

How will 'Mind the Gap' benefit your secular friends?

'Mind the Gap' will be broadcast on the Hope Channel 7-18 February 2005. The purpose of this series of ten programmes (level three in the concept of LIFEdevelopment.info) is to build an understanding with your unchurched friends of the basics of Christianity.

Each programme focuses on one main topic and includes street interviews, statements by church members of what the topic means to them, and a music spot. The main segment shows a 'LIFEgroup', hosted by Pastor Dwight Nelson discussing the topic of the programme.

The series will be available on DVD and will be a lasting resource for churches and small groups. The programmes are presented in the following order and the discussion is designed to give answers to such questions as are given under each title below.

FAITH What if people of 'faith' the world over are praying to a Jesus who isn't there; believing in a sentimental myth that is no more real than the Wizard of Oz? Why does God make it so hard to believe in him? Can I really trust him? Not something else I need to exercise!

The programme covers *God – Christian Faith*BIBLE How do I read the Bible? What does it mean for my daily life if I read this ancient book? How can I be sure that it is God's message for me? Can this old book be relevant in the twenty-first century, etc.

The programme covers the *Authority of the Bible*PRAYER Why do people pray? Are they really able
to communicate with a higher being? Is it a one-way
communication or do they receive answers?

The programme covers *Spirituality*

JESUS – WHO? Was Jesus the divine-human Saviour of sinful humanity, or a Jewish sage, a religious genius, a misguided visionary or a magician? The programme covers Jesus – God

JESUS - DEATH & RESURRECTION Why was Jesus

by Alan Hodges

BUC Ldi co-ordinator

punished if he was innocent? Did he really come back to life? What does his resurrection mean to me? Is he still alive today? What is he doing for me?

The programme covers *Victory over sin*JESUS – SECOND COMING Can we believe his promises? How and when will it happen? Why is it important for me? What's he coming back for and what happens afterwards?

The programme covers *Hope for the Future* **HOLY SPIRIT** Is there such a 'thing' as the Holy Spirit? Is it a force or a person? How can I connect with this 'power'?

The programme covers *A Spirit-filled Life* **HUMAN NATURE** What is Satan's strategy? How can we resist it and defend ourselves?

The programme covers *Repentance*

HEALING Was Jesus a magician? Can Jesus really work miracles and heal people? Can physical and spiritual healing be obtained through Christianity? Does he still work miracles today?

The programme covers *Deliverance from sin and the healing process*

FELLOWSHIP Why are there so many 'flavours' of Christianity? I've got my own views; I don't want to be indoctrinated. Why do we need special buildings to be with God? Isn't church just a social club or a 'self-help' group?

The programme covers *The Church* You can order 'Mind the Gap' on DVD, which comes with a Study Guide, by emailing the LIFEdevelopment office at *ask@lifedevelopment.info* or by writing to LIFEdevelopment.info, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.



ABC credit card hotline 01476 539900

LIFEdevelopment.info

ABPA Day of Fellowship

by Audrey Balderstone

The forecast was for rain, but our pravers were answered and Sabbath 11 September was dry and bright when close to ninety ABPA members and friends gathered at the home of David and Audrey Balderstone for their annual Day of Fellowship. Old acquaintances were greeted warmly and new friends were made to feel included as people chatted in a relaxed atmosphere. Parents especially appreciated the opportunity to finish conversations as the children ran off to play with their friends; the Teens found their own table where they could catch up with friends they hadn't seen for some time; and bursts of laughter punctuated the afternoon air at frequent intervals.

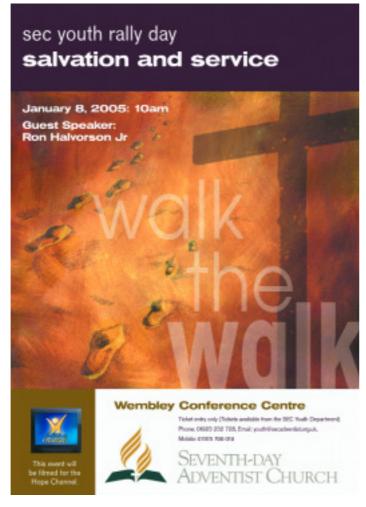
Earlier the group had gathered for the worship service at Stanborough Park church and a number of members took part in the service. In explaining to the congregation what ABPA stands for, Brian Davison, the vice-president, ventured to say that the Adventist Business and Professionals' Association is one of the best kept secrets in the Adventist Church. The Association comes of age in November, for it is 21 years since the ASI concept from North America was first introduced to Britain by the then president of the BUC Harold Calkins, and John Arthur, the secretary. (The British

group subsequently changed its name to ABPA.) Although it is primarily a fellowship group which encourages its members to witness in their business and professional lives, the Association does sponsor one project each year and its members are very involved in their local churches.

