

Hurricane Ivan

Immediate response from ADRA-UK



by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

Hurricane Ivan has swept through the Caribbean islands killing at least 68 people, flattening homes, and knocking out power supplies. Hurricane Ivan is the worst to hit the Caribbean in a decade. Our ADRA offices in the region reported people clambering on to rooftops as waist-high storm surges propelled by 160mph (260km/h) winds swept across the islands.

BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry, who has just returned from Jamaica, spoke of the deep concern that is currently being experienced by thousands of our members here in the UK. 'The majority of Adventist church members here in the United Kingdom have at least some family members living in the Caribbean,' he said. 'We are all very concerned for their safety at this time and we have had many members telephoning us

to ask what they, and the Church, can do to help. It is at times like this that I thank God for ADRA-UK, but also for the administrative structure of the Adventist Church and the wonderful network of support that we have around the world. We are already receiving donations from members and they can be assured that their money will very quickly be channelled directly to the disaster areas. As well as your financial support we would also ask that you join us in praying for those who are hurting in the wake of this disaster. We extend to them our great sympathies.'

On hearing of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ivan, ADRA-UK's immediate response included the following:

- committing money from its disaster fund to support the victims;

- submitting two applications to the British government's Department For International Development (DFID) for a total of £839,286;
- sending three 40ft containers filled with relief supplies donated and collected by church members in the UK.

ADRA-UK has launched an appeal for the victims of Hurricane Ivan and donations can be sent right now 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 make a donation on the ADRA-UK website, www.adra.org.uk, or send your gift through the regular church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the ADRA-UK Caribbean Hurricane Appeal.

Glimpses of suffering reported by ADRA offices (15 September 2004)

Cayman Islands: The island looks like a war zone where the storm flung huge pleasure yachts up on land and toppled trees three storeys high. Half of the 15,000 homes on Grand Cayman have suffered significant damage that has made them uninhabitable. Some houses have been reduced to piles of splintered wood. Governor Bruce Dinwiddie has described the damage as 'very, very severe and widespread'.

Jamaica: Stores and shelters are filled with more than 22,000 people who are running short of food. About 98% of the island is still without power, and 40 roads are blocked by debris. Some people are gathering water from floodwater ponds, others are cutting open coconuts for their water. Some are bathing with buckets of water taken from a broken pipe. 'Everybody's sleeping on the floor,' said Lera Williams, 38, an unemployed woman. 'No clothes to wear. Everything is gone.'

Grenada: 'I have nobody to give me help,' Verna Alfred, 53, said while crouching under the foundation of her ruined home with several grandchildren and a neighbour. The fierce winds pulled apart most roofs and left an acute crisis in Grenada, where more than half the 100,000 residents are homeless and in desperate need of shelter, water and basic supplies. Many areas are completely dark during the night. A few use oil lamps or candles. Glimmers of light flicker from fires lit on distant hills. Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell reported that the island was 90% devastated. UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said that virtually every major building in St George's had suffered structural damage.

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Gettyimages



Pastor Daly at the Olympics

The Olympics represented an enriching experience for me. I was able to combine my vocational role as a pastor with my recreational joy of sport, in particular athletics, to be a volunteer sports chaplain.

As a volunteer I was assigned to the spectator services at the Olympic stadium. My role as a sports chaplain involved being available to those among the tens of thousands of spectators who might need someone to give a listening ear, offer words of encouragement, or any general help needed. It was my joy to talk to people from all over the world. Wearing the official volunteer uniform but with a clerical shirt and collar, I hoped that I would be recognisable as a chaplain. Indeed, many did stop and ask me about my role, impressed that there was a chaplain at an event like this.

My role also involved engaging with the athletes. I went to the athletes' lounge as they passed in and out. To some I was able to offer words of support.

Telling athletes that my prayers were with them always stopped them in their tracks as, for once, they heard something of significance rather than the request for a picture or autograph. I could tell that talking to them on a spiritual theme won their confidence and appreciation. I received many hugs and kisses from those who were grateful that I had stopped to talk with them, albeit very briefly, but on a theme that was close to their heart. I was pleasantly surprised how many athletes do have a respect for God and have some form of personal faith.

Indeed the Olympic Games has many spiritual connotations. The Bible, through the writings of the apostle Paul, often uses words of an Olympic nature: 'Run the Race', 'Press towards the mark of the high calling', 'Run with Patience', 'Endure to the end', 'Crown of Life'.

RICHARD DALY
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Top: Pastor Daly with the Vice-president of the International Olympic Committee. Left: Kelly Holmes. Below left: Richard greets US sprinter. Below right: Gold Medal winner, Matthew Pincint.



Healthwise

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

Bad air days

A Report released in July predicts that 'bad air' days may become more prevalent over the next few years. Malaria (from the Italian for bad air) has killed more people than all the wars and plagues combined to the present date, and is set to continue its fatal work for some time to come.

