Word' for the 2001 British Union Conference Session was both an invitation and a challenge to the church to recapture

God's vision and mission to the world.

The goal was to involve the greater membership of the Church in seeing the millions of unchurched through the eyes of Jesus – making friends with them and bidding them to follow him.

LIFEdvelopment.info

As part of our evangelistic strategy for the quinquennium the LIFEdvelopment.info outreach was launched nationwide. Phase I of this process came to fruition with the promotion, production and launch of the *Evidence* series, 29 February to 11 March 2004. The second stage, 'Mind the Gap', will deal with basic Christian teachings and is scheduled for satellite transmission on 7-11 and 14-18 February 2005.

The *LIFE.info* magazine that accompanies the LIFEdvelopment series now has standing orders for 20,000 per issue and an average print run of 70,000. Feedback on the public's acceptability of the magazine in general has been encouragingly positive.

The Union and Conferences have invested a lot in this long-term evangelistic strategy designed especially to meet the secular, post-modern mind. The evaluation results will be long-term and, in essence, dependent on the united effort of the whole Church.

Membership

Our membership has grown from 20,637 to 23,247 for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 March 04. This build-up membership is attributable to several factors:

- Ongoing public evangelism
- Church Planting initiatives
- Bible Study Groups/Seminars
- Personal Evangelism
- Transfer growth
- Biological growth etc.

Our 12.6% growth is below the target of 20%. Although numerical growth must be balanced against spiritual growth, nonetheless there is the potential for reaching thousands more.

Neo-Revival of Church Planting and Small Groups Movement

There has been a renewed emphasis over the past years in raising up new church plants as an intentional strategy to target different people groups. In the last five years about twenty-five new church plants have been established, likewise there are many small groups which are in different stages of development.

Under the General Conference global programme, 'Hope for the Big Cities', twenty churches are to be planted in London covering mainly unreached people groups. The South England Conference is currently laying out its strategy to achieve this target.

The divine intent is for the Church to make disciples for the kingdom. If the majority of our members had a divine compassion for the lost there would be a hundred souls saved where there is now one.

The traditional and personal forms of evangelism accounted for the bulk of numerical growth, especially

in the urban areas. The contemporary and traditional complement each other. Technology may enhance the presentation scope and speed of the good news but it is lifeless without our committed involvement as saving agents in our families, churches and communities.

The recent session reports of the Conferences and Missions have demonstrated the intent of our leaders to make evangelism and church nurture their number one priority.

I have chosen to highlight in this report what I perceive as the reason for the Church's existence and witness – soul-winning. It presupposes that for a church to carry out its God-given mission effectively it must first be energised and empowered by the Spirit. Unquestionably, this remains our greatest need. God is waiting to pour out his Spirit in its fullness. Some are already experiencing the blessings; why not all of us?

The Church as a Public Place

Adventist churches are classified as public places, therefore they need to adhere to UK and EU legislation governing health, safety and related issues. Non-compliance with these requirements could result in the Church's being held liable under law. It is incumbent on us to select the right personnel for the protection of our children and vulnerable adults. This means that we are called upon to provide access for wheelchair users and other facilities for those with special needs. Churches have to be aware of those measures that ensure the health and welfare of the congregation. An annual risk assessment, appertaining to safety in each church and institution, becomes a necessity.

In a litigious and compensation-hungry culture it is advisable that the Church, under the guidance of God, be perceived as doing what is right and in the best interest of its members.

Diversity

The great movement of people across the face of the earth because of changing economic and political conditions has enriched our churches in the British Union. As a result several multi-cultural congregations have developed in our towns and cities. There are at least fifteen groups currently meeting in London. The challenge of diversity is cultivating Christian harmony to benefit

the community of God. How we harness the richness of this diversity will define the inclusiveness of the Gospel we preach.

Learning from our past reservations about newcomers, we shall have to programme the building of a united church of all the peoples. This unity does not presuppose uniformity but in love gives space for others to grow in Christian maturity. The motto 'Growing Together' is apt as we welcome newcomers in our midst.

Institutions

We thank God for the contributions The Stanborough Press, Stanborough School and the Good Health Association have made to the Church in this country. However, the sociological and economic shifts in the past fifteen years have changed the financial picture of our institutions. We have had to redraft our strategy for the survival of these entities.

The Stanborough Press has had to discontinue its printing department and become Stanborough Press Publishers. It now outsources its printing either locally or internationally.

Roundelwood Health Centre and Nursing Home was forced to close its nursing care sector because of regulations inimical to the viability of such homes. This action resulted in Roundelwood's becoming a Health Education Centre and Spa. The management and board of this institution are making every effort to deliver a health programme that will benefit the church and health clients.

Stanborough School reassessed its curriculum and suspended its sixth form until it can offer a fuller academic programme. The enrolment has increased and it is moving towards economic viability. Academic standards have been raised and the school is adding an international element to increase its enrolment and finances.

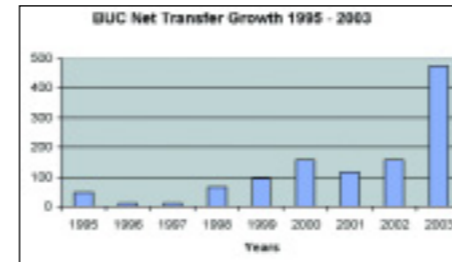
The Church will face tougher challenges as we forge ahead into the 21st century. This interim report is only a sample of some of our activities and vision for the future.

The British Union Conference wishes to thank God for his watchcare over the Church, and the members for their faithfulness. Thanks are in order to our Church leaders, departmental directors, support staff, pastors and administrative boards for their ministry.

The times in which we live are difficult one for families, societies, churches, nations and leaders, but we must keep our eyes on the goal of fulfilling the mission God has given us. Don't be discouraged. We shall make it together by God's grace into his divine future.

accelerate during the past 3¼ years. Visitors who have been away for a year or two, on returning to churches around the British Union Conference, would be struck by the increasing diversity of its membership. The church has benefited from a significant influx of members from overseas including such areas as the Philippines, Romania and Moldavia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, to mention just a few.

Net transfer growth pattern since 1995 is reflected in the following graph:



In reality this latter trend is even more marked than the statistics demonstrate. We know that there are many more overseas members who are currently attending our congregations on a weekly basis but who, for one reason or another, have not been able to effect the transfer of their membership.

This presents an exciting challenge as the Church seeks to extend an open and warm welcome to these new members and seizes the opportunity provided by this development. As we read God's Word and as we trace the history of the Christian church down through the ages, we see how God has overruled in the migrations of people around the globe to advance the spread of his Gospel.

Unfortunately, our joy and rejoicing with those members who have joined the church family has been tempered by the sadness of saying a temporary goodbye to the 566 members who passed to their rest. We give thanks for their faithful lives and witness and convey our sincere condolences to the families that have experienced the pain and loss that death brings in its train.

Even greater pain arises from the report that a further 374 members decided to sever their relationship with the church or failed to maintain their connections with it.

The net outcome of all the various additions and losses meant that at 31 March 2004 our Union wide membership stood at 23,247 worshipping in some 228 churches and 30 companies. This represents a net growth since January 2001 of 11.2%

The church has continued to keep its relevant policies under review.

We recently had our Child Protection Policy for the churches vetted by the NSPCC. While they have made a number of helpful suggestions which are currently being incorporated into the policy their overall verdict on the

policy was that it 'is a robust and comprehensive policy document which in its application will assist the effective safeguarding of children in the Seventh-day Adventist churches.'

Our Health and Safety policy is likewise undergoing a thorough independent examination by a person working in the field and we are looking forward to receiving the results of this in the near future.

The excellent document 'The Church and Disability

Discrimination – A Guide to Trustees and Church Leaders' prepared by Stephen Birchall has been circulated to all churches within the BUC. This was done not simply to assist congregations meet the current statutory requirements, but to provide valuable suggestions as to how churches may lead the way in society by being an example of a fully inclusive community welcoming all people in the knowledge that all are equal in God's sight.



Treasury

Victor Pilmoor
Treasurer

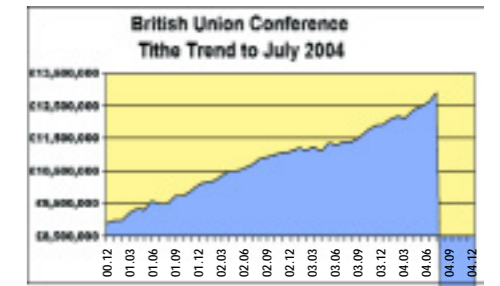
The British Union Conference, as its name suggests, confers with and unites a variety of enterprises for the good of all. As a charity the British Union

directly embraces the work in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and incorporates the Adventist Discovery Centre which is responsible for direct mail Bible learning throughout our territory. The task of officers and directors is to offer support and training to our colleagues in the network of Adventist charities that include the North and South England Conferences, Stanborough School, Stanborough Press, ADRA, ADRA-Ireland, the Good Health Association in Scotland, and our legal associations. We liaise further with the Trans-European Division and Newbold College.

The treasury team generates no fewer than 28 sets of accounts, mostly on a monthly basis, which are presented to respective committees for review and approval. The audit process is similarly exacting. While this may seem to represent considerable formality, its purpose is to build confidence and trust among our 23,000 members and the general public. These summaries of financial activity represent thousands of transactions, each of which will have been assessed, discussed and consummated. At the heart of a treasurer's ministry is the challenge to ensure that each of them is spiritually meaningful.

Our members are our principal resource: in the contribution of their skills and energy exercised in 250 churches and in the return of tithe which has increased by almost £4 million or 45% since the end of 2000 (as reported at the session in York) with the total expected to exceed £13 million this year. We are humbled by this display of faithfulness, and praise our Lord for his blessings in our community.

The contributions to this total by entity, its destination and use at the British Union are portrayed in tabular. The reports written by colleagues, and the experience of those who have participated in organised events



represent the meaningful outcome of our endeavour. The church has always had a scheme to care for its servants in retirement. Recent events in society have required that this arrangement be formalised within a legal framework. This is a special challenge for us as it is for many corporations. After much effort and many years of work by my colleagues and predecessor, actuaries assessed our requirement to be of the order of £22million. The resources held for this purpose are of the order of £10million which means that we have much work yet to do. The administration is taking the deficit seriously and is committed to solving the problem over time without detriment to the growth of the church. We have approximately 350 retirees, about the same number with deferred credit, and a similar number in current employment.