ABPA chaplain John Ferguson

took as his theme for worship the

twenty-third Psalm. It was, he said, a psalm of provision, comfort and promise. We shall not be in want; God will be with us through the valley experiences; and we will dwell with him forever. Alluding to the anniversary of 11 September, and to the awful atrocities of the week before in Russia, Pastor Ferguson confessed that he had no answers. He could, however, attest to the goodness and mercy of God and the certainty that one day he will right all wrongs. Pastor Ferguson caught the attention of the young people with his knowledge of popular songs and groups, but he urged them not to heed the lyrics which say we are alone in this world. 'We are not alone,' he said. 'We have God with us at all times and in every situation.' Full of positive encouragement, the sermon was especially pertinent to a number of those in the congregation who are going through their own valley experiences. Having read



and sung the twenty-third Psalm in modern versions, the congregation did full justice to the familiar and well-loved tune, 'Crimmond'.

The next meeting of ABPA will be a weekend in November at the

Staverton Park Conference Centre in Daventry. If you are in business or a profession and would like to know more about ABPA, please contact the Secretary, John Arthur JohnArthur4@compuserve.com.

Healthwise

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

'Eyes right' is a form of salute in the armed forces when a squad passes an officer and smartly, on command, turn their heads in his or her direction. However, eyes right could just as easily be a catchword to remind drivers of

Sight-testing is particularly important for drivers aged over 45. A new campaign is being launched aimed at motorists in that age range, not so much to identify people with either far- or short-sight but to catch eye disease before it becomes a problem. Special laminated cards are being produced for schools, since the earlier eye disease face the sight chart. He promptly is diagnosed the better the hope of complete recovery.

Arts are co-operating in the campaign by designing eye-catching (pun intended!) materials which will help to bring home the message to the driving public. One such sign depicts a series of car numbers – appropriate to the target group – which may well do the trick. See how you manage with the following: [5TOP] [H1DD3N] [3Y3] [D153A53] [TAK3] [AN] [3Y3] [T35T]

This is not, of course, a diagnostic tool but a reminder that eye-testing is important! Some years ago when conducting a medical for employment in the dockyard, I asked a man to cover one of his eyes and

turned right and peered sideways out of the corner of his left eye. Apparently it was the only way that he could see ahead!

that is worrying the investigators. of these drugs on motoring ability. conditions such as myopia.

to have minute jewellery embedded in the eyeball. Star and heart-shaped pieces of platinum about a millimetre in size are now adding 'sparkle in your eye' in fashionable quarters.

Since they serve no medical purpose, the operation was not trialed in any way to determine safety. This kind of cosmetic application, rather like body-piercing, does not fall into a regulatory framework so it is not known if there are longterm side-effects.

One cannot help but think that the sparkle in the eye should come the windows of the soul. So [3Y3S] [816H7] then, and salute the Creator of the

with David Marshall

'Making conservative assump-

100.000 excess deaths or more

have happened [to civilians in

Iraq] since the 2003 invasion.

University, Baltimore, cited in *The Lancet*, 29

'At some point, the slaughter of

civilians in the name of peace

has got to become a crime of

ference but criminality '

Cited The Independent, 29 October 2004.

war. This is not a matter of indif-

School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins

tions, we think that about

HIS country needs you

colour cartoon of George 'Dubya' Bush (dressed up as Uncle Sam) with finger pointing (as in the famous recruitment poster) together with the headline: HIS COUNTRY NEEDS YOU. The story was of the American request for British military backup for their onslaught on Fallujah and the British defence secretary's parliamentary response that 'we would have failed in our play along.

The front page of the *Daily Mirror* arrested me when it was

held up on Breakfast TV on 19 October. It featured a large

duty as any ally' if we didn't

I shuddered, and remembered. .

In the winter of 2002-2003, when an invasion of Iraq began to appear inevitable, an assortment of retired statesmen from across the political spectrum urged caution. Those whose words I can remember include Dennis Healy, Edward Heath.

Tony Benn and John Major. Each used variations on the same metaphor. During their years in office they had come to view the Middle East as a 'pressure cooker' in which explosion was prevented only by various inappropriate regimes 'keeping the lid on'. They urged the younger generation of men currently in government, here and in the USA, against military interference in Iraq. Should that interference take place, they argued, 'the lid would be off' and the resultant explosion would liberate forces such as Sunni nationalism, thus destabilising the whole region, and making Iraq a battleground in which Al Qaeda would appear as the obvious focus for local loyalty. Interference in Iraq would also, argued the old-timers, remove attention from the real 'War on Terrorism' with which the Saddam regime was unconnected.

The current generation of politicians, of course, looked patronisingly upon the statesmen of yesteryear and assured the public that they knew best. 'Intelligence sources', they affirmed, had proved to them that Saddam * had Weapons Of Mass Destruction; and * had connections with Al Qaeda.

The same politicians, of course, have now admitted that 'intelligence' was mistaken. Ever since the Americans announced their victory in Iraq the country has increasingly come to look like the setting for some premature Armageddon. We are invited to console ourselves with the thought that Saddam has been removed and that Irag is being 'made safe for democracy', . . . an argument that seems harder to believe with each passing day.