Malaria was thought, in ancient times, to be associated with foul-smelling marshland before Dr Ronald Ross, an army doctor in nineteenth-century India, established the cause as the *plasmodium* parasite. Treatment in the Middle Ages for the effects of bad air included swallowing a spider immersed in English treacle or butter.

Various travellers to exotic countries during the Age of Exploration noted that using a concoction made from *cinchona* bark broke the fever. First used in the UK in 1650 the bark soon began to prove its worth and remained the treatment of choice until 1820 when the active ingredients of the bark – *quinine* and *cinchonine* were isolated and identified by French pharmacists.

German pharmacists developed a synthetic form of these ingredients into a new antimalarial called *chloroquine* during World War II for use in Africa. Recent times have seen *atovaquone* and *proguanil* combined as *Malarone* prescribed as the most effective treatment.

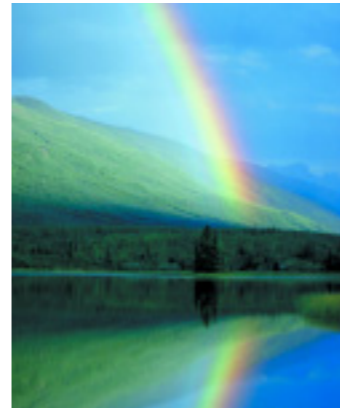
The reason for the Report is the

concern that there are now several strains of drug-resistant malaria, particularly in Africa and Asia – continents now frequently visited by business people and tourists. This and the cost of buying drugs by the largely impoverished inhabitants of these continents has pushed the search for new malaria treatments which can be produced cheaply.

Chinese physicians over a period of about 1,500 years have been using a *wormwood* extract (from *artemisia annua*) which seems to have worked as effectively as the drugs manufactured in the West. The extract, called *artemisinin*, is now being produced synthetically and undergoing trials in the UK. It is thought that there is less likelihood of malaria being resistant to synthetic forms of the various artemisinin family of compounds as

this has not been observed in users of this naturally occurring substance.

The need for a safe, effective, and cheap drug is a vital necessity since around 300-500 million malarial treatments are needed annually. One million children in sub-Saharan Africa die of malaria each year – one about every 30 seconds. A three-day course of treatment should be sufficient to cure the malaria. Field trials will start next year, not a bad air day too soon!



Rainbows are round



with David Marshall

The *garda* chopper pilot was really excited when he landed. It was not that he'd sighted the suspect from the air. In fact, it seemed he had forgotten the suspect!

He jumped to *terra firma*, shouting excitedly. Eventually, above the din of the helicopter blades, we heard what he was shouting.

'Rainbows are round!' he was yelling. 'You only saw half that rainbow. I saw the *whole* rainbow. I flew through it and around it. . . .'

'But was the crock of gold at the end?' asked Patrick. It was Ireland.

The pilot explained that when he had reached just the right spot in the heavenly prism he had seen the

whole rainbow, not just an arc but a circle. 'I entered it,' he insisted. 'I flew through it and around it. It was a once-in-a-lifetime moment!'

It is not just in Ireland that rainbows are round. The pilot had been in just the right position and had seen the whole picture of which the ground staff had seen only half.

In the latter part of his life Joseph glimpsed, by God's grace, the whole picture. His father was dead and, with his brothers, he had been back to Canaan to bury him. On their return to Egypt, Joseph's brothers were nervous. Would he now act vengefully towards them? Pay them back for all the wrong they had done him?

God's grace enabled Joseph to see the whole picture. He extended that grace by sharing it with his brothers. Revealing all that had happened, he said:

'You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.' (Genesis 50:20, NKJV.)

He had glimpsed the rainbow circle.

God had taken his brothers' wrong actions and wrong motives – betrayal, slavery, jealousy – and had used the circumstances to bless Joseph and the people. By the Lord's placing Joseph in a powerful position, and, through dreams, giving him shafts of insight, Joseph had been enabled to avert mass starvation which would have destroyed Egypt and many other people groups in the Middle East, including the family of Jacob.

That's a wonderful insight into the way God operates.

Again and again, God takes the trains of events men set in motion (from who knows what appalling motives) and uses them to bring about good.

The power, lust, ambition and caprice of man does not have the last word in shaping events. That is one of the great themes of scripture: 'In the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counter-play of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently, working out the counsels of His own will.' (*Education*, page 173.)

On trial before Pontius Pilate Jesus chose, for quite long periods, to be silent. At one stage, doubtless frustrated, the Roman barked:

'Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify you, and power to release you?' (John 19:10, NKJV.)

The reply of Jesus has a significance way beyond the immediate situation. It is true for your situation and mine: 'You would have no power over me if it

were not given to you from above.'

Check it out.

In situations that impact on those who trust him, God reserves the right to use the train of events, set in motion by mankind, for their good.

Can you see that?

All the troubles that happen to you must first be sifted through the almighty power, infinite love and great grace of our sovereign God. Only then are they allowed to impact on you. And, even then, Satan (the initiator of your troubles) has to contend with the fact that the all-merciful One will silently, patiently, cause them to work together for good as long as you trust him (Romans 8:28). Ever thought how galling that must be for the devil?