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to share the everlasting Gospel with every nation, kindred, tongue and people; even the people of Britain! We have taken seriously the need to contextualise our message in language and format for a nation that has lost touch with its spiritual heart. Hence *Life.info* has been conceived, developed and resourced as a dialogue to reflect the kind of people that we really are. We recognise that people first associate with those with whom they feel most comfortable and then go on to explore deeper understandings. We have always been more than a belief system. Adventism is a way of life. It includes the way we relate, learn, and develop vitality through health. In a larger context the *Life.info* magazine has been a tool in the 'Getting connected' phase of LIFEdvelopment, which is our integrating framework for evangelistic enterprise. Without doubt our work on the *Evidence* series will be the most visual facet of our endeavour. Our intent has been to identify spiritual issues that really impact people's lives and can be discussed prior to a doctrinal structure. The project is



Secretary's Report: Growth through Evangelism and People Movement

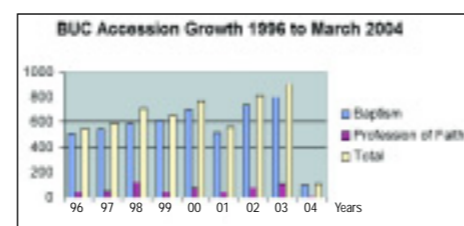
Eric C. Lowe
Executive Secretary

The Church in the British Isles and the Republic of Ireland

has experienced encouraging dynamics in its membership trends during the period under review.

Two thousand three hundred and ninety (2,390) individuals joined the Church through baptism or profession of faith between 1 January 2001 and 31 March 2004. This represents an accession growth rate of 11.58% on the 20,637 membership at the start of the period.

In addition, since 1995 the Church has benefited from a net transfer growth which has continued to



BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP REPORT											
1 January 2001 – 31 March 2004											
	Membership 01 Jan 01	Adjustments	Baptisms	Vote/POF	Letters Received	Letters Granted	Deaths	Dropped	Missing	Gain (Loss)	Membership 31 Mar 04
Irish Mission	334	3	35	6	38	15	14	1	28	24	358
North England Conference	5,992	45	610	60	386	201	176	91	52	581	6,573
Scottish Mission	281	3	14	5	51	28	17	2	-	26	307
South England Conference	13,581	196	1,481	160	1,665	992	334	118	70	1,988	15,569
Welsh Mission	449	1	15	4	45	37	25	8	4	(9)	440
	20,637	248	2,155	235	2,185	1,273	566	220	154	2,610	23,247

resourced by all entities within our field, with significant contributions from the South England Conference in particular.

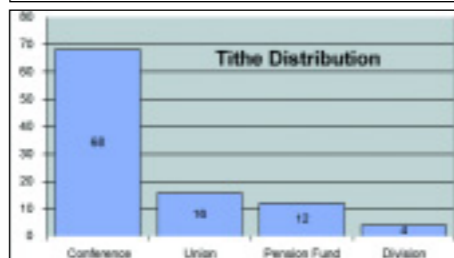
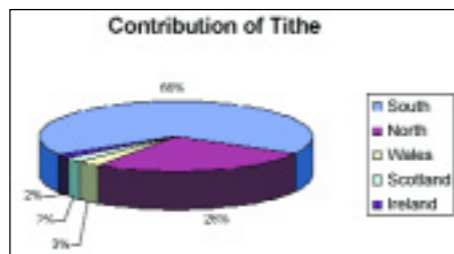
During the last three years ADRA has become responsible for our Ingathering endeavour. Under the current system we enjoy the opportunity to determine how our resources are used and gain feedback and accountability from partners who implement our chosen projects. The treasury team has been involved in developing the promotion and publicity materials that have graced the pages of MESSENGER. Our intent is to build an awareness and understanding of development issues in order to foster motivation beyond competitive targets and emotive events. Building a community with heart and concern for the world's disadvantaged is an integral part of our mission and the character of our being. The return from this endeavour has increased year on year. It has also given us the confidence to win support from the European and British government treasury chests. The British Union has a long tradition of Mission support upon which we wish to build.

The impact of Gift Aid on the wellbeing of our churches has been significant since the new Inland Revenue dispensation began in 2000. Initial results were realised in 2001 but the benefits in every church, Conference and Mission have been outstanding. People have embraced new possibilities, taken on new projects and attempted new things. Churches have been renovated and new technologies have been embraced with local services being recorded and broadcast. Though the British Union does not benefit directly from source, we are blessed by the added dynamism.

One of the challenges of treasury work is to rise above transactionalism. Various attempts to achieve this have been made, including the widened use of meaningful tithe envelopes and the production of a newsletter called 'The Treasurer's Pencil Case', the second of which is due shortly.

On a personal level, I am grateful, humbled and blessed by the opportunity to serve our people, our church and our God with such a team of dedicated

friends. We are thankful for your support and your prayers.



The annual use and distribution of BUC resources		
ADRA	12,000	0.5%
Newbold Student Support	33,000	1.4%
Good Health Association	51,000	2.1%
North England Conference	60,000	2.5%
Messenger, Focus, etc	65,000	2.7%
Scottish Mission	86,700	3.6%
Discovery Centre (VOP)	87,000	3.6%
Welsh Mission	89,400	3.7%
Irish Mission	94,800	3.9%
South England Conference	99,000	4.1%
Pension Fund	111,000	4.6%
Departmental Costs	115,000	4.8%
Trans-European Division	123,000	5.1%
Evangelism	170,000	7.0%
Overheads/Office	220,100	9.1%
Stanborough School	228,000	9.4%
BUC Personnel	775,000	32.0%
Total	2,420,000	100.0%



Education

Dr Keith Davidson
Education Director

It is useful to preface this report with a reminder of the important reason why the Seventh-day Adventist Church is engaged in the work of education. Thus,

for this purpose we draw on the famous statement made by Ellen White:

"In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." "It was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell." 1 Corinthians 3:11; Colossians 1:1, R.V.' (Education p. 30);

and the divine admonition given through the wise man Solomon:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6.)

The conclusion that can be made from these statements is that Seventh-day Adventist education is mis-

sion driven and must be an essential aspect of the Church's work in the 21st century. Thus, I am happy to report that our educational work in the British Union is making a significant contribution to the promotion of Seventh-day Adventism in Britain and Ireland.

Since the last Union Session held in York (25-29 July 2001) the focus of the Education Department has been on the following key educational issues:

- Considering Voluntary Aided (VA) status as a route to the establishment of a much-needed secondary school in the West Midlands.
- Working with our schools in developing systematic and effective school improvement strategies.
- Building leadership capacities through training and support.
- Ongoing teacher development.

In addition, there have been other developments such as the purchase of a property in Dulwich (London) for Theodore McLeary School, the redevelopment of the Education Website, the search for a new site for the Hyland House School, Educational Leadership Award for Mrs L. Osei, and the building of external links in education.

Proposed Secondary School for the West Midlands

As a result of the growth and educational success of the Harper Bell Adventist School over the last 15 years, local church members have been showing greater interest and appreciation for the work of Adventist educa-

tion. Thus, there is an increasing demand for the establishment of a secondary school in the area to bridge the gap between 11 and 19 years. The North England Conference, with the support of the Education Department of the British Union Conference, has been discussing this issue with church members and church leaders in the area for the past year. However, given the fact that the NEC would not be in a position to support financially the establishment of a privately operated secondary school, a consensus has emerged, through the process of consultation, that the NEC should actively pursue the route of Voluntary Aided status as a realistic way of achieving this objective. As a consequence, the recent NEC Session, held this year in June in Scarborough, voted decisively to pursue this proposition. The Education Department will now be working closely with the NEC Executive Committee in implementing this action.

Developing School Improvement Strategies

The Education director has given high priority to the work of developing coherent and systematic School Improvement (SI) strategies in all of our schools in an effort to keep our leading edge in the nation's drive to raise educational standards. As well as this, schools and headteachers have been supported with on-site in-service training programmes, led by the director, in the following areas: lesson planning; teacher appraisal; target setting; assessment; and other topics. In total, to date over 220 visits were made by the director to schools, giving advice, supporting board meetings, and conducting training events.

Building Leadership Capacity

The department believes strongly in investing in the development of existing school leaders and in nurturing and building the capacities of emerging school leaders. Thus, through its School Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) systematic training has been provided for headteachers and other school leaders. Recent training covered aspects such as a survey of current developments in educational leadership and management principles, approaches to school self-evaluation, an induction to the new OFSTED framework, nutrition and learning and legal updates.

In-service Training

Regular in-service training programmes have been conducted by our schools in meeting the staff development needs of our teachers and in enhancing standards in teaching and learning. In addition, the Education Department has conducted Union-wide training for primary teachers in the following areas: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship. As well as these provisions, the majority of our teachers (secondary and primary) attended the TED Convention held in Slovenia in 2003. This was an inspiring programme and our teachers gained much from lectures on faith and learning, Adventist history and the philosophy of education, and school leadership and management. A BUC Convention is being considered for 2005.

Other Educational Accomplishments

New Building for the Theodore McLeary School
After twelve years in the Brixton church, the Theodore McLeary School now operates in its own building, and we must express thanks and gratitude to the Brixton church for its generosity to the school. The SEC, at a cost of approximately £650,000, purchased the new school building in East Dulwich. Local churches throughout the SEC constituency contributed £250,000 to this amount. The school wishes to thank everyone for

the part they played in realising its dream to be in a building with adequate playing space and facilities. Appreciation must be extended to the Headteacher, Mrs J. Thompson, for her pioneering work in assiduously searching for the most appropriate property for relocation.

Education Website

The Education website was redeveloped this year to provide the Church and other users with a more effective service. The address is www.adventist-education.org.uk. Explore the site for more information



Ministerial

Alan Hodges
Ministerial Secretary

At the British Union Conference Session in York in July 2001 a new strategy of evangelism was voted in the form of LIFEdvelopment.info. The Ministerial Association was invited to co-ordinate the project, which was launched at the Ministerial Council that took place at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire from 10-13 February 2002. Pastor Dwight Nelson was the special devotional speaker at the Council. This new strategy is an attempt to reach the over seventy per cent of the population in the Union's territory who never attend church.

In order to help prepare our membership for this new strategy, the 'How to Become a Contagious Christian' seminar materials were distributed to every pastor and each church was encouraged to conduct the seminar.