The elder statesmen had it right, and those ignorant of history are condemned once more to re-enact it as we are to observe it. The post-Saddam world looks scarier than the world that included Saddam. Am I arguing that Saddam should have been left in situ? Would you argue that the more gung-ho Western leaders should use their armies and armoury to police the globe until it is covered by US-friendly regimes? Is that possible – or desirable? Or are we only concerned, perhaps, with the oil-rich regions? If so, why?

Increasingly I feel uncomfortable with Adventists who give uncritical support to one or other political leader, interest or party. I do think we should know better, more especially when there is the heady mix of right-wing politics and Christian fundamentalism driving the American president that in the past has come within our definition of 'the image to the beast'.

I do not advocate total cynicism with regard to politics and politicians. Such cynicism breeds apathy and that, in turn, breeds the extremist groups that breathe death to

democracy and life to terrorism. However, I urge you never to suspend your critical faculties; above all not in regard to politicians preaching war. Use those critical faculties to guestion, not just the justice of the war, but the justice of every act in the war.

Each of us operates from mixed motives. Politicians do, too. We must place the motivations of politicians under a microscope. After the Suez involvement of 1956, British governments shied away from war. Even when liberal US governments in the 1960s made war against Communism in Vietnam, British governments did not move from the sidelines. Then came the Falklands and 'the Falklands Factor' in the early 80s – and suddenly foreign adventures began to look electorally attractive. The collapse of Communism in the late 80s (the major development in the past half-century and it was not brought about by warfare) propelled the USA into single super-power status. The old Balance of Power mechanism ceased to operate. An intelligent use of restraining influence by its friends became the only viable check on that single super-power.

In a single super-power world * so much depends on the calibre of leadership of that super-power; * and so much on the ability of its friends to restrain its excesses.

The 1914 poster on which the *Daily Mirror* front page was based read: YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU. It was the single most successful piece of advertising in history. But it did not work with Adventists! Many were prepared to do time in Wormwood Scrubs, even Dartmoor, rather than be unfaithful to God. In the second world conflict. British Adventists stayed out of Wormwood Scrubs but served their country's cause, in the main, in peaceful pursuits. Again their prior loyalty was to One with nail-scarred hands and feet who had won the battle that made possible their salvation. Never suspend your critical faculties for any leader in whose mixed motivation may well be the thought of war as electorally advantageous. We have a prior loyalty. To the Prince of Peace.

The Psalmist said, 'Don't put your confidence in powerful people; There is no help for you there.' Psalm

The God of Psalm 146 is, above all, a God of justice for the oppressed, the hungry, the prisoners, the blind, the bowed down, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow (verses 7-9). 1'Dismiss every other name,' the Psalmist is saying: 'The Lord, not Baal; the Lord, not Saddam Hussein; [the Lord, not George W. Bush or Tony Blair]; the Lord, not church organisation; the Lord, not my favourite political persuasion.'2 Listen to Spurgeon on Psalm 146:3: 'Men are always far too apt to depend upon the great ones of earth, and forget the Great One above; and this habit is the fruitful source of disappointment. . . . [Political leaders] are in greater danger, are burdened with greater cares, and are more likely to be misled than other men; therefore, it is folly to select them for our obedience. . . So live as to deserve their trust, but do not burden them with vour trust." Certainly not with unqualified trust. That belongs to the Lord alone.

Let's leave the final word with the Psalmist: 'It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in people. It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in princes. Psalm 118:8, 9, NLT.

To a world in which there is very little princely power, what do you think God's Word is saying here?

Donald Coggan, The People's Bible Commentary: Psalm 73-150 (The Bible Reading Fellowship, 1999), pages 174-175. Michael Wilcock, The Message of Psalm 73-150 (IVP, 2001), page 277. 3C. H. Spurgeon, The Treasury of David, vol 4 (Evangelical Press, 1978), page 380, Our italics.

Eyes Right!

their need to take regular eye tests.

vehicle test centres, and even for

Students at the Royal College of

It is not only eye disease as such They are concerned about the effects of prescribed medications on normal eyesight, and the timing and dosage Drugs aside, the research shows that lifestyle and not genes have a bigger role to play in the development of eye

A new craze in the Netherlands is

from within, given that the eyes are windows!

Laurence Turner on Church views of Earth's origins by Helen Pearson and Timothy Puko

'The Seventh-day Adventist Church may need to define itself more accurately as it attempts to re-evaluate its traditional creationist heritage. Newbold College lecturer Dr Laurence Turner said at a seminar at the college on 28 September.

'It goes without saying that Adventists are creationists. At least that was the case until recently, when a number of dissenting voices were raised,' Dr Turner said to an audience of Newbold students, staff and Adventist professionals in the first of this year's seminars organised by the college's Centre for the Study of Religious and Cultural Diversity.

In his lecture. Dr Turner outlined the arguments and conclusions from two conferences he attended in the United States held by the Church's governing body, the first in 2002 and the second this August, to evaluate the Church's stance on the origins of life on Earth. Dr Turner was one of 135 Adventist leaders at the International Faith and Science Conferences 2002-4, including theologians and scientists, who presented reports exploring the controversies surrounding Genesis, science and church policy.