The devil's greatest victory was his biggest defeat.

At Calvary Satan thought he had the *dramatis personae* just where he wanted them. The Romans were being cruel, the scribes were being scornful, and the Son of God was being tortured to death.

Mel Gibson's film of Calvary captures Satan's presence at and enjoyment of Calvary. His supreme exultance is when Jesus dies in agony. Then the perspective changes – and so does the expression on Satan's face. He realises that the exact circumstances have been created to make possible the redemption of mankind. Gibson's camera angle makes it look as if Satan is already in the bottomless pit. A way out has been made for man and Satan knows he has fire in his future. The moment of Satan's greatest victory was, in fact, the instant of his final, irreversible defeat.

At that moment Sam Pap, who sat next to me at the Gibson film, shot both fists forward and said – 'Y-E-S-S-S!'

Salvation was accomplished. The veil was ripped. The devil was done for.

The future and the past met in Calvary's present and God's eternal NOW.

From the foot of the cross we can invite God to heal any brain-stored pictures of the past that damage our present. God can heal our memories, the source of more of our problems than we care to admit.

From the foot of the cross we can invite God to step into our future – and we can leave it with him without worry. He can handle our tomorrows, the source of many of our anxieties.

From the foot of the cross we can reach out from our present and receive salvation and, with it, assurance, the Peace of Jesus.

The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus complete the rainbow circle.

John wrote, 'In my vision I saw a throne had been set up in Heaven, and there was someone seated upon the throne . . . and all around the throne shone a halo like an emerald rainbow.' (Revelation 4:2, 3, Phillips.)

Notice: *all* around the throne.

Jesus promised, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.' (John 13:7, NKJV.)

What is happening to you now you may not understand. 'But,' says Jesus, 'Trust me. All will be made plain one day. Before the throne the picture will be complete.'

We see only part of the rainbow now. From the cross, by faith, we can catch glimpses of the whole. But only from eternity's perspective – before the throne of God – will the whole picture be visible. Then the rainbow will be round. Only then will all our questions be answered.



Christian Aid director addresses ADRA-UK board

On Tuesday 14 September Christian Aid Executive director Dr Daleep Mukarji was the guest speaker at the quarterly ADRA-UK board, held in the BUC office. Dr Mukarji had been invited to speak at the meeting by ADRA-UK director Mr Raafat Kamal as part of a broader process of networking with other charities. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the forty Christian member denominations of Christian Aid and thus a special relationship already exists between ADRA-UK and Christian Aid.

Prior to his addressing the ADRA-UK board Dr Mukarji attended a one-hour meeting with Pastor Cecil Perry, Pastor Eric Lowe, and Mr Victor Pilmoor, the three officers of the British Union Conference, Pastor John Surridge, Adventist representative on the Christian Aid Board, and Mr Kamal. Dr Mukarji was particu-

larly keen to emphasise the fact that Christian Aid is primarily an agency of its member Churches and expressed his thanks to the many Adventists who take part in the annual Christian Aid week. He was also interested to learn more about the history and growth of the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Following a light supper with the ADRA-UK board Dr Mukarji gave his main address and outlined some of the past history and present aims of Christian Aid. He highlighted three main reasons for the charity's existence: to expose the scandal of poverty; to contribute to its eradication; and to be prophetic in challenging structures that contribute to its continuation. However, Dr Mukarji was also very clear about the Christian foundations of the charity. 'Christian Aid is rooted in the work

of the Churches,' he said. 'We have a Christian world view and we are biblically based.'

Dr Mukarji justified Christian Aid's emphasis on combating poverty with some hard-hitting statistics. 'Every eight seconds a child dies from a preventable disease,' he said, 'and over a billion people live below the poverty line. What does it mean to be a Christian in a world of inequality? Does it shake us?'

Christian Aid's approach to tackling poverty is often political, and sometimes brings it into conflict with governments. Dr Mukarji pointed out that some of Christian Aid's political campaigns had been very successful. Jubilee 2000, for example, had contributed pressure which led to a pledge by the richer nations of the world to reduce 'Third World' debt by 100 million pounds. Moving on, however, Christian Aid is now promoting fair trade. 'People in donor countries now tell us that they don't want aid, they want *trade*,' said Dr Mukarji. 'If the world markets were opened up to these people much of the poverty that we now see would disappear.'

Dr Mukarji's address went down well with ADRA-UK board members, who gave him a warm round of applause. Speaking after the meeting Raafat Kamal said, 'It was good for us to hear about the work that other agencies are doing. We each have our own specific roles to play but if we can work together we will. Christian Aid is already well supported by the Adventist Church and we would urge members to get even more involved if they can.'

For more information about Christian Aid see their website at www.christianaid.org.uk.

Newbold in live broadcast with the GC president

When Newbold student Robert Sand talked to General Conference president Jan Paulsen in front of a live, worldwide audience on Monday evening 13 September, it was one Newboldian questioning another about the difficulties facing the Adventist church in Europe.