Two special Days of LIFEdvelopment.info were organised for Sabbath 25 May 2002 and Sabbath 4 October 2003 when programme materials along with a video were distributed to every church in the Union. Apart from focusing on the LIFEdvelopment.info concept, the purpose of these days was to pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and for the millions of secular and unchurched people in Britain and Ireland, that they may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The Ministerial Association secretary assisted with the preparation for the International Congress on Preaching, which was held in Edinburgh from 9-11 April 2002 and organised by Pastor Nikolaus Satelmajer from the General Conference Ministerial Association. Three hundred and twenty pastors and preachers of various denominations and from countries such as India, Philippines, Russia and the USA attended the event. The Adventist Television Network broadcast, via satellite, three-and-a-half-hours of the Congress to hundreds of downlink sites around the world.

In October 2002 the *LIFE.info* magazine was launched as a tool to build bridges, to help members 'Get Connected' with their non-churchgoing neighbours and friends. Lee Gallaher, the editor, worked with the LIFEdvelopment.info team in developing this new exciting magazine, which initially had a print run of 50,000 copies.

At the end of October 2002 the Ministerial Association invited Dr Jon Paulien from Andrews University to speak to pastors in Watford and Wolverhampton. Dr Paulien has spoken and written widely on the subject of reaching post-modern people with the Gospel and his presentations were well

about Adventist schools operating in the British Union.

External Links

The Education director has continued the work of building important contacts and links with external bodies and national educational agencies. Education articles were written for the UK Black Links Directory, the director made a significant contribution to the Mayor of London 2002 Education Conference, presented by Diane Abbott at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and attended by over 1,500 participants, and he has served on a number of DFES bodies such as the recent Steering

received and have helped emphasise the importance of the responsibility the church has in reaching all of society.

The year 2003 commenced with a Ministerial Council at Swanwick in Derbyshire (6-9 January) when pastors from all the conferences and missions came together for fellowship, inspiration and encouragement. The theme was 'United in the Wonder of His Grace', and guest speakers included Ed Dickerson, a layperson with much experience in reaching the unchurched, and Roscoe Howard from the North American Division, who is an expert in human relations and diversity. The highlight of the Council was the communion service, which was conducted by the Field presidents and Ministerial secretaries.

During 2003, Days of Fellowship were organised in each Conference and Mission with the purpose of challenging the membership to catch the vision of LIFEdvelopment.info. The LIFEdvelopment team conducted special days in Ireland (8 March), Scotland (15 March), and Wales (12 April). Pastor Dwight Nelson was guest speaker in Wolverhampton on 19 April and at the Wembley Arena in London on 26 April. The special day at the Wembley Arena, with approximately 7,000 in attendance, was the largest ever gathering of Adventists in Britain. Sharing our faith with others and reaching out to the community was an important theme during each of these special days.

Part of the whole strategy of LIFEdvelopment has been to develop and provide our members with resources, which can assist in developing friendships and provide valuable information on topics and issues which everyone has to face. In this connection twelve videos were distributed to each church in the Union. The set included twelve episodes of 'Chasing Utopia', a series developed especially for young, secular adults, and twenty-four programmes in the Lifestyle magazine series covering areas such as health, youth issues, family issues, the environment, self help and social welfare. In addition, a 'Taking Charge of Your Life' pack was also made available, which included sample lessons, advertising cards, and a video seminar series which are designed especially for post-modern people. Invitation cards, posters and a LIFEdvelopment handbook have also been distributed to every church.

2003 was the year when great emphasis was placed on the 'Get Connected' idea, level 1 of the LIFEdvelopment.info process, and the LIFEdvelopment team has visited many churches, spoken at Days of Fellowship, at ministerial meetings, encouraging members to make friends with their neighbours and others in the community, encouraging the formation of LIFEdvelopment groups and centres.

The year came to an end with an encouraging development regarding Adventist television. As preparations for the *Evidence* series of satellite broadcasts were well under way, the LIFEdvelopment team made a request for the Adventist Television Network to broadcast on a different satellite. After considerable negotiations the Hope Channel was launched on the Hotbird satellite and

Group responsible for drafting the present non-statutory framework for religious education.

National Award for Mrs L. Osei

On 16 June 2003 Mrs Osei, headteacher for the Little Eden School, received the 2003 Promethean Regional Award for School Leadership at a ceremony held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. This annual award is sponsored by BT, *The Guardian*, Leadership Trust, the Promethean Company and the Teacher Training Agency. The 2003 event was hosted by the BBC. Undoubtedly, this achievement by Mrs Osei has brought credit to the Church and, in particular, to the work of Adventist education. Since the event Mrs Osei has received over 30 messages of congratulation from across the world, mainly from Adventist church members.

Conclusion

Seventh-day Adventist education can be at the forefront of our national education system. We have an educational philosophy and a perspective that can address many of the current educational challenges confronting our nation as we seek to develop the potential of our young people. Our focus on spiritual, mental, physical and social development takes education beyond just meeting an economic and national self-preservation need. It turns the individual (his/her capacity and potential) into real assets for nation kudos and honour to God, the provider of all wisdom and knowledge. Education today needs more experts. The challenge for every Adventist teacher is to become an expert in his or her field of work. Consider the impact that will have on the quality of pupils we produce and the influence our education system will command locally and nationally. Indeed this will be a powerful witness for the true and living God we serve.

is now broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As the Ministerial Association has co-ordinated much of what has been reported, most of the departments at the British Union have been involved. Appreciation must be expressed to the officers of the British Union and all those who have given time and effort to forward God's work through the LIFEdvelopment concept, but special mention must be made of Pastor Miroslav Pujic, Communication director at the Trans-European Division, who has been the architect of the concept and has been instrumental in moving the project forward. May God's work be furthered as pastors and members unite in taking the good news to men and women in the community.



Health Ministries

Richard J. B. Willis
Health Ministries Director

'The gospel of total health is the gospel of reaching out in loving concern and tenderness for the needs of others, not so much what we think they need, but what they think they need.'

This quote from Don King nicely summarises the

relationship that Health Ministries has in relation to the LIFEdevelopment programme of the British Union and its various entities. While the Health Ministries department was rationalised to the BUC, the NEC appointed Dr A. Espinet as its Health sponsor, and more recently the SEC appointed Mrs E. Staple as Health director. The BUC has a direct input to the Missions via their Health sponsors.

Programmes

Health programmes as conducted by the BUC are of two types: single presentations to church members and/or invitees from the community; and themed programmes targeted at the needs of the community and having a number of sessions. These latter, such as *Stress Management*, *Smoking Cessation*, and the *Positively Healthy* programme, also act as training events for interested church members who will run their own events. The *Positively Healthy* programme concentrates on reducing various health risks.

Themed Programmes

- Advent Centre* – Leaves of Life (various nutrition)
- Adventist International Medical Society* (alternative medicine)
- Amersham* – Leaves of Life (nutrition)
- Aylesbury* (stress)
- Banbridge* (stress)
- Bury St Edmunds* (Positively Healthy)
- Cambridge* (stress)
- Croydon* (Health Awareness)
- Erdington* (stress)
- Harlow* (Nutrition Seminars)
- Lowestoft* (Positively Healthy)
- Milton Keynes* (Health Fair)
- Oxford* (nutrition and various)
- Paignton* (Smoking Cessation)
- Reading* (Smoking Cessation, Reading Girls' School)
- Rhyl* (Positively Healthy)
- Stanborough Park* (Stress, and Positively Healthy)
- Tottenham, West Green* (Stress)
- Watford* (stress)
- Willesden* (Community Heart Programme)
- Yeovil* (Health Fair)

Single presentations

- Advent Centre; Balham; Bodmin; Bradford; Cambridge; Canterbury; Cardiff; Carmarthen; Castle Vale; Clapton; Croydon; Doncaster; Eastbourne; Eltham; Gloucester; Halifax; Hanwell; Hastings; Hereford; High Wycombe, Micklefields; High Wycombe, Sands; Ilford; Lewisham; Liverpool; Llandrindod Wells; Longeaton; Lowestoft; Milton Keynes; Newbold College; Newport; Norbury; Norwich; Oxford; Plaistow; Peckham; Portsmouth; Redditch; St Albans; Southall; Southend; Stanborough Primary School; Stanborough Secondary School; Stoke Newington; Tottenham, West Green; West Kilburn; Willesden; Wolverhampton.

Networking

The writer continues to serve as the chairman of the United Kingdom Alliance; Vice-chairman of the United Temperance Council; Executive Director of the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency; President Elect of the Institute of Health Promotion and Education; Council member of the Food and Health Forum of the Royal Society of Medicine; and Board Member of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency.

In these various capacities, and in association with other Adventists, seminars were organised on the topics of alcohol, drugs, and nutritional themes to which the Constituency received invitations to attend. The venues have been as diverse as the Advent Centre and the committee rooms at the House of Commons as well as presentations for the NHS in Northern Ireland at Belfast and Londonderry for the ICPA.

Writing

During the past four years the writer has authored: *A – Z of Health; How to Stay Healthy; The AIDS Pandemic; The Kellogg Imperative; and Alcohol and Tobacco* books (at Stanborough Press); *A Picture of Health* (Messenger and Colporteur Link Health article compilation); and *Stress* (also at Press); and has regularly contributed MESSENGER articles, and other magazine articles as required.

Funding

The majority of ADRA-UK's funding is generated by the support of Church members in the British Union Conference. Through door-to-door collections by volunteers as part of the Annual Ingathering Appeal, ongoing personal individual donations of money and other donations, and innovative fundraising endeavours like concerts, marathons, banquets and sales, ADRA-UK generates core funding to implement projects. Because of this dedicated base of support, ADRA-UK is in the position to access governmental donor funding to support our goals. Since January 2004 the following government grants were approved:

- Two projects in Peru working towards eradicating child labour and empowering the poor and one project in South Sudan assisting in the education of girls, funded by the British Government, Department for International Development.
- Projects in Nepal, Kazakhstan and Peru working at alleviating the poverty of at-risk groups in those countries, funded by the European Commission. The total value of these grants is £3,382,779. In human terms this means, among other things, clean drinking water for 50 communities in Peru, training 1,800 women in vocational skills and using the money they generate to pay for health services for themselves and their children in Nepal and the rehabilitation of TB-infected prisoners in Kazakhstan – *co-operating with the Creator in that compassionate work of restoration.*

The 2004 Annual Ingathering Appeal prioritised nine projects from around the world. The collection has been completed and the money is almost all counted. We already know that, for 2004, we have the highest Ingathering total in 12 years. Each year we hope to minister to more of the poor and oppressed of this world. The statistics show that we have a lot of work to do: one in five of the world's population – 1.2 billion people – live in extreme poverty on less than £0.60 per day. Two thirds of them are women. More than 9 million children under the age of five died in 2003, most of them from preventable diseases. More than 120 million children do not attend school. These are terrible figures. But ADRA-UK and our supporters are creating some better statistics: over the last three years we have raised and spent more money on humanitarian activities each year.