He summarised the areas where there was both agreement and disagreement between various parties within the church such as: epistemology (the science of knowledge), interpretation of scripture, interpretation of biblical evidence, and interpretation of Ellen White's writings. Dr Turner says that a discussion of these issues will give the Adventist community the opportunity to look once again at its identity as a church. 'We need to understand

what the church is before we can pontificate about the amount of diversity that can exist within it.' he said. 'Then we shall be able to assess more effectively the various challenges to traditional Adventist opinions.

To conclude his lecture, Dr Turner reported and commented on the Affirmation of Creation, a series of affirmations and recommendations which the conference produced. 'We affirm the historic Seventh-day Adventist understanding of Genesis 1, that life on earth was created in six literal days and is of recent origin,' the second affirmation says. Other affirmations emphasise the



wbold College theology lecurer Laurence Turner, author of Back to the Present, a book on ne relevance of Genesis chapte one to eleven for the 21st centur

Scripture' and a literal understanding of Genesis.

Further, the document's recommendations include.

among other things, an attempt to make Fundamental Belief No. 6, the church's official statement on creation, more specific and streamlined, and to give the doctrine of creation a higher priority in Adventist preaching.

'Discussing significant matters for church life is part of the Adventist heritage,' said Dr Turner, 'It is part of what it means to be faithful to present truth.

amplifying them. A small group of enthusiastic members prepared the church and prayed that it might be successful.

The writer was amazed at the ingenuity of the flower arrangers. They did not try just to do a pretty arrangement but to make it a floral illustration of the theme. Even a fifty-year-old bonsai tree was used with great effect.

In the church hall, refreshments were served so that the members could mingle with the visitors. Computer expert Steve Logan joined forces with Pastor Llewellyn Edwards to produce visual displays of the church's work through videos, power point and computer pro-

And then there

were three!

They say things come

in threes! For Ilford

church this proved a

reality. Initially, on the

morning of 3 July we

church for the single

Austin, a young man who, through

family members, including SEC

treasurer Earl Ramharacksingh,

determined to give his life to God.

the conviction and dedication of his

had prepared the

baptism of David

grammes. Literature, including the FOCUS special on Celtic Christianity, was also given away.

After all the work, the church members wondered who would come to the flower festival service and view the displays. We were thrilled when almost two hundred visitors came over the weekend, and at the same time gave over £560 to ADRA and Rachael House Children's Hospice. Comments in the visitors' book, such as, 'The best one yet', 'Wonderful portrayal of Christian beliefs', 'Wonderful welcome and friendship', made heartening reading. Many chats about our faith and beliefs were had with those on duty. Everyone felt that all the effort was

worthwhile because it helped to share the church's beliefs. ROR RODD

Best in Southall

Saturday 24 July was Music Day in Southall church, and the entire day focused on praise and worship. The Sabbath school lesson was supplemented with various scripture readings and musical renditions, with the morning being divided into sections based on music. The areas covered were: The Reason why we Sing; Joy and Peace; Jesus the Healer; Jesus the Lover; Jesus the Giver.

The visiting speaker was Tony Best from Muswell Hill church, and his presentation was entitled 'Why

Praise?' He expanded on the proper use of appropriate music in the different sectors of Sabbath celebration, Sabbath school, divine hour and AYS. He stressed the importance of music in worship and that God must get the best. He demonstrated that this could only be achieved if practice was done continuously.

The afternoon took the form of a mini-concert featuring artistes Hearts in Harmony, Joel Noel, Nancy, Nombeullo, Michael Morris, Tilroy Joseph, Ullanda Alexander, Adam Thomas, Niyasha Chengeta, Sinita, Nichelle and Jasnicth and the Boldeau family and the Zimbabwe Group.

CLAUDE ALEXANDER

Discovering Music: Ken on Radio 3

The programme on BBC Radio 3 on 16 October in the 'Discovering Music' series gave 200 people, very unlikely people, the chance to hear themselves sing on the air. The programme was called 'Gospel Roots' and had been recorded the previous Saturday evening at Stanborough Park church. As well as our 200 wannabes it featured Ken Burton and the London Adventist Chorale.

Discovering Music's presenter Stephen Johnson questioned Ken Burton on the origins of Gospel music and its relationship to spirituals, European hymns, blues and jazz.

Ken defined 'Gospel' as any musical style which tells the good news. He said it grew from the folk songs of Africa, where every life experience was sung about. Spirituals followed on from that, showing the melancholy of the slaves who had lost their freedom, were often treated harshly by hypocritical owners and who were often separated from their families too. The spirituals contained traces of contemporary hymns, and coded messages for those who wanted to escape. They also contained phrases like 'must have that true religion' showing how the slaves viewed their owners' version of Christianity. After they gained their freedom, the singers sang 'Gospel' a happier version of their former music. Gospel music sometimes includes traces of ragtime. Ken Burton's answers were illustrated by five songs sung by the 19-strong Chorale. He also touched on the relationship between the spirituals and country and city blues and jazz.