Dr Paulsen, a former theology teacher and principal at Newbold, and now leader of the world church, took questions from young people at Andrews University and around the world in a live televised session on Hope Channel's 'Let's Talk'.

Robert – a Dane in his second year of Newbold College's theology programme – expressed his concern about the decline in membership in the Adventist church in Europe. He asked Dr Paulsen what risks the church was willing to take to foster growth among European congregations.

Dr Paulsen said the church should pursue 'Bible-based' risks. 'The church needs to find a way in the secular, Western world to communicate, to convey to the men and women in the street, that the Christian option, the life of faith, is a good way to go into tomorrow,' he concluded. 'It is better than what we have today.'

About twenty-five Newbold students and staff gathered in the campus church to watch the live broadcast. Newbold principal David Penner watched with them and said, 'It was encouraging to see church leaders giving such thoughtful young people a hearing and good to see Newbold so well represented in the debate.'

There were cries of recognition when a former Newboldian, Heather May, asked a question soon after Robert. A former member of Newbold's church congregation, Bjorn Karlman, now studying at Andrews, also asked a question. Most of the students watching at Newbold seemed impressed with the session.

'You could see Dr Paulsen was aware of the problem of secularism, and that it's a problem we need to do something about,' Robert said afterwards.

Other students said Dr Paulsen handled himself well as he faced an unscripted onslaught of questions from the studio audience, from emails and from phone calls. The subjects ranged from the Church's attitudes and strategies on subjects like war and peace, inter-racial marriages and inter-faith relations, to the representation of young people and women in the delegations to next year's General Conference.

Peter Kern, a 28-year-old student in Newbold's Integrated Christian Counselling programme, said Dr Paulsen is 'a good diplomat'. 'The fact that young Adventists are being listened to is more important than the actual answers,' he said.

'I had more questions to ask. I hope this will happen more often,' said 26-year old Kwadwo Akomeah from Ghana.

TIMOTHY PUKO

served in Sierra Leone, Roy as district leader in the Freetown area, and both as full-time teachers at Waterloo Secondary School. Altogether they spent ten years in Africa, then seven years in Northern Ireland until they were asked to come to North England in 1974.

Pastor Hulbert's last area of service before retirement was in Northamptonshire, and we were pleased when Roy and May decided to stay in the area after he retired in 1993. He is a regular preacher at the local churches, all of whom appreciate the quality and content of his preaching, and it was not without a little subterfuge that he accepted a preaching appointment at Kettering the Sabbath after their anniversary. Following the service, May was presented with a lovely bouquet of mixed golden flowers. They also received a rather large cake, beautifully decorated with

Golden Wedding anniversary



Retired Pastor Roy Hulbert and his wife May celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Monday 12 July. However, they wisely spread their celebrations over several days, which included visiting the church where they were married in 1954 (Derby, Chester Green), a trip to Woburn, and spending time with their son Gordon and his wife Anita.

Roy and May are able to look back on a lifetime of service. In 1957 they received a call to mission service in Calabar, Nigeria. Later they served briefly in Northern Nigeria, Enugu and Thie Teachers' Training College. Gordon was born in 1963 and still speaks warmly of his time in West Africa. Between 1964 and 1967 Roy and May



Chapel Porth Family Camp

Family camp is invariably a time of love and sharing and worship, but this year was extra special. Our camp theme was 'The Olympics', and Pastor and Mrs Bernie Holford, SEC Family Ministries team, ably reminded us of God's love by teaching us about our wonderful bodies; reminding us of ways to worship God, using our hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, mind and hearts.

As is traditional, campers enjoyed the 'Camel Trail' cycle route, the family bonfire, crafts for the

children and a special time of sharing for mums, where we got to know each other better.

We held Olympic games, taught the Adventurer Olympic award to all the children, and even the banquet had an Olympic theme, with delicious Greek food beautifully prepared and served by the catering staff.

The whole week was very much indeed a family event with birthdays and an anniversary being celebrated and participation by all ages in the worships and the music.

But the climax of the week was the baptism of Joel Holford in a Chapelporth beach rockpool. We are so proud of Joel and his decision to commit his life to Jesus. He was

an excellent witness to every child and adult on campus; some of whom have expressed their desire to be baptised when they are old enough.

As always, we are very grateful for the tireless ministry of Karen and Bernie Holford and the way they create a fun and caring camp atmosphere for us to enjoy.

If you would like an information pack on attending SEC Family Camps 2005 please contact Janet Guthrie on 01923 232728, or email jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk.

Picture and text by HEATHER HANNA



A treat of a retreat

Helen Pearson was special speaker for the Scottish Mission Women's Retreat at the Dunblane Ecumenical Centre.

There was much excitement as the women gathered from various parts of Scotland – and some parts of England. Judith Martin, our Scottish Women's Ministry leader, told us about all the goodies in store for the weekend.

The theme was communication and our title 'In Our Own Words'; which certainly challenged our preconceptions of communication. We were encouraged to listen to one another – no interruptions, lots of eye contact and plenty of 'verbal nods'.