For the past three years the Annual Ingathering Appeal, driven entirely by church volunteers, has generated more and more money for those projects. The estimates for 2004 show that we have exceeded our previous collections to make this the highest Ingathering total in 12 years.

Humanitarian Giving

ADRA-UK's work is not only limited to generating funding for projects. Through the humanitarian transportation programme ADRA-UK volunteers collect, sort, network, transport and distribute donated items to those in need around the world. Clothing, basic household supplies and medical equipment make up the bulk of goods transported by volunteers to needy countries in Europe and further afield. Since January 2001, 32 trucks and containers of goods worth over £2 million have reached people who need them – items mostly donated by church members and businesses in the UK. This programme has been driven by the voluntary work of many people, including David Balderstone (Volunteer Transport Manager), Tony Welsh and Harry Wilby, who have given their time to drive numerous trucks between England and several needy and sometimes war-torn countries.

Staff Changes

ADRA-UK is staffed by a team of enthusiastic and experienced people. As Programmes director, Mr Mark



Personal Ministries

David Cox
Personal Ministries Director

Holy Discontent?
Are you satisfied with the life and witness of your church? Many, it seems, are not, and that is good! We are grate-

ful for what we have, but we sense that the life we share together can be richer, and our ability to share it with others can be more effective than it is at the moment. And would anyone disagree with that?

Every member a minister

The department of Personal Ministries exists for the purpose of enabling the church to grow towards its full potential in its life and witness. Since every believer is called to ministry (i.e. service), and every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift for the 'building up' of his church (1 Corinthians 12:7), the focus of the department is to train and equip members for their God-given task.

More than one way

While familiar approaches to outreach continue to bear fruit, three things in particular have provided other more informal, relational and team-based ways of leading friends, neighbours, colleagues and family members to faith in Jesus over the past two years:

- The renewed focus on small groups
- The launch of LIFEdevelopment.info
- The *'Becoming a Contagious Christian'* training course

Small groups

Small group networks are having a positive impact in our churches in a number of ways, as they:

- Develop new leaders
- Help identify and develop spiritual gifts
- Provide nurture and care for church members
- Provide a first point of contact for people not ready to attend church

LIFEdevelopment.info

The launch of this innovative approach to evangelism has resulted in many church members opening their homes to friends and neighbours for the *Evidence*

Castellino is the newest addition to the ADRA-UK team, starting in February 2004. Prior to that he worked for three years for ADRA-Azerbaijan before returning to the UK. Mark is primarily responsible for government grant-writing and providing support for the projects that ADRA-UK funds around the world.

The work of ADRA-UK is driven by its constituency: the members of the Adventist Church. *You*. We are able to do the work described above because of your support. And any successes that we have are successes for us all. As we do our work with your support I pray that we all gain a blessing by expressing the loving character of God to those in need.

Thank you!

series with Dwight Nelson. New contacts made at that time will continue to develop as the Ldi programme continues. The publica-

tion of the associated journal, *LIFE.info*, has also been instrumental in opening doors and creating new friendships.

The *'Becoming a Contagious Christian'* training course in personal witness has encouraged many to share their faith who were afraid to do so before, simply by acknowledging that Christians prefer different styles of sharing their faith. Churches that have run this course are encouraged to follow up with *'Becoming a Contagious Church'* which recognises that it's not just people who are unique – churches are also. In addition, this course gives insight into how a local church can build bridges and interact meaningfully with its wider community.

A church planting movement

At least ten new churches have been 'conceived' over the past two years, and are presently in various stages of development. Some are the natural result of overflow from their mother church; others have been intentionally created to reach specific people groups.

The Adventist Church must once again become a church planting movement, as it was at the beginning of its history. It has been suggested that there should be one Adventist church for every 25,000 people. With the UK population at around 56 million, we need 2,240 churches. Since our congregations number around 300 at the moment, we have some way to go.

Training

Over the past two years the Personal Ministries departments of the BUC, SEC and NEC have conducted scores of training events in church planting, small group ministry, spiritual gifts, witnessing and giving Bible studies, equipping many hundreds of members for their ministry.

Especially in the area of church planting, new training materials have become available that can enable a group of ten to twenty church members to follow a God-given dream and plant a new church successfully. This year eighty Adventists from the UK participated in our third International Church Planters' Exchange in Germany.

ADRA Ingathering

For the past three years Ingathering (the church's annual humanitarian appeal) has been led by ADRA, the Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency, rather than WWAM (World-Wide Advent Missions). Despite the difficulties of making the change, each year has seen an encouraging increase in funds raised. In 2001 (last year of WWAM) the total collected was £500,760. This year, the total raised so far is well over £550,000, with Gift Aid still to be added.

One reason for the increase is that some churches are experimenting with new forms of fund-raising, from concerts to sponsored events to five-course meals. This year the Personal Ministries and Youth Departments of the SEC joined forces to organise a half-marathon event in Hyde Park, London, that attracted nearly 500 participants and raised at least £25,000.

Thanks

We give thanks to God, and to every church and church member committed to his cause, for what has been achieved. Even more, we are thankful that, with his blessing, the best is yet to come.

Adult Sabbath School Ministries

Richard J. B. Willis, Director

The director participated in Sabbath School workshops in the Missions and the North England Conference at various times throughout the year:

- Training programmes for the Mission, production and distribution of training materials for same
 - Co-ordination of Mission Spotlight distribution
 - Supply of materials pertinent to Sabbath School officers
 - Promotion of Sabbath School leadership Journal
- The remit for Sabbath School Training in the Conferences lies with their directors. Participation in these events has been by invitation.

SDAA and SDAT

Michael Taylor, Director

On 24 August 1906, the Seventh-day Adventist Union Ltd was incorporated. Twenty seven years later, it had a name change and became British Advent Missions Ltd (10 March 1933) and further down the line on 29 March 1976, had another name change – and became the Seventh-day Adventist Association Ltd. And finally, a subsidiary company was formed – the Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Ltd on 28 June 1982. SDAA Ltd is a registered charity. SDAT Co Ltd is not.

SDAA holds title to most of the church properties within the British Union. So when a church or school is purchased or sold, it is done in the name of SDAA Ltd. When we rent out part of a church to another group, the Lease is in the name of SDAA Ltd. No church properties were purchased in 2003 – but the Association was instrumental in arranging for a number of our properties to be rented out to organisations within the community on a part-time basis.

SDAT Co Ltd has an altogether different role. It was formed to administer the estates of those members who wished the Trust Company to act as Executor and Trustee. It uses the good offices of a firm of solicitors in the West Midlands to ensure that all is done in a very professional manner. Last year the company successfully completed the administration of ten estates of deceased members. In passing, the Trust Services Department of the church offers a will-making service to its members. The Trust Company does not. The Trust Company administers estates – the Trust Services Department does not.

Both SDAA and SDAT are here to serve the membership of the church. If you feel that either can be of service to you or to your church, please feel to write, phone, email or fax.

Prayer Ministry

Heather Haworth, Director

Due to the LIFEdevelopment evangelism strategy a Prayer Ministry has been set up. I've produced a manual, *Prayer is More Than Talking*, which has been used at various workshops, for example, Joint Training weekends and Scottish Mission and North England Conference (NEC) Church Officer Training days. The Missions and NEC have been encouraged to have their own Prayer Ministry sponsors as well as ones in the local churches. The 2004 church officer list in the NEC



ADRA-UK

Raafat Kamal
ADRA-UK Director

ADRA-UK is the humanitarian agency of the British Union Conference supporting overseas relief and development programmes. ADRA-

UK is part of the ADRA global network which covers over 125 countries, and is one of several supporting offices, which focuses on mobilising financial and human resources to help the poor. ADRA's work is one expression of the Christian values that Seventh-day Adventists hold: *'Through our ministry to the poor and oppressed, co-operate with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.'* (Mission Statement of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church).

ADRA-UK's Activities

Since January 2001 ADRA-UK has supported 51 projects in 32 countries across the globe, with a total budget of £2,395,762. These projects are

broadly categorised within five core portfolios: health, basic education, food security, economic development and disaster preparedness and response. Of those projects 8 were in Europe, 19 in Africa, 12 in Latin America and 12 in Asia.

ADRA-UK's activities are primarily conducted overseas. But we also support projects and initiatives here in the UK. Specials Needs Camp in Aberdaron, North Wales, and the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) are two such beneficiaries. Additionally, ADRA-UK supports initiatives in which Adventists from the British Isles get involved in humanitarian activities overseas. This year ADRA-UK is assisting the Ghana Health project organised by the Youth Department of the BUC.

will now include this position.

An evangelism prayer list is sent out to the Missions, Conferences and BUC Presidents on a regular basis.

Chantal Alen, who is the Family Ministries secretary, has given support in this area too. My thanks goes to her and Ellen Bryant for their conscientious work.



Communication

John Surridge
Communication Director

Communication continues to be a major growth area throughout the world. New technological developments are reported

every day in the media and, like it or not, the world of communication plays an ever-increasing role in our lives. In this rapidly changing world most of us have trouble keeping up with the latest trends, and many of those who do manage to keep up, end up learning the hard way that communication technology makes a good servant but a poor master. From the poorly written manual for that seductively priced combined DVD and video, to the crashed hard disk on the 'bargain' lap top, people are beginning to realise that ease of use and reliability are just as much to be desired as fashionable looks and high specifications.

Since the British Union Conference Session in July 2001 the Communication department has continued to implement long term and sustainable strategies, particularly in relation to communication technology. The BUC office is thoroughly equipped with competent, if not cutting edge computers, and is fully wired with a reliable network system. Last year the old server was replaced with a new Compaq model, complete with backup hard disk drives, a better tape backup system, and protection in case of power failure. Thanks to this good quality hardware, along with a comprehensive professional network support package, regularly updated anti-virus and anti-spam software, all BUC workers have reliable email communication and web access.

Similarly, in 2002 a new telephone system was installed throughout the office. Of course even the best system in the world can't put you instantly in touch with someone when they are out of the office or in an important meeting, but the new system has eased some of the problems that existed before and has led to most people getting a better response when they telephone the office.

BUC News, the weekly email newsletter, has seen a rise in subscribers and is now sent out to more than 1,400 people every Friday. Since July 2001 around 150 editions have been published – that's around half a million words!

The BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk, has been a great success since it was started back in 1996 and each year has seen more and more people making use of the vast amount of information that can be found there. Since the BUC Session the website has been expanded significantly and a number of new features have been added. An 'Events Database' now gives every local church the ability to advertise its events to the general public on the website. A preaching plan allows the Conferences and Missions, as well as every minister, to list their/his future preaching appointments

as well as any special Sabbath activities that are taking place in their churches. The BUC website archives back issues of *BUC News*, *MESSENGER* (all editions since November 2001) and the

LIFE.info magazines. There is also a photo gallery, which has had more than 1,000 high quality photos added since July 2001. The development work that has gone into the website has paid off and has resulted in the site attracting an average of around 400 visitors a day, making it one of the most successful Adventist websites in Europe.

In 2003 a brand new Adventist History website www.adventisthistory.org.uk was developed after consultation with Newbold College. The main aim of this site is to archive old photographs and documents and make them available to the public for research purposes.

The Communication department has been heavily involved in the LIFEdevelopment.info evangelistic project, particularly in the initial 'Get Connected' phase. Videos were prepared, a website developed, and regular news reports sent out in order to raise awareness among the public and church members. Closely connected with LIFEdevelopment was the deployment of the Hope Channel across Europe. For years the Church has dreamed of having its own television channel and the dream became a reality just in time for the *Evidence* programmes that were broadcast from Newbold College earlier this year.

The role of the BUC's Adventist Media Centre has been changing since 2001. As well as sending free editions of *Video News Review* to all churches in the BUC the Media Centre has also sent news reports to the Adventist Television Network for inclusion in world-wide broadcasts. The Media Centre was involved in the production of the *Evidence* series at Newbold College and is currently working in conjunction with the Hope Channel, producing fully edited programmes as well as supplying unedited footage of special events when requested.

The Communication director also serves as the ecumenical representative for the Church in the UK and Ireland. Since July 2001 he has attended five 'Church Representatives Meetings' as well as the annual general meetings of Christian Aid.

One further function that has recently been added to Communication is Music Co-ordination, though this is mainly promoted by the Trans-European Division. The launch of the Adventist Musicians' Association in January 2002 has led to a better networking system for many of our talented musicians and has provided a number of workshops across the country.

This report is limited in scope to the activities of the BUC Communication department over the last three years. However, it should be stressed that good communication is a team effort and the Conferences, Missions, local churches and individual members have contributed a great deal to the overall communication work of the Church – through major events, workshops, special publications, local radio stations, public exhibitions, and personal contacts.

To all of the people involved in these activities we say a big thank you.

Adventist Discovery Centre

Eric Lowe
Executive Secretary

The period under review has been a challenging one for the Adventist Discovery Centre. Nevertheless, God has continued to use this resource as a means of reaching out to touch people's lives with his Word.

The table at the end of this report provides the bare statistical results. As you can see from these figures, over fourteen thousand (14,030) applications for the various courses were received between January 2001 and June 2004. From these initial applications approximately five thousand six hundred students (5,632) enrolled sending in nearly fifty-one thousand (50,896) test papers. Two thousand six hundred (2,611) students were motivated to work right through to their graduation.

Some areas have continued to experiment with the use of the ADC cards as a means of connecting with people. In the granite city of Aberdeen the church has covered the whole of the city with 82,500 cards and the members now have 30 contacts, some of whom are well into the programme. In the west of Ireland something similar is being used in County Clare and Limerick. One of the challenges with this form of approach is that interests often develop in widely scattered locations which make the future servicing of such far flung students a difficult task.

Nineteen churches are running some form of locally-operated Discover Bible Schools, using material purchased from the Adventist Discovery Centre, and we have shown separate figures for this operation in the concluding table. However, we recently received the following unsolicited testimonial which should encourage those who are servicing such students:

'Thank you very much for offering me the opportunity to work, interact and study the Bible in the leisure of my home. . . Mr X, my immediate contact and guide who always assisted with the study and explanations in areas where I had difficulties, collecting and returning worksheets. He motivated me to start the course and where I became lazy to continue with study. I really benefited from this interaction and I see that this is only the beginning and I have just scratched the surface.'

Sometimes it is a very small world. A lady who was taking the Discover lessons in Cardiff was treated earlier this year by her daughter to a weekend at a plush hotel in St Albans. Travelling by Green Line coach from Heathrow to St Albans she passed by our Watford office and wrote to say:

'I passed by in Watford your outstanding church and Stanborough Park. Aren't you lucky to have such wonderful surroundings in a busy town. It is like a new world reading your Discovery booklets. I want to tread surely and carefully. Having had a somewhat Catholic background and only knowing the 'Mass' there's so much to mull over. Thank you for having me as a student.'

Let us pray that God will continue to inspire and encourage this lady.

Prison remains another important area of ministry for the ADC as you can see from the figures in the table. A person waiting to be deported overseas expressed the following appreciation for the ministry offered by the Adventist Discovery Centre:

'I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and the entire team of Adventist Discovery Centre for the super, wonderful faith you are building in prison, especially. The Bible Correspondence course has

uplifted my soul and has also enlightened to me where I never knew in my life that I was lacking. Thank you all once again for your good work.'

The ADC receives funding from a number of different sources to assist it in its ministry, including donations from churches, individual church members and

students. I would like to express gratitude for the faithful generosity of those who have made financial contributions during the period under review.

We would like to conclude the report by paying tribute to the contribution and initiatives made by the outgoing principal, Pastor Mike Stickland, who retired

on health grounds at the end of 2003.

The British Union in conjunction with the ADC board and its own staff along with the conference and mission administrations is currently conducting a wide ranging enquiry as to the best way forward for the ADC as it ministers in the twenty-first century.

Bible Courses	Applications	Enrolments	Active Students	Test Papers Graded	Graduates
Digging Deeper	88	78	100	744	67
Digging up Future	54	51	64	516	52
Digging up the Past	485	263	290	1716	98
Discover	2209	784	901	9453	249
Focus on Prophecy	1006	499	501	5757	208
God Cares (Dan)	8	9	19	115	13
God Cares (Rev)	3	2	3	14	2
Great Teachings 1	1598	537	594	5632	171
Great Teachings 2	172	141	150	1499	113
Start Into Life	1036	402	436	2454	113
Try Jesus 1	392	135	149	855	64
Try Jesus 2	71	54	57	433	38
TOTALS	7122	2955	3264	29188	1188

Health Courses	Applications	Enrolments	Active Students	Test Papers Graded	Graduates
Coping with Stress	499	243	264	1660	127
Family Life Course	160	64	67	624	42
Health	2730	778	829	5381	402
Taking Charge	1524	289	312	1430	175
World Good Food	605	297	324	2182	144
TOTAL	5518	1671	1796	11277	890

Local Discover Bible School Report Courses	Applications	Enrolments	Active Students	Test Papers Graded	Graduates
Digging Deeper	7	7	7	77	7
Digging up Future	5	5	5	50	5
Digging up the Past	26	12	13	98	7
Discover	212	164	188	1816	47
Focus on Prophecy	101	57	58	572	21
God Cares (Dan)	3	3	4	33	2
God Cares (Rev)					
Great Teachings 1	27	23	24	282	8
Great Teachings 2	7	7	7	48	4
Start Into Life	61	44	44	275	11
Try Jesus 1	63	51	55	458	39

Try Jesus 2	11	11	12	72	7
Coping with Stress	22	21	21	111	6
Family Life Course	5	5	5	27	2
Health	45	43	43	258	20
Taking Charge	23	22	22	77	9
World Good Food	11	10	10	65	4
Ten Questions	8	8	8	68	7
Let's Explore	44	44	44	361	14
TOTALS	681	537	570	4748	220

Reports from Prisons Courses	Applications	Enrolments	Active Students	Test Papers Graded	Graduates
Digging Deeper	20	17	17	159	13
Digging up Future	6	7	8	55	6
Digging up the Past	25	21	24	231	18
Discover	253	140	153	2119	64
Focus on Prophecy	50	35	35	425	14
God Cares (Dan)	1	1	1	8	
God Cares (Rev)			1	2	
Great Teachings 1	62	43	51	786	27
Great Teachings 2	28	25	27	298	25
Start Into Life	56	43	50	403	11
Try Jesus 1	63	51	55	458	39
Try Jesus 2	11	11	12	72	7
Coping with Stress	23	20	25	192	19
Family Life Course	9	8	8	54	3
Health	64	36	58	380	43
Taking Charge	38	20	22	117	17
World Good Food	42	30	30	226	18
New Life	1	1	1	34	1
TOTALS	709	469	535	5683	313

All Courses & Sources	Applications	Enrolments	Active Students	Test Papers Graded	Graduates
GRAND TOTAL	14030	5632	6165	50896	2611



Family Ministries

Heather Haworth
Family Ministries Director

Family Ministries is a ministry of grace. It draws people into the circle of fellowship in God's church. People who are alone and estranged are invited

to experience love and belonging.

Family Ministries is also a story of what Jesus can do among human beings when we are incorporated into the body of Christ. This is the ultimate family, the place where we find wholeness and belonging.

The role of the Family Ministries director at the Union office is primarily that of a co-ordinator. This role/duty involves:

- 1 Chairing the BUC Family Ministries Council;
- 2 Supporting the Conference/Mission directors or sponsors by:
 - researching for suitable resources
 - attending the GC Certificate Leadership course
 - passing on news from the Trans-European Division and General Conference

- supporting and participating in their programme
- 3 Contributing to the updating of the policy document 'Keeping the Church Family Safe' and its training programmes.
 - 4 Distributing the annual Family Ministries GC Planbook. This year its theme is Family Evangelism.

Women's Ministries

Heather Haworth

The phenomenal growth of this department resulted in the BUC at its last session voting it to a half-time status. The SEC 2003 session also elected a half-time director (Mrs J. Smith). This department serves the 70% of the congregation that are women, and has also impacted the Missions. The Irish and Scottish Missions have followed the lead of the Welsh Mission in having sponsors (Mrs B. Sisson, Mrs M. Cully, Ms J. Martin and Mrs J. Wells).

Even though Women's Ministries is now celebrating its tenth anniversary and is similar in size to the Family Ministries department, the question is still asked, 'Why

do we need this department?' The answer is quite simple when comparing it to the Youth department, which grew and needed to be split into areas catering for the teens and Pathfinders. Women's Ministries is a natural outgrowth of the Family Ministries department, which had to split in order to cater for women's specialised needs.

The demands put upon the Women's Ministries department has been to develop new resources, programmes and leadership training.