To show how the 'Call and Response' type of

spiritual worked, Ken Burton and his fellow conductor, Tina Brooks, sang the call part of 'Wade in the Water' and our eager 200 sang the response part as an impromptu choir made up of sopranos, altos, tenors, basses and don't-knows. When drums were banned from the plantations, the slaves who

could not sing





slapped their thighs or stamped their feet to the music. Our 200 were encouraged to do that too.

After the six songs, the programme's producer got Stephen Johnson and Ken Burton to start at the beginning again, the end of the programme was repeated, short selections were repeated, and finally the choir repeated the last piece 'Jesus is a Rock', to the delight of the audience. Altogether it was great fun and we learned a lot. We didn't sound too bad on the radio BRONWEN ATKINSON

Race for Life

On 4 July approximately 8,000 women took to Cheltenham Racecourse in the Race for Life. Who better to join the women than our own Health a Temperance leader Deborah Smith? Deborah ran 5km in an impressive 34 minutes, and managed to raise £180 for Cancer Research UK. Well done! GLOUCESTER COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Crieff Flower Festival

Crieff church recently held their tenth annual flower festival, but this was really one with a difference. The church has been discussing ways in which it can witness in an increasingly secular world. Over the years the annual flower festival has certainly broken down much prejudice and become quite an event in Crieff.

This year, organisers Dorothy Logan and Moyra Rodd felt it should have a real 'outreach' flavour. They decided the theme would be 'We believe' and so the thirty-one beautifully imaginative displays illustrated the main beliefs of Christianity and the special beliefs of the Adventist Church. Each of the displays had a precise text and the visitors were also given a specially-prepared booklet further

new friends, and new circumstances.' As the candidates were immersed by our resident pastor, Nigel David, Snr, family and friends offered words of encouragement and

Imagine our surprise when the church board was called to an emergency meeting immediately after divine service that Sabbath to meet little Thamusanga (akaTom) Mbano, a 9-year-old boy who boldly told the church leaders that he desired baptism because he wanted to follow Jesus' example. After speaking to Tom about his decision, we were convinced, such was his focus, that this was right thing for him. As his mother Paula later said, 'I am amazed at his commitment. He is an inspiration to me.

To add to this, another young man requested to be joined in membership on profession of his faith. Leroy Williams was no stranger to our congregation as he had attended church on many occasions with his fiancée, lending his musical talents to enhance our worship services.

That afternoon our visiting speaker, Pastor David Rogers from Toronto, Canada, and the former Secretary for the Bermuda Conference, challenged the candidates to confront their fears, taking Christianity 'one day at a time'; 'Putting God first means a new life, spiritual advice.

Both David and his fiancée Beate Gerreshein, and Leroy and his fiancée Natalie Smith were married on Sunday 29 August 2004 at the Stanborough Park and Wood Green churches respectively. We wish them all a future filled with happiness and God's richest blessings. DEBBI HUSBANDS

Russia comes to Newbold School

Newbold School is famous for having many children from different countries. In my class, Gregory is from Russia, Crystal is from Denmark. Gabriel and Hannah are from Ghana. Samuel is from Croatia, Miss Ainsworth is from Australia, and even I come from Scotland, England, Wales and America!

Every year we celebrate a different country. This year we celebrated Russia. We all dressed up as different Russian people. My brother and I dressed up as Cossacks. My mum did a talk about Russian cosmonauts as well as all different Russian crafts (like Russian dolls –

some painted like animals) and facts about Russia and about famous Russians. We really liked the Russian national anthem and Tetris (a computer game with falling blocks) which was invented by a Russian. Gregory and I learned that there is a railway track from Moscow all the way to China. In the school hall we listened to a story about a wishing fish and some Russian people and learned a dance called Kalinka. We got to decorate eggs and they were very colourful. At the animal stand we did a quiz and I found all of the animals in a very short time. Grandfather Frost and the

At the end, we all went into the school hall and we saw the Russian ladies dance. When they went into pairs, one of them grabbed Mr Brooks (our head teacher) and he danced with them. He was very good. We all clapped along to the music. The ladies also sang and a man sang about Grandfather Frost and dedicated the song to Pastor Jorgenson (our Grandfather Frost).

Snow Maiden were there and we had

real (foam) snow. We tasted Russian

food and the borsht was delicious. I

liked the fruit-filled blinis too.

When my class went back into our classroom, we all put stickers on

our eggs because we hadn't finished them. All of us children said thank you to Mrs Wallace, Mrs Martkachouk, mummy and all of the other mummies and daddies who DANIEL HANNA, aged 7

5 baptised in Oxford

Oxford and Aylesbury churches witnessed the baptism of five ambassadors for Christ on Sabbath 4 September. We were blessed with beautiful weather and possibly the largest congregation ever in Oxford. Seating spilled out into the fover and upstairs in the youth hall where visitors could take part in the celebrations via video link. The candidates from Oxford were Shane Massey, Hanneke DeWet, Ruth Massey and Evan Kamali, and from Aylesbury, Rose Odhiambo.