Those who have a hard time verbalising feelings were encouraged to share more. Helen talked about knowing your own woundedness and taking responsibility for your feelings. 'You don't have to justify what you feel,' she said. 'They are *your* feelings. There is no need to explain, validate or ask permission to feel what you feel.'

There was discussion on the difficulties of seeing God as Father – especially in the light of the fact that fathers can have a rather tainted reputation. That can be a barrier to closeness with God for men and women alike.

We ended our wonderful weekend with some tips on how to do our homework for a confrontation. For many women this is a really painful area and one to avoid.

If you have never been to a women's retreat I would encourage you to go to one as soon as possible. The Scottish ones are the best but others will be good too. The spirit of sharing, caring, honesty and friend-

ships formed and strengthened is unbeatable. I would like to thank Helen for being so honest even when it hurts. And Heather Haworth who played chaplain for the weekend and did such an excellent job.

LYNDSA RITTMANN

Cleaning crew

It just happened to be the very hottest of days. August 8 saw a band of volunteers from St Albans church gathering in front of the blue door of a drop-in centre for the homeless. Their purpose was to give a much-needed cleaning to the facilities, literally from ceiling to floor. No nook or cranny, pipe, surface, wall or window escaped the purging. Three hours later the centre was gleaming like a diamond. The positive and grateful response from the workers at the centre, and from visitors who call, has been so very rewarding. We thank the Lord that we could make such a difference in his name.

GILLIAN DE VILLIERS



Jesus is the Answer!

There were balloons, there were puppets, there were thunder flies, just a few spots of rain, and about a hundred people who enjoyed an afternoon of praise, worship and fun in Wyndham Park, Grantham on Saturday 10 July.

This was a first for the organisers, the Grantham Adventist church. The theme of the afternoon was 'Jesus is the Answer!' and 500 balloons bearing the event logo and the church website were given away, along with *LIFE.info* magazines and cards advertising the Discover correspondence courses.

It had been a wet week and we had concerns about whether the event could go ahead, but we were very blessed and enjoyed a mainly dry afternoon. As a result of the previous wet weather, the park was not as busy as we would have liked, but it was wonderful to see the church uniting and supporting the programme wholeheartedly. We were joined by some families and a group of teenage boys for the majority of the programme and we pray that the afternoon helped them to understand a little more about Jesus.

ANDY JOHNSON



To smack or not to smack

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

July 2004 saw a change to the Children Bill, outlawing smacking in England and Wales if it causes harm to a child. Parents could now be prosecuted if smacking causes the following:

- Bruising
- Scratches
- Reddening of the skin
- Mental harm
- or if an implement is used to hit the child

When this decision was reached, I had visions of a well-meaning Adventist standing in court, Bible in hand quoting the text: 'Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.' (Proverbs 22:15, NKJV.) The raging debates leading up to this announcement made many parents as well as Ministers concerned that this new law could lead to the criminalising of parents trying to undertake their right to discipline their children.

Peers have, therefore, rejected calls for a complete ban on the smacking of children. Ministers feared an outright ban would lead to a flood of prosecutions over minor offences. A compromise was tabled by Lord Lester which was approved by 226 votes to 91. This allows for 'moderate' smacking without the above stated effects.

The Bill puts into effect recommendations from the inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, who died after repeated abuse.

Political framework

Under a definition of 'reasonable chastisement', dating back to 1860, parents can currently use a degree of force to discipline their children. Under Lord Lester's Amendment, this defence for smacking is challenged as any parent inflicting actual bodily harm will not have this protection and will now face prosecution.

Corporal punishment was banned in independent schools in 1999, twelve years after it was outlawed in state schools.

Based on this amendment, a number of Christian independent schools have asked the high court for the right to smack pupils based on the biblical grounds the 'the rod of correction imparts wisdom'.

Since the outlawing of corporal

punishment in schools, a number of head teachers have stated that standards have plummeted and this is reflected in the level of violence in the classroom.

Biblical standpoint

Is there a biblical directive on smacking?

Proverbs 23:13, 14 states: 'Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.'

Incidentally I used this particular text last year in an AY programme as a point of debate on Christian discipline during one of our Family Life programmes. Needless to say, there were lively debates on both sides of the argument. However, the majority felt that physical punishment was acceptable and Bible-based, therefore it needed to be undertaken.

Well, whatever your views, your liberty is about to be challenged. What you do in your own home or in public will now be under the microscope. In fact it could make headline news: Adventists jailed for hitting their child. How does that sound?

Christians are deemed as law-abiding citizens. However, I'd like to voice a question. Would you disobey the law if you felt it conflicted with your Christian principles?

A number of Adventists I spoke to recently stated that they would argue for the right to smack their child.

Social acceptance

In England alone, about 80 children die from physical abuse each year.

Statistics like these have driven the government to make changes to the Children Bill.

Describing the torture and murder of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié, chairman of the Commons health select committee, David Hinchliffe sited the tragedy as an escalation of discipline and punishment which had started with little slaps.