Training Programmes

Two Union-wide training weekends took place in 2001 and 2003. As the smaller churches have the same people carrying a number of offices, it was cost effective to run these weekends in conjunction with the Children's and Family Ministries departments. The largest number of attendees was representatives of the Women's Ministries department. In 2003 the writer and Dawn Small, the General Conference associate director, launched the first of three levels of the leadership-training course. The eight sections of certificate training covers:

- History and Philosophy of Women's Ministries
- Biblical Studies
- People Skills/Personal Growth
- Speaking Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Writing Skills

- Nurture Projects
- Outreach Projects

Part of level one is now available on DVD and video. The whole level is available as hard copy.

Retreats

In 2002, the retreat 'Lifting the Mask' was held in Coventry and saw the largest gathering of women in the history of the BUC. Just under four hundred women experienced faith, fun and fellowship by focusing on:

- Evangelism, as non-members attend too;
- Developing our teens to enjoy and know they are unique and special to God and his church;
- Seminars on topics relevant to women's spiritual, social, physical and emotional welfare.

Across the union not only the conferences and missions run retreats. More and more churches are running their own. The resulting spiritual bonds have encouraged the women to work together in many different aspects of church activities such as evangelism. Also at retreats money has been raised to:

- Finance a church-based literacy programme for women in Pakistan;
- Support a Sudanese young lady, Grace John, through her last year at Spicer Memorial College in India;
- Tanzanian Memorial Clinic for women and children;
- 'Door of Hope' women's refuge in the USA.

Evangelism

The main outreach evangelism of this department is 'Heartcall', a ministry to those taking a break from church. The *Adventist Woman* magazine is used in conjunction with the training programme as a gift to those no longer attending church. It is a thrill to see these ladies recommitting their lives to God and being active Christians.

Special Days

The annual Women's Day of Prayer has fostered the growth of this ministry while the Emphasis day encourages women to reach to God for strength and courage to live out the potential he has placed in them. A new day on the church calendar is the Abuse Prevention Awareness day. Material for this day's programme comes from a GC council with representatives from the Health, Children's, Women's, Family, and Youth Ministries departments as well as the Ministerial Association and Review and Herald. This topic is one many find uncomfortable but the commission of God's church is to care for whichever part of its body is suffering. 1 Cor. 13:26.

The Way Forward

During the next two years please pray for the women and men who work together to

- Present the certificate training course;
- Develop a mentoring programme to address the following issues:
 - God's Gift of Sexuality
 - Spiritual Life and Prayer
 - Taking the Mask off Abuse
 - Spiritually Single
 - 21C Christian Young Women
- Promote the 'Heartcall/Adventist Woman' magazine ministry to those on the edge or who no longer attend church.
- Make retreats more relevant to and for teenagers.

Through addressing these areas this department will, through God's grace, be fulfilling its Mission aim, 'To inspire women to reach their full potential in Christ'.

Children's Ministries

Heather Haworth

Mission Statement

The department of Children's Ministries will guide the children in developing a biblical foundation for a lifelong redemptive love-relationship with God and create avenues of service for each child within the home, church and community.

The Mission Statement has been implemented by:

Building up a team of trainers, volunteer Conference and Mission sponsors.

Unfortunately, when Conference and Mission events run simultaneously the BUC director cannot give support as efficiently as the conference's own departmental director would do. This was rectified in the SEC, 2003, with the election of Pastor and Mrs B. Holford to this department. Due to commitment of the team members they were able to present seminars at training week-ends in March 2001, 2003.

A special word of thanks should also be given to those who have been a part of the Children's Ministries team: Mrs P. Allcock; Mrs S. Froude; Miss K. Dalton; Mr. G. Benjamin; Mrs F. Markham; Miss B. Robertson; Miss J. Martin; Mrs D. St Cyr; Mrs A. Moore; Mr & Mrs King; Mrs A. McCormac; Mrs H. Lockham; Mrs L. Green; Mrs P. Burrell; Mr & Mrs L. Taylor; Mr & Mrs E. Norman; **Secretaries:** Sharon Godman, Jacquei Johnson and Ellen Bryant.

Introducing the new curriculum for 0 – 14s.

The GraceLink Bible Study Guides were piloted in the BUC. The comments from parents, teachers and children resulted in the new curriculum having a number of new features:

- The Bible story or passage and memory verses are presented first at Sabbath School.
- The following Sabbath the children feedback to the class leader what they found out during the week by studying and living out the Bible story principle.
- There is a choice of activities, which help to connect the Bible principles to life. These incorporate the students' learning styles and modes.
- Monthly themes are based on four dynamics of a Christian life: **Grace** – Jesus loves me; **Worship** – I love Jesus; **Community** – We love each other (inreach); **Service** – Jesus loves you (outreach).

The most exciting feature is that at the end of the programme each child should know how to put into practice during the week what they have learnt from the Bible.

New age groupings have been suggested:

- Beginners 0 – 2 2 year cycle
- Kindergarten 3 – 5 2 year cycle
- Primary 6 – 9 4 year cycle
- Junior/Teen (PowerPoint) 10 – 14 4 year cycle
- Earliteen (Real-Time Faith) 12 – 14 2 year cycle

The Cornerstone lessons are for 15 – 18-year-olds. They were previously updated and have a 4 year cycle encompassing the 27 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and discussions on life's issues.

Evangelism Encouraged Through:

- Inreach – to the largest number of unbaptised contacts, the children who attend Sabbath

- School and camp meeting.
- Outreach – by Holiday Bible Schools, weekly Bible clubs and Toddler groups and Camp meeting are important avenues of witnessing to children and parents.
- Suitable Bible study guides are made available to pastoral workers.

Feedback from the local church

The yearly survey sheet helps the department to know what is happening for the children, and what further input is needed from this department.

Keeping the Church Family Safe

All those involved in the church's children's programmes are encouraged to attend the training seminars. Good working practice is important for the safety of the adults and children.

Children's Ministries One-Day Conferences

These are for teachers, parents and others involved in Children's church-based programmes. The Family Ministries department has also taken part. Some topics covered are: Teaching with crafts; Story telling; Children's church; Teaching the new curriculum; Puppets can teach too; Challenging teens; Sabbath school resources; Helping children to love worship; What's right with Harry Potter; How faith grows.

Child Friendly Churches

By promoting resources for children's church and the Children's Sabbath, (held annually in October), plus working with the Family Ministries department, emphasis has now been given to making churches more aware of the needs of children, youth and families.

Future Development for this Ministry

Build up resources for: Bringing a child to accept Jesus as his/her own personal Saviour; Involving children in a prayer ministry; Making church more child friendly; Understanding how to give positive discipline; Encouraging more male participation; Continuing the one day conferences as well as the area Sabbath workshops; Implementing 'Keeping the Church Family Safe'; Promoting ASNA events; Introducing 'Real-Time Faith'; 12+ quarterly.

Ultimate Aim

The Church will live out the words of Deut. 6:4-7 by actively teaching the children to love the Lord with all their hearts, souls and strength.



Youth

Des Boldeau
Youth Director

Vision Statement:

- The BUC youth department exists to facilitate a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ our Saviour.

- To package the Gospel for the youth culture and, in so doing, make Christianity real, exciting and relevant for twenty-first century young people.

Mission statement:

- The Mission of the BUC youth department is encapsulated in 1 Cor. 9:20-27. This is summed up in the

expression 'all things to all men, in order that I might save some'.

This summer saw a concentration of activities involving, and for, the young people of the Union territory.

Ghana Mission Project 24 June – 11 July

The BUC took a team of forty-five individuals to participate in a build/medical/evangelism mission to the city of Tamale, North Ghana. A wing of a proposed hospital was completed within 18 days, by a team comprising doctors, nurses, health workers, pharmacist, builders, plumbers, plasterers, electricians and a host of individuals who carried out the manual work. We also had a team of preachers who participated in a two-week evangelistic campaign resulting in the baptism of 35 young people from this Muslim territory.

Each individual raised in excess of £900, but there was also a substantial donation from ADRA-UK, and the Ghanaian churches in the SEC helped fund the project.

The task entailed the following: Monthly planning meetings from 2003; Producing promotional materials; Visiting events and churches for promotional purposes; Camp meetings; Raising the awareness of the project on radio; Meetings with ADRA-UK and visiting the Ghanaian Union Conference/ADRA-Ghana; Travelling to the site to assess feasibility and cost of project; Working with local architect; Working out the strategy for completing the project with medical/building and evangelistic team.

Pathfinders

This year it was the turn of the BUC to organise the Camporee, which took place at the Northern Ireland Scout campsite in Crawfordsburn, North Down, Belfast between 25 July and 1 August.

We had 780 club leaders and Pathfinders and staff on the site and the event was a huge success. We donated all the proceeds from the market day to the Northern Ireland cancer fund for children. The messages from camp padre Pastor Clive Dottin, Youth director for the Caribbean Union Conference, were well received by the majority of those present.

The team of volunteer staff of about 65 worked hard and long, and heartfelt thanks are extended to them for making themselves available to the Lord and for the benefit of the Pathfinders.

Pathfinder leadership has experienced a dramatic change within the last year. Both the SEC and NEC have changed leadership. The Missions are fairly strong in this area of youth ministry and must be applauded for the investment they are making for and on behalf of their young people. The matter of uniform continues to be a source of challenge for the Union. Previously the SEC had been able to secure suppliers of uniforms, but this has now been exhausted and there are no plans to continue to source this. The matter will have to be discussed at the next BUC youth advisory in the autumn. Notwithstanding, the Pathfinder work continues to grow. This is one arm of youth ministry which has enjoyed much success over recent years. Training of future leaders continues to be a priority for the department, though there seem to be changes coming which may affect this strategy. We did organise for in excess of 648 Pathfinders, leaders and staff to attend the last TED Camporee in Poland in 2002, which was a real blessing for the Pathfinders and a challenge for us as leaders, but the Lord enabled us to go and return with no problems.

Pan-European Youth Congress

Close to 3,000 young people from the TED and EUD converged upon the University City of Wroclaw in

Poland. The theme was 'Time 4 Action', and we had a very dynamic speaker in Pastor Gilbert Cangy, the Youth director for the South Pacific Division. Together we witnessed a baptism of seven young persons, celebrated the sacrifice of Jesus for us, had a 'fun run' through the city, enjoyed a day experiencing the sights and sensations of visiting the many nations who were present at the 'streets of nations', had nightly music showcase and ended with a firework display. All the youth from the UK spoke with one voice when they said that they were blessed and had enjoyed the whole experience.

Chaplaincy

Churches were invited to inform the BUC of the names and addresses of students who were studying away from home. This continues to prove a challenge, as the majority of students who study away from home are still unknown to us. Response to requests, adverts in *Messenger* and *Encounter* and on the BUC youth web page was very poor. This was evident in a proposed student retreat, which was advertised for last year but, due to poor response, had to be cancelled.