As well as baptising the candidates, Pastor David Spearing, minister for Oxford and Aylesbury, also presented an inspiring sermon. He encouraged the candidates and reminded the congregation of their ambassadorial responsibility as Christians. He spoke of the need for total dependence on Christ and the recognition of God's awesome powers to forgive and to save. SOPHIA NICHOLLS



Sixty fascinating years

by April Dunnett

John and Mabel Dunnett celebrated their 9th of August Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 8th, with a Tea Party at Newbold for college mates, old friends and family. Fifty of the eighty invited were able to come, including surprise guests Dr Simone Schmutzler, who flew over from the Netherlands and Drs. Merlene Ogden and Cheryl Jetter from America, who rescheduled their European tour to attend. One very important lady who could not come in person, sent a telegram with a beautiful portrait of herself on the front. Mabel thought it was a joke until she opened it - and exclaimed, 'It is from the Oueen!' The warmth of the day could not beat the warmth found among true friends.

On the 9th all was quiet on the home front, but on the 10th it was all-day food and festivity, as secretly-invited neighbours, new friends and local church friends, including the Anglican rector and his wife, John and Meg Tyler, dropped in at intervals, until finally Mabel realised it was not just a series of coincidences! A very pleasant day, mainly spent on garden chairs in the welcome shade of the willow tree. Special guest was nephew Richard Cooper, over from California.

The Bridgwater Mercury reporter wanted to know: How did this marriage come about? Douglas John Dunnett came into the Adventist church in 1939 as a schoolboy, along with his widowed mother; very soon he was urged to study for the ministry at Newbold College, then sited at Newbold Revel in Warwickshire. The Howlett family had joined the Adventist church some years earlier in Suffolk, but moved en famille to Leicestershire in search of work. Three of the girls, Peg. Mabel and Rhona, saved hard from their factory wages, and, helped by their family, registered for Bible Instructor courses. They adored college, and sang together as a

In their final years of study, 1942 and 43 respectively. Mabel and John became interested in one another and were able to know each other better through kitchen and waitering work, and through jointly running children's Sabbath school (socialising was otherwise forbidden), and after Mabel graduated they continued by correspondence.

No ministerial intern could marry for two years until he had proved his stability at work, and ability to support a wife and family. John helped in campaigns at Worthing and Brighton; once being obliged by the late Pastor George Bell to transport large models of the Beasts of Daniel 7 in a fruiterer's barrow (borrowed) for two miles along the seafront from Portslade to Brighton Pavilion, and then two miles back to return the handbarrow.

Meanwhile, Mabel was virtually running two Welsh churches - Aberdare and one in the Rhondda - for Pastor John Lewis. Using public transport, she had to go to one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, open up, light the fire in the boiler, teach Sabbath School and preach, everything twice over, plus other BI duties. She ran herself into the ground, and had to seek less stressful and better paid work in an office.

Mabel and John were married at Earl Shilton Methodist Church by Pastor W. G. C. Murdoch: Mabel, like many other wartime brides re-using her white graduation dress and a borrowed veil; John having to borrow a suit as the one he ordered was not delivered on time and he had no other. They honeymooned briefly at Morecambe in order to visit John's old school, Rossall,

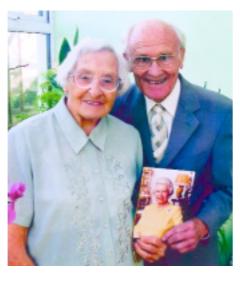
They set up home in a Muswell Hill flat, as John was then assisting Pastor John

Mustard at Holloway and Walthamstow churches after a campaign at Hornsey. During the Blitz, their nearest shelter was a reinforced kitchen table. which they were sometimes invited to share by the people in the flat below. V1 Flying bombs and later V2 rockets were falling all around with much loss of life and damage to buildings. John also took Fire Watch duties. Mabel was expected not to work but to help John, on a salary that increased on their marriage from £4 to £4 ten shillings. It was erroneously believed that 'two could live as cheaply as

Providentially, they were soon called to Newbold College, as John had secured his London University BA - a great achievement and the only academic qualification you needed for college lecturing in those days. The college had been moved first to Packwood when the RAF requisitioned the Newbold Revel site, and then to its present Binfield site. The Dunnetts moved into the end flat of Popeswood Lodge and, in due time, daughters Jonquil and April were born. The children were brought up with wide-ranging interests in the world around, both parents encouraging and sharing in hobbies and pursuits as diverse, in later years, as hockey and quilting, Mabel and John developed a strong family life centred around church, and involving shared activities such as nature walks every Sabbath; outings to famous exhibitions. Royal Geographical Society lectures: exploring village churches, museums and wild Britain: plus camping holidays on the Continent esnecially to Youth Congresses at Zurich and

Most of Mabel and John's married life has been spent at centres of education. John took his MA and Mabel worked in the Library at the Adventist Seminary (forerunner of Andrews University) Washington DC, 1953/4. The family were then called to serve at Caribbean Union College in Trinidad, where John taught, and Mabel homeschooled the children Stanborough School saw John teaching and Mabel working in the office while the girls took their secondary education 1959-68. This period did include two years back in the ministry for John, pastoring Ealing, Wembley and Edgware, and founding the church at Southall.

Recalled to Newbold College in 1968, John was soon enjoying again his proper level, college lecturing, which he pursued, with at last his beloved Ancient History and New Testament Greek, plus Spirit of Prophecy, until retirement in 1984. His Master Guide training deserves special recognition - he successfully prepared 179 young people for Investiture! This involved many hours of his free time spent camping, stargazing, collecting leaves, and orienteering plus much more. He also played an important role in the community on the Binfield Village Protection Society. Mabel became skilled in many aspects of Library work under the direction of her friend and colleague Mabel Throssell. She also cooked dinners for many a hungry and homesick student on Sabbath, and hosted many a Staff at Home when scores of students would dron in for light refreshments and a taste of home life. Not to be forgotten is that she and many other pastor/teacher wives also continued to run efficient and comfortable homes



with all that involves. She somehow found time to turn a derelict area into a back garden full of roses and lilies, with a productive vegetable garden and mini-orchard behind that.

On retirement, the Dunnetts took over a smallholding in gorgeous Dorset. Soon joined by April, they ran a small business growing laffodils as cut flowers, herb plants and April's arts and crafts which they sold on her streetside market stall. Mabel became a member of the Wessex Embroiderers' Guild and the local Women's Institute. Later they moved to a smaller retirement bungalow near Winchester, where Mabel continued in the WI, and John helped with the Talking Newspaper for the Blind; they both joined the Garden Club and Probus; and held House Groups for the local village combined churches as well as Bible studies for neighbours. When Mabel's health deteriorated they moved to a semismallholding in Somerset so April could move in with them again as carer. At Stolford John rings handbells with Forest Bells and leads out in the Stolford branch of the United Benefice House Groups, besides taking several Adventist preaching appointments a quarter in the area. Mabel still embroiders, beats her daughter at Scrabble, and does light gardening, a lot of reading, DT Cryptic Crosswords and 500-piece iigsaws, besides joining in the house groups and other church activities. Both are involved in the Save Shurton Bars Campaign - a local conservation movement.

The secrets of their long and successful marriage are mutual love and often-expressed appreciation: shared sense of humour and interests (music, gardening, country living); will and ability to work through disagreements with lively discussion and concession; healthful living (now on 10 fruit and veg a day!); and most of all, a deeply-shared Christian faith and hope.

Congratulations to Sandra Rigby-Barrett on attaining her PhD from Reading University in Music Analysis. **FDITOR**

New address for Nottingham Clarendon

Clarendon church services are now held in the Baptist Church, Kendrick Street, Netherfield, Nottingham. From 31 October to 29 March 2005 divine service will be held at 1.30pm followed by Sabbath school at 2.45pm.

WANTED Journey Into Darkness, High on Adventure I, High on Adventure III, by Stephen L. Arrington. Please contact Nici Dickinson, 22 Dudley Road, Grantham, NG31 9AA. 01476 405063.

NEVES-SWAIN. Sunday 11 July was a beautiful sunny day which blessed the marriage of Amy and Samuel. Their story has all the elements of a fairytale. Samuel is from Brazil and while he was attending Stanborough School he met Amy and they became friends. A love affair began, watched with interest by many church members and the pastors, as Samuel went back and forth from England to Brazil. Then Amy and her parents, David and Caroline, went to Brazil. Amy has worked at the South England Conference and Samuel is now studying at Newbold to enter the gospel ministry. The wedding day was filled with happiness with guests from America to Australia. The Swain family have many 'appendages', being connected with the Rhodes family from Southampton. For Samuel's parents, who travelled from Brazil, it was especially happy. Samuel's mother has longed for her son to be a Christian minister and Samuel has given evidence of his call to serve the Lord in this capacity. He has preached several times at Stanborough Park with clarity, conviction and content. Among those who shared in the service were Pastor Don McFarlane, SEC president and his wife Mary, and Earl Ramharacksingh SEC treasurer Pastor Malcolm Taylor was the superb organist, and Dr Gerhard Pfandl read the Scriptures He is a member of the GC Biblical Research Committee author of the SS lessons on Daniel, and Amy's uncle. Paulo Melo, Samuel's best friend from Brazil was best man Amea Koziol was chief bridesmaid. Sara Neves. Samuel's sister, was senior bridesmaid. She recited word perfect from memory a 73-line poem I wish for you by Victor Hugo - no mean accomplishment. The reception took place at The Runnymede Hotel, Egham. Samuel's response to the various speeches was beautiful when he spoke of the Master's wedding feast for the redeemed where he hoped we would all be present. At the conclusion the happy bride and groom, watched by family and friends, literally sailed via the Thames into the sunset to end a perfect day We wish them God's richest blessing and guidance as they continue to serve the Lord in gospel ministry. The writer led out in the

Wedding

PASTOR PATRICK I. BOYLE

'The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and his compulsion is our liberation." C. S. Lewis

Church plant in Wakefield

We have been meeting as a group of Adventists since earlier this year and are now ready for full Sabbath morning worship services, starting 13 November 2004.

The details are as follows: Venue: Lakeside Methodist Church, Barnsley Road (A61). Newmillerdam, Wakefield, (next to the Newmillerdam pay-and-display parking lot, opposite the Fox and Hounds pub).

Time: Sabbath School 10am divine service 11.30am. Enquiries: Sam Farmer:

him up.'

SUBMITTED BY MARK'S FAMILY

Mark's parents, his brothers Paul and Michael

and their families would like to express their

deep gratitude for the many demonstrations of

sympathy and support they have received since

Mark passed to his rest. These have been of great

NORMAN DONALD JOHN SHAW (1921-

2004) d. 6 August. It was with sadness that

members of the Nottingham churches came to-

gether for the funeral of Norman Shaw Norman

Mobile 07966 989513: Home 01924 253355: farmdocsam@hotmail.com.

We are asking folk to spread the word to anyone who lives in the Wakefield area and would like to join a young, energetic baby church right on their doorstep. Visitors are always welcome.

ANDREW MARK BEAMISH (1963-2004) d. was a man of many parts. An avid supporter of 7 September. Mark arrived safely into this Nottinghamshire Cricket Club, he was often to world on 24 July 1963. He was a fine, healthy be seen at Trent Bridge enjoying his day in the child and his parents rejoiced greatly at this sun with his friends Janet and Harold Reeve, and wonderful gift that God had given them. Little he would have been proud of the success of his team this year. Norman went through life being did they know the path that lay ahead for him. and indeed for them, and the difficulties he his own man. As a schoolboy he went to would face or how they should care for him. He Nottingham High Pavement Grammar School was a strange little boy, quite unlike other chilwhere he knew the late Pastor Howard Parkin, dren of his age, who withdrew into his own litand it was no doubt there where he developed tle world and had no speech until he was 5 years his reputation of being a stickler for the correct old. The doctors called this autism, a word aluse of the English language. Pastor Melvyn Ellis most unknown then. How to deal with this said he was often challenged over aspects of how he used the English language in his serstrange phenomenon was a still greater unknown. Teen years were a particularly tempesmons. A very proud, dapper man Norman always took great care of his appearance. As a tuous time, marked by increasingly bizarre behaviour and the onset, at 18, of epileptic young man he went to Newbold College where seizures. These attacks were quite frequent and met his wife Edith. Because of his time at sometimes severe and caused him no little dis-Newbold Norman had many friends both at the tress. It was one such attack that eventually took College and at the BUC, although many of his his life in the early hours of Tuesday contemporaries of those days have now died. As September. Notwithstanding his disability, the a 'Conscientious Objector' in the war Norman difficulties and the distress. Mark exhibited was sent to work with the Forestry Commission many fine qualities as a person. In his twenties although he wanted to spend those years nursand thirties he lived at the Camp Hill Village ing. His training and work for the church in the communities at Rhandirmwyn (Brecons) and South were to reap great benefits for Newnham (Gloucester) He worked first in the Nottingham when he returned for Norman became a dedicated lay preacher. It was in forestry and later in farming. He worked well Nottingham and surrounding areas that he and he worked hard and many were the testimonies to his work. When he came home in the served the Lord with distinction, his years as a last two years of his life, he was a willing helper well-read man becoming immediately obvious when he began to preach. His desire to serve the around the house: neat and orderly in all that he did. Mark loved people and endeared himself to Lord with his natural gift at presentation moved so many who came into his life, especially in his into new but associated areas as he supported later years. He said little but it was important to many evangelistic campaigns, the first being him to have friends and family around him. And when Pastor Bernard Kinman came to he cared about them. So often he would ask Nottingham many years ago. Norman was to go about various people, what they were doing on to run at least one campaign himself. His inand, if someone was unwell, he would be conterest in people was further illustrated in his vocerned to know that they were getting better. He cation as a geriatric nurse at the Nottinghan had a ready smile that you knew was genuine. City Hospital. I personally saw the often hidden There was nothing false. He loved animals too. caring side of Norman's nature when he came to One of the great pleasures in life was to walk the see if he could do anything to help my friend dog. A great favourite was Sally, and he and Sister Shiela Wilkinson, who was then nursing Granddad walked miles with her in all weathers. her dying father at home. The young also bene-He was very fond of her and she very protective fited from Norman's interest in people, appreciof him. Especially impressive was his gentle and ating what his surviving daughter Delia calls skilful handling of the farm animals at 'his rather radical sermons and strong opinions' Newnham. They responded well to his prompt-Norman was an avid lover of music as well as litings and it was such a joy to watch him at work. erature, while his garden was also a priceless joy His love of music and good food are legendary. in his