However, on the other side of the debate, there are concerns that changing the law would cause uproar as it could be deemed an interference in family life. Shadow health secretary Liam Fox argues: 'Outlawing smacking would be an outrageous intrusion by the state

It has become apparent that political and social issues will begin to impact our lives as Christians to a greater degree with the ensuing years. It is important to have a platform from which to table a discussion on such issues that will affect our religious liberty.

Elsewhere Sharon Platt-McDonald has written about The Gender Recognition Bill and its impact on the Church. A number of positive debates, responses and actions have ensued as a result.



into parents' legitimate rights and duties.' He further goes on to state: 'There's a whole lot of difference between the form of discipline most parents use and the premeditated and persistent cruelty which has come to light in cases such as that of Victoria Climbié. It is preposterous and deeply insulting to draw such parallels.' Did I hear a cheer from the Adventist balcony?

Although varied research around discipline has revealed a polarisation of views (those who advocate a complete ban and those whose feel smacking is always necessary), the overwhelming evidence is that most parents favour the occasional smack.

Parental perspective

Do children respond better to a closely reasoned argument or physical punishment? Or is it sometimes a combination of both?

Most parents will tell you that they have eventually discovered that in the majority of cases they sometimes need to execute different methods of punishment to their children. Parents have testified that smacking may work for one child and not for another. That is, if they try to enforce obedience by physical punishment, one child may respond by becoming less naughty or omitting the bad behaviour while another sibling may continue in the same vein as before or even become worse.

What does 'spare the rod' mean? It has been argued that the 'rod' can be a form of discipline be it verbal, a system or process for directing and enforcing behaviour, or an implement like a slipper or strap or other tools.

As a child growing up who experienced the 'rod' in its literal sense, I was left with the impression that smacking was the most effective way to discipline a child. When administering the 'necessary'

remedy my parents would quote from Proverbs and that would seal any protest my siblings and I had on the subject.

However, as years progressed and I undertook various studies around child development and parenting, I realised that my earlier perceptions were challenged. In fact my work as a health visitor for almost eight years working with parents and children helped to broaden my outlook on the issue of discipline.

I have found that a more lax approach to discipline, where a child has no boundaries, is detrimental to the development of the child and his or her ability to develop sound moral judgements and to respect authority.

So, is there a blueprint – to smack or not to smack?

Proverbs 29:15 states: 'The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.' (NKJV.)

The use of the word 'and' denotes that both approaches may be necessary.

E.G.White adds a further dimension to this: 'Whipping, may be necessary when other resorts fail, yet she should not use the rod if it is possible to do so.' (*Child Guidance*, page 250.)

This would suggest that the *first* option is to counsel with the child.

Impact on children

When I was old enough to answer my parents back safely (after I'd left home), reminiscing on the 'beatings', I would remind them of the text in Ephesians 6:2-4. I told them I felt we have done a lot of the 'honouring' our parents. However I was pleased to add 'Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath.' We were able to have a healthy debate on how much discipline was necessary and the forms it should take.

Although our discipline was very strict, my siblings and I can look back now and realise that our parents meant us well.

I must add, however, that too

Baptism after Alpha Course

Last November the Leamington Spa Mission ran their first Alpha Course, and among the newcomers attending the course was Emma Bright, a student

much discipline can be detrimental and have adverse effects, as recent research has concluded.

Colossians 3:21 adds a further dimension: 'lest they become discouraged'.

Even more to the point is this quote from E.G.White: 'Never give your child a passionate blow, unless you want him to learn to fight and quarrel.' (*Child Guidance*, page 251.)

Concluding arguments

Against the backdrop of a culture where the political voice seeks to dominate one's personal conscience and invade the boundaries of religious beliefs, we need to pray for a spirit of discernment in order to respond appropriately to issues which may affect our liberties.

While seeking to draw conclusions on this matter of discipline, we need to be careful not to patronise parents by suggesting that they can't tell the difference between smacking and child abuse.

What is needed is more support for parents in their parenting role and the recognition that with the best will in the world even Christian parents may not have all the answers.

The Church provides a good supportive network where godly counsel, prayers, the solidarity of friendships and a caring environment can foster a healthy outlet for parents seeking help with childrearing. Our local Church Family Life departments need more fully to take on board the wealth of resources and support that is available.

As we pursue the discipline of our children, be it in the home, church or school, may we be mindful of the following quote from the twenty-seven fundamentals: 'Discipline implies far more than punishment. Punishment usually deals with the past whereas discipline looks to the future. Discipline is a disciplining process in which a young one is apprenticed to the parent for training, guidance, and example. It means teaching important principles.'

(*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, page 306.)



from Warwick University. Emma's main motivation for attending was to learn more about the Bible and Christianity in general. Many of her friends were more acquainted with Christianity than she was, so the Alpha Course seemed the ideal opportunity to find out more and answer her questions. After the ten-week course ended Emma continued to attend church and has become a friendly face and much-valued member of the worship band.