The individual conferences continue to organise their own ministry for students, and this is particularly strong in the NEC, where there is an ongoing student ministry. I have participated in some of these events organised by the previous youth director.

We continue to distribute the *Dialogue* magazine as an informative and intellectually challenging tool for the twenty-first-century student. It is very difficult to maintain our database in the absence of the relevant information.

The plan to train lay chaplaincy is not proving to be workable because of the lack of interest.

Adventist Volunteer Service

The Volunteer programme continues to involve a steady number of young people both coming into the UK and going abroad. Stanborough School, Roundelwood, Newbold, and SEC are the institutions who have benefited from incoming AVS.

The Korean Language Institute (KLI) attracts the largest number of volunteers annually with as many as ten serving during this past year. The Institute has been welcomed at both NEC and SEC camp meetings, where they have been able to promote their language institute. I was privileged to visit the KLI this January when I conducted a weeklong student revival. The need to recruit more AVS is one that the department struggles with due to inadequate resources.

Encounter

This magazine is now being produced with the teenagers in mind. The plan is to try to make the articles and layout more relevant for this age readership. We have noted the suggestion at our last BUC session, for a young adult section to the paper, and this we will try to incorporate as regularly as we can. The publication comes out three to four times annually, and we are, at present, studying a proposal to change the name and format. The need for a younger editorial team and writers is one that the department must address. However, this is not without its challenges.

Youth Leadership Training Manual

The completion of this was projected for the end of last year, but with the election of new team members and a new approach to training, the production of this manual has taken a back seat until some issues can be clarified. A good number of chapters has now been completed and the project is moving toward completion later this year.

We also took 40 young people from the UK to a youth leadership convention held in Denmark, hosted by

the TED. This proved to be resourceful and inspirational.

Other activities

BUC Youth Advisory: To organise and chair the bi-annual BUC youth advisory held every spring and autumn. During this time to organise training in some aspect of youth ministry that is relevant for the team members' situation.

Week of Prayer: Conducting Weeks of Prayer at John Loughborough and Stanborough schools. I was also invited to conduct a week of prayer in the Toivolina school in Finland and spoke at a youth congress organised by the Adriatic Union 2002.

GC Youth Conference: About 20 individuals from both ministry and laity attended an international youth leadership conference held in Brazil 22 March – 1 April 2001. Those young people are still experiencing the impact of this conference. One such person is now in training for ministry.

Three Missions: There have been several trips to the missions, but not as many as I would have liked. I did speak at the three missions youth retreat in Wales, 2001. The youth ministry in the missions is becoming quite self-reliant, though the BUC youth director is the overall administrator for youth work.

Challenges

Illness for part of this period has not made the execution of some of my duties easy, but thank God, I am much better and am functioning fine. Departmental secretarial support also experienced difficulties with changes and illness.

The new team members are as follows:

- SEC: Japhet DeOliveira, Nathan Stickland, Paul Boldeau, Robert Hines (taken over from Sam Davis, Eglan Brooks, Bernie Holford).
- NEC: Alan Hush (from Steve Palmer), Trevor Thomas (from Mike Rossiter).
- SM: Marcel Ghioalda (from Gordon Smith).
- WM: Ed Sammons (from Paul Lockham).
- IM: Adam Keough (from Nathan Stickland).

Secretarial changes: Ellen Bryant (from Jacquei Johnson from Mary Kapon).

Finally, I have undertaken a doctoral study programme with a view to contributing something of worth for the benefit of the BUC youth ministry. This is being pursued through Andrews University, USA.

Congratulations to . . .
Joanna Poddar on her graduation from the University of Cambridge with a 2.1 degree in Biology with Education.

Mardon McFarlane for completing his Masters degree in Bio-Chemical Engineering from University College, London.

ADRA-UK is seeking to appoint a **Programmes Officer**. Key responsibilities include investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors; supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners on proposal development, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and donor reporting; and providing backstopping to ensure that ADRA-UK's projects are successfully completed. Applicants will hold a Bachelors degree in a relevant subject; Masters degree in international development/ international relations/related subject; have experience in working with government donors on grant applications; two years' overseas experience in relief and development work; in depth understanding of current relief/development issues; strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills; a passion for serving hurting people; be an enthusiastic motivator committed to ADRA's principles of development and SDA beliefs. Initially a 1-year contract. Salary according to denominational scale. Letters of application with current CV and addresses of two referees to: ADRA-UK director, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Tel/Fax: 01923 681723. Email: director@adra.org.uk. **Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September.** Interviews for suitable candidates will be held in October/November.

Camporee

It was the largest gathering of Adventists in the history of the Irish Mission. From all the corners of the UK and Ireland and a few stragglers from Germany and Iceland, nearly 800 Pathfinders and leaders, from over 37 clubs, descended upon The Scout Centre in Crawfordsburn Country Park just outside Belfast.

As buses began arriving at the campsite on Sunday morning 25 July, what had been a serene and peaceful green field became a mass of working Pathfinders from the ages of 10 and up. An advanced party had marked out the field for all the various groups and slowly but surely, tents went up, friends became reunited and new friends were being made. The smell of food being prepared was starting to fill the air as the campers began to make a little corner of Crawfordsburn their own.

In a special service on Monday morning the Camporee was officially declared open by Pastor Des Boldeau. Those present for this service included

Councillor Marsden Fitzsimons, who welcomed all the campers on behalf of the North Down Borough Council, and Shona Kendrick from the Northern Ireland Cancer fund for Children, the charity that was to benefit from the proceeds of the market day. Other guests included Alan Clark, the assistant district commissioner for the scouts, Colin Turtle, the site's full-time warden, Pastor Cecil Perry, Victor Pilmoor, and Pastor Curtis Murphy, the Irish Mission president.

Over the seven days of the camporee the Pathfinders' day was filled with activities ranging from sailing, canoeing, abseiling, puppetry, first aid – 26 in all – and these allowed the Pathfinders to add to their collection of honours. All the children had an opportunity to do some sightseeing in and around Belfast, many using the opportunity to sample some of the

local and not so local eating places.

Each morning and evening the children were called to worship by the drums of the Holloway drum corps. The chaplain for the week was Pastor Clive Dottin, youth director for the Caribbean Union Conference. Pastor Dottin is a powerful preacher who spoke on the theme of Virtual Reality. He dealt with issues that concerned our Pathfinders, and used his vast wealth of experience to take them on a journey that led each time to Jesus. He used catchy rhymes and rhythms to help the children remember each message which they thoroughly enjoyed. Pastor Dottin's energy and vitality enabled him to communicate effectively with the Pathfinders, and in the Sabbath morning service he invited them to rededicate their lives to Christ, but he especially appealed to those who had yet to make a decision for baptism. Over fifty young people responded by coming forward and asking to be baptised.

The worship team that led in the singing had their work cut out, but they were equally vibrant as they

sought to revive the Pathfinders each morning and night. Cislyn Morgan and her three cohorts, and the Gospel Vibes Band from Windsor Street, led in the praise and worship. The theme song for Camporee, 'Real to Me', was written by Christine Burt.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end, and so on Sabbath evening the Pathfinders gathered for one last time. The flags of each of the countries represented, those of the scouts and of the Pathfinders, were lowered and presented to representatives of the various groups. The Pathfinders showed off their drilling skills, then a service of thanks brought everything to a final close.

During the market day each of the groups had sold food, crafts, merchandise and services. This raised over £3,000. Shona Kendrick was presented with a cheque and she shared her delight in receiving this gift and explained that the money was to be used to assist the families of children with cancer in the additional costs of heating etc, which can become overwhelming when a child is sick.

Anniversaries at Aberdaron

The annual Aberdaron Family Camp ran from Friday 23 July to Sunday 1 August this year and once again the site, at the tip of the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales, was filled to capacity. Despite competition from the Pathfinder Camporee in Northern Ireland, there were more teens than ever at the camp, some of them no doubt attracted by a new range of activities now available through a recently recruited outdoor-pursuits specialist.

This year's camp marked the fortieth anniversary of the Glan yr Afon campsite which, when it was first purchased in 1964, contained only a small cottage. Over the years other buildings have been added, including a large hall which is used for meetings, social events, and eating. In recent years, under the management of Malcolm Hayles, five wooden chalets have been constructed which help to extend the use of the campsite through the year. In a presentation to the Family Camp group Malcolm outlined some of the possibilities that exist for the future of the site. These range from keeping it as it is to demolishing the main hall and rebuilding a two-storey building with integral accommodation for around fifty people. The management committee for the campsite is still open to suggestions and these can be sent by any interested people to:

malc100@tinyonline.co.uk

Adult speaker for Family Camp was Pastor Patrick Boyle, formerly the minister at Stanborough Park. His carefully constructed and concise morning worship talks provided daily inspiration to the campers and painted a clear picture of the message of salvation. 'Jesus didn't die in order to find a way to keep me out of heaven,' he said. 'He died in order to get me into heaven.'

Pastor Boyle was accompanied by his wife Rosemary and,

immediately prior to his sermon on the final Sabbath, the couple were surprised by an announcement by camp director Pastor Cyril Sweeney. It transpired that this day was, in fact, Pastor and Mrs Boyle's fiftieth wedding anniversary and Pastor Sweeney presented them with a card, cake, and flowers.

Family Camp generates many lasting memories. From this year's camp these will include the presence of the Blackburn family from St Austell, whose musical talents were much appreciated. Particularly impressive were virtuoso performances from 19-year-old Austin Blackburn on the oboe, piano, and, unlikely as it may seem to some, the saw.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Adventist Risk Management, a service organisation belonging to the Adventist Church, has a vacancy for a highly motivated person to work at our St Albans office. Applicants must have ability to communicate fluently in English and a European language, preferably German, as well as good computer skills (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher). Salary, etc, based on TED salary scale/working policy; starting salary according to experience/qualifications. A good level of education required. Previous experience in Risk Management and Insurance an advantage. Please contact: MLeicester@adventistrisk.org. Or write to Mervyn B. Leicester, Field Service Manager, Adventist Risk Management Inc., 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY. Telephone: +44 (0) 1727 865773. Fax: +44 (0) 1727 864578.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE Bracknell, Berkshire, England. The Department of Theological Studies is seeking to appoint a **LECTURER IN NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES**. The successful applicant will be expected to teach a variety of modules in NT Studies, plus modules in another area within the Department, and hold, or be close to completing, a doctorate in a relevant field. An opportunity for an innovative individual to join this progressive international department, providing quality pastoral education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels with students from sixty different countries. Salary according to denominational scale. Letters of application with current CV and names/addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Vice Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks., RG42 4AN. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 407401; Fax: +44 (0) 1344 407404; email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. Full job description from above address or Newbold website: www.newbold.ac.uk/newsite. **Deadline for applications: 15 September.**

REACH INTERNATIONAL, UK, has a new management. Miss Joyce Bullock, for personal reasons, could not continue leading the organisation. Last spring Mrs Elvira Pearson was appointed to care for the work of REACH in the UK, with Pastor Rex Pearson as the new treasurer. Enquiries should be addressed to: **REACH International, UK**, Rex & Elvira Pearson, 67 Manor Lane, Charfield, GL12 8TL. Tel: 01454 260198. Email rpelvira@aol.com. J. E. Jacob, PhD, president.