On 3 July Emma took a public stand in the presence of her family and new-found friends, and was baptised by Pastor Rudika Puskas.

BRENDA-LOUISE PRETORIUS

Maternity leave

We are now awaiting an addition to the church family. Pastor Douglas is on maternity leave. We wish her a safe delivery and a healthy baby.

Pastor Adrian Broome will be caring for the Walsall, Tamworth and Cannock churches in her absence.

MAGNORA V. LAWRENCE

In times of uncertainty

Night after night evangelist Pastor Ian Sweeney powerfully presented the Word of God at the Walsall, Tamworth and Cannock District campaign. His theme: 'Hope in Times of Uncertainty!' It lasted from 1 to 29 May, on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Hearts were convicted by the Holy Spirit as he presented sermons ranging from, 'Don't be a fool!' and 'Excuses! Excuses!' to 'Do I know you?' All were Christ-centred messages that stirred the hearts irrespective of age, gender or nationality.

The district united, striving towards the common goal of seeking to fulfil the great commission of Christ. Night after night, children from the Walsall youth club faithfully attended the meetings. Others from the community came. Some were drunk, but it was amazing to see how God kept drawing them back time and time again. These contacts are currently being followed up. God has enabled us to build on the work

conducted by LETS in 2002.

On 31 May two precious souls were baptised into the membership of the Tamworth church. This was followed by a baptism on 3 July, once again conducted by Pastor Ian Sweeney, when one precious soul was baptised into the membership of the Cannock church, their first baptism in eighteen years. Both occasions were the cause of much rejoicing. Another baptism is being planned for three individuals who have requested baptism into the Walsall church; and a fourth, a member of the Walsall youth club, is receiving Bible studies after expressing a desire to be baptised. Praise God for his continued guidance and rich blessings.

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS

Hurricane cuts short visit

While the tumult and raging of Hurricane Ivan lashed the island of Jamaica on Friday night 10 September, Dr Patrick Allen, West Indies Union president, was able to start a two-week revival outreach – 'Victory in Jesus' – campaign at Wednesfield church, Wolverhampton, but his visit was cut short as he had to return to the island early the following week.

West Indies Union takes in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas, Cayman Islands and Jamaica. With the responsibility for 223,000 members and over 600 churches and companies, his anxiety to return was great. The hurricane struck Jamaica around 6.30pm on Friday and continued its battering through the night and into Sabbath. Dr Allen was able to speak to his wife and other church officers who updated him on the situation on the island. On Sunday 12 September, Hurricane Ivan engulfed the Cayman Islands.

Dr Allen reported that in August they had a wonderful time celebrating the Festival of Laity, in which they reported 9,000 people baptised since January in the Union. Over 11,000 attended the Festival.

Dr Allen added that before the Festival of Laity they were informed of the threat of Hurricane Charley. It passed, but touched the south of St Elizabeth, a farming area, before continuing on to wreak havoc in Florida. Then came Hurricane Frances, hitting the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. Then on Friday 10 September 'Ivan the Terrible', a Category 5, hit Jamaica, the largest island of the territories, with the eye of the storm passing south of the island. Within four weeks the entire Union was hit.

The Prime Minister of Jamaica, P. J. Patterson, declared a State of Emergency. As dawn broke a true picture of the devastation was revealed. The island of Grenada was first hit severely by Ivan on the Thursday.

Dr Allen's topic for his first presentation was 'Signs You Can't Ignore' (Matthew 24:2-24 and Luke 21:20-28), a timely message in the wake of all the things happening in the world at present, including the hurricanes, 'the sea and waves roaring' (verse 25). He spoke about the poisonous chemicals in the air, unsafe water, atomic waste, food pollution, and earthquakes in various places.

GRACE MCCOOL

What's the big deal with a vegan meal?

Pastors Francis (NEC president), Puskas, Morgan, Haworth, Sayers, and most of their wives, were present at a special meeting where visiting friends had gathered for an enjoyable vegan meal. So what's the big deal with a vegan meal? The visiting friends were mainly non-Adventist!

Ten people had been attending the Worcester church on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm. On Monday evenings they attended at Raymond Angel's home. Some had actually come from a few doors from the church and most were local people. One of the visitors was sitting at the table when Heather Haworth and I joined her for the delicious food that was brought to us. Her name was Mary, a retired teacher who, passing by the church, saw the attractive programme advertised and was encouraged to come into the church by Raymond Angel. She entered, never to look back! Her health problems were met and solved by Raymond and Judy Wade, an excellent team. There was a gentleman who had been contacted eighteen months previously but had declined to come to the meetings. Now, with his wife, he was enjoying this wonderful evening – eating a vegan meal!

Apparently, so Mary was letting me know enthusiastically at the table, the programme each Thursday evening was along these lines. Firstly, a film or video was shown, followed by a discussion. Secondly, they went into the side room where Judy gave a simple food demonstration. Thirdly, a short Bible study was given by Pastor Puskas (three Bible texts, I believe). This is a simple programme, and it works. Some of the people are now attending the Worcester church.

After the meal Pastor Egerton Francis presented a special gift to all the visitors. The list was impressive and moving as Raymond reported the changes in the lives of those who had come to these meetings.

I believe that the health message presented in so simple and practical a way will be welcomed by many. We need people like Raymond Angel and Judy Wade to make friends in the community.

PASTOR PETER SAYERS

The Essence of Woman symposium

by Julia Smith

The *Essence of Woman* symposium took place 28 May-6 June in Watford and central London, with over 700 people attending throughout the week.

Dressed in black and white, and adorned with red roses, each woman (and a few men) who attended the opening communion service at Stanborough Park church, attested to the beauty of the programme that was made even more special by the high quality music and singing of Louise Clarke and Susan Watt. The deaconesses at Stanborough Park assisted with the planning of the programme and Vivienne Vine, wife of the local minister, gave a special welcome to all. Pastor Michael Hamilton, SEC Ministerial secretary, officiated in the blessing of the bread and wine, and Dr Rosa Banks, a credentialed commissioned minister and ordained elder, delivered the

message on the only Bread that women need in their lives – Jesus the Christ – whose body was broken for our sins.

On 29-31 May the programme continued at Stanborough School. On the Sabbath, Dr Banks's challenge, 'Come, see a Man', was told from the perspective of the woman of Samaria. The women were challenged to redefine their roles and perspectives of themselves – knowing that they can only be truly whole when they meet Jesus and 'drink from *his* well' – not their own.

Our other guest speaker on Sabbath included Dr R. David Muir, Chair of the Black Christian Alliance and prominent member of the Church of God church in South London. Dr Muir gave a most inspiring and thought-provoking presentation, 'Christian commitment and civic responsibility', basing his

presentation on Genesis 2:28, where God pronounced man's dominion over the earth. Other presenters for the day included Julia Smith in her role as Head of Race and Diversity at the Metropolitan Police Authority in London, and Dorma Dias, a local councillor and a potential parliamentary candidate.

A most beautiful meal was served and the 'high' day culminated with excellent music from the Willesden Women's Ministries choir and cultural poetry by Alan Charles. Dr Banks's message, 'God will make a way' focused on faith in God and our far-reaching responsibilities as women in our homes and in society.

A series of presentations and seminars dealing with issues of interest and value to women were presented throughout the weekend. Presenters included Michael Smith, who made a well-researched presentation on 'Education and Black Boys'; Cathy Boldeau, SEC Communication director, on Presentation Skills; and Eve Ricketts, Watford Town church and colleagues from Hertfordshire University, on domestic violence. Presentations were also made on health issues, personal presentation and dress by Pat Joseph, Croydon church, and 'Women and Money' by Edwina Apaw, Fulham church and member of the Women's Ministries Council.

Chiswick church choir, excellently led by Lynda Saunders, carried on in the tradition throughout the week's programme of delivering high quality music and singing throughout the day. They also provided a mini-concert to conclude the programme on Sabbath afternoon.

As a pioneer of Women's Ministries, Dr Banks spoke of her deep confidence in God as she had

witnessed the tremendous effect that the work of her ministry was having on women and men throughout the world. She was deeply impressed by the growth of the ministry in the UK.

Each woman was committed into the service of God and challenged to minister for God in the work that is done through the ministry. Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries director, took part in and fully supported the programme.

Dr Banks was accompanied during her visit by her daughter Kamarla, and by her sister Carla and her husband Jimmy Prince. All took part in the programme through the week. Dr Banks is director of Human Relations and Associate secretary at the North American Division. She was the first female officer and Vice-president at Oakwood College, the first female General Field secretary for the General Conference and in her current role as director of Human Relations. She has written and edited three books and articles in numerous magazines.



Congratulations to Leyan Ham-Ying, who has graduated from University College, London with a BSc. 2:1 (Hons) degree in Anatomy and Developmental Biology with German.
Editor

ABC BOOK SALES

October		
10	Newbold School	10am-2pm
24	SEC Women's Retreat	
31	NEC Women's Retreat	
31	West Midlands	10am-2pm
November		
7	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
28	West Midlands	10am-2pm

Messenger

Volume 109/22 – 8 October 2004
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
 COPY FOR No. 24 – 13 October 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.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 8	6.22	6.34	6.25	6.29	6.42
15	6.07	6.19	6.09	6.12	6.25
22	5.52	6.04	5.53	5.55	6.09
29	5.39	5.51	5.39	5.38	5.53

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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
AIMS day of fellowship	16 October 10am	Newbold College, E. G. White Centre	Guest speakers Drs Kathleen Kuntaraf and Gary Hopkins from the GC and Loma Linda	aims_uk@btopenworld.com Bring and share lunch
'Love Connects' Marriage retreat for couples who want to deepen their spiritual intimacy	12-14 November	Highgate House, Creaton, Northampton	Bernie and Karen Holford, SEC Family Ministries	Tel Janet Guthrie on 01923 232728 or email jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk

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