Obituaries

PAUL ANTHONY HORSLEN (1963-2004) d. 23 February.

News of the sudden and unexpected death of Paul Horslen filled the Nottingham, Derby and



Loughborough districts with shock and sadness. Although Paul had battled with serious illness over a period of years, he had enjoyed a period of good health just prior to his passing. Ill health had forced him to give up full-time employment, but he was determined to live a full and meaningful life, which led him to pursue his passions of creative writing and gospel music promotion. He spent much energy on many projects and was actively involved in the production of a contemporary version of the *Messiah* at the time of his death. Some 500 people – family, friends and former colleagues from around the country – gathered in the Nottingham Central church for a musical and moving service of celebration of a life lived with enthusiasm and deep conviction. The tributes from friends and family painted a picture of a generous, talented and passionate person who opened his heart and home to all. Although hearts were saddened by the untimely passing of Paul, they are comforted by the many memories that they hold of one who was so full of vitality and an inspiration to many despite many obstacles and challenges. Paul is mourned by his devoted wife of eighteen years Odeth, his parents, sister, niece, the extended Blake family and a host of friends. In the midst of grief, we can find hope in the words of the writer of the book of Revelation, 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' Revelation 21:4.

ANGELA PURKISS

WILFRED ALEXANDER HAUGHTON (1919-2004) d. 11 May. Wilfred Alexander was the only child of Ella and Adolphus Haughton. He was born in Hanover, Jamaica. His grandmother and aunts brought him up and so he became used to a household of women from an early age, a pattern that was to be repeated in his own family! That may have been what led him to bury his head in books! While he was very young, he developed a love of reading which all his children share. Zilpha and Wilfred met at elementary school where he was so quiet that she did not notice him until their schooldays were almost over! Wilfred was baptised as an Adventist in Jamaica and consistently and unwaveringly served his God. Wilfred did some tailoring following school and learned carpentry, and for a number of years he worked in the USA. He and Zilpha fell in love and decided to accept the invitation of the British government and move from their home in Jamaica to the UK. In 1954 they married in Lucea, Jamaica. They had a very small wedding with only two witnesses in order to save money for their big adventure. They docked at Southampton on 23 September 1954 and settled in south-west London setting up home in Leathwaite Road, Battersea. Later they moved to Wimbledon Chase where the family still lives. Wilfred and Zilpha had five children: Paulette, Grace, Glenda, Stephen and Jessica, and four grandchildren: Lauren – Grace's daughter, Rachel – Glenda's daughter, and Harry and Sophie who are Stephen and Julie's children. Wilfred continued to work as a carpenter for Taylor Woodrow and later for the local council. He was a fit and healthy person who rode a bicycle for many years rather than driving. He was also a keen gardener and took on allotment plots together with friends, Roy Golding and Orville Thompson. Never a materialistic person, he was a generous man and would give away anything

he felt that he didn't need – such as clothes and money – to people who were in need. Neighbours and friends knew Willie as a friendly, kind and considerate Christian man. He was never moody or miserable and always spoke with conviction of his belief in God and the messages in the Bible. He was a man of principle, but never harsh. He was a man who worked for his church for many years in practical ways as a deacon, caretaker and member of the maintenance committee. He was also a keen collector for church charities. Neighbours in the surrounding streets became used to his yearly knock on their door and often had the money waiting for him. When in recent years ill health slowed him down and he missed a year, his neighbours would save the money and give him a double donation the following year. Willie always carried a magazine or booklet to give to people he met on his travels and would often write his favourite Bible text on a slip of paper and press it into someone's hand. On retirement he took up part time employment at a local factory where he made many friends and did the school run for his grandchildren. He had more time to spend in his garden and was often in friendly competition, along with his wife and Orville Thompson, to see who could grow the largest vegetables. He shared his produce with the neighbours on his road. Willie was blessed with good health until the later stages of his life and, despite developing arthritis, strove to remain as active as possible. In March 2000, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer that had spread to the bone. In September 2002 he had a knee replacement, and continued to attend church. Although obviously in pain, he never complained, and when asked how he was would often jokingly reply 'I'm Mr Hippy Hop.' As the illness took its toll, Willie never ceased to trust in the Lord. Those who nursed him all commented on the strength of his faith, his peaceful nature and his lovely smile. When family would visit him they would always ask him why he didn't ask the nurses for pain relief and he would say that the little pain he was suffering was nothing compared with what Christ went through for him. Willie passed away peacefully at 2pm on Tuesday 11 May at St Raphael's Hospice, in the presence of God, surrounded by family and friends. Zilpha would like to thank the family and friends who have been so supportive. Any contributions are kindly requested to be made direct to St Raphael's Hospice.

WRITTEN BY WILLIE'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Thanks Alan and Christine Conroy, Lorna and Denver Annable, and their respective families, wish to express thanks and deep appreciation for all the tokens of love and support received following the death of their mother Mrs Alfreda Conroy.

Wedding

HEMMING-PEART On Friday 28 May the marriage took place of Michelle Anne Peart and Andrew Hemming at the Methodist church in Lake on the Isle of Wight. The minister was Revd Anthony Oakley. The service consisted of hymns, prayers, Bible reading and a special poem written by Michelle called 'The essence of our spirit'. This was followed by a sermon. The reception was held at the Conservative Club rooms at Shanklin. We wish the newly married couple the rich joy of God's love upon them.

JOHN HEMMING

Intercessors needed for a national prayer chain

Would you like to be a link? Qualifications needed: A forgiving spirit A commitment to prayer No other requirements necessary. Learn as you go! Interested? Contact Velva Grant on Gloucester 01452 380316 (late evening) or email velvagrnt@tiscali.co.uk



Jan Paulsen to meet young people via Global Telecast

Better communication between Adventist young people and church administration is the goal of two initiatives from the office of Pastor

Jan Paulsen, president of the world church.

On 13 September, Dr Paulsen will meet with students on the



campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for what is being described as an 'open, no-holds-barred discussion of issues of concern to Adventist young people'. The one-hour conversation, called 'Let's Talk – Again', is a follow-up to last year's 'Let's Talk' telecast that included teenage members of the church. It will be broadcast live by the Hope Channel to the Americas, and will be rebroadcast later in Europe, the South Pacific and Africa.

During the satellite event, Dr Paulsen will also launch the Let's Talk website, designed to continue the dialogue between his office and Adventist young people. This website is specifically for the young people in our church. It will allow them to send questions

directly to the office of the president, on issues ranging from family to Adventist beliefs, relationships to social issues. It will also allow them to comment on discussion topics and to see what other young people around the world are saying on the same topic. This website will also provide international links to publications, Adventist youth groups, and colleges. The website is being described as an exciting way for the young people of the Adventist Church to make their voices heard by their church leaders.

'I recognise that many, many of our young people feel distanced from the church – they feel as if they don't have a voice, they don't feel that they have been heard, they don't feel that they have been understood,' says Pastor Paulsen, adding, 'We want them to be heard – what they feel, and what they would like to say to their church. And I want them to know that it is our intention to take their comments seriously.'

The Let's Talk website will be launched 13 September and will be found at www.letstalk.adventist.org.

A bouquet for Pat

Watford's Emergency Furniture Unit was started by the late Alf Kelly in 1971 in response to local need. This became one of the first local



organisations to come under the umbrella of the Watford Council for Voluntary Services when it was set up in 1974. (Alf was a member of the Steering Committee that set it up and was at one time its chairman.)

Alf continued to run the service until his death in 1996, just after he received the MBE for his services to the local community. The service was much appreciated by local organisations, so his daughter Pat Walton continued to run it, supported by her husband Peter and members of Stanborough Park church who acted as volunteer drivers.

Last year it was decided to expand the service into one requiring a greater commitment than Pat was able to give. From January this year it became a charitable trust called 'Nine Lives' based in neighbouring Rickmansworth with a paid organiser and EU funding.

Pat is philosophical at relin-

quishing her direct role with the furniture service which was essentially part of the Stanborough Park church's outreach programme. However, she has retained her links with the work by becoming a trustee of the new organisation, which enables her to pass on her valuable experience.

This being the thirtieth anniversary of the Watford Council for Voluntary Services, its Annual General Meeting on 15 July 2004 was extended to include lunch and a review of its past, present and future roles in the community. It was attended by the local MP and by the Mayor of Watford, who both gave speeches of support for its work.

A special presentation of a bouquet was made to Pat during the meeting, in recognition of her voluntary work to the community through the Emergency Furniture Unit.

JUNE COOMBS

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
'Everlasting Love' Marriage Enrichment Weekend	8-10 October	Highgate House Conference Centre	NEC Family Ministries	Pastor C Sweeney 0115 9606312 Limited spaces, book soon to avoid disappointment
Church family reunion	11 October 10am-whole day	Adventist church, Windsor Street South, Birmingham	Pastor Don McFarland and Pastor Bruce Flynn	Jeanadelle Hamilton on 07958 638821
GO UK	15-17 October	Pontins, Hemsby	Pastor Calvin Preston from USA	Booking forms available from: LYF 07956 688923 or NEC 0115 9606 312 www.londonyouthfed.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.

ABC BOOK SALES

September		
26 West Midlands		10am-2pm
October		
3 John Loughborough		10am-2pm
10 Newbold School		10am-2pm
24 SEC Woman's Retreat		
31 NEC Woman's Retreat		
31 West Midlands		10am-2pm

Messenger

Volume 109/20 – 10 September 2004
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
 COPY FOR No. 22 – 15 September 2004
 Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.
 Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editordnm@mac.com
 ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
 Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.
 The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary.
 Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
 Printed in Denmark.
 Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
 ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	Long	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 10	7.26	7.28	7.31	7.43	7.52
17	7.10	7.22	7.15	7.24	7.34
24	6.54	7.06	6.58	7.06	7.17
Oct 1	6.38	6.50	6.41	6.47	6.59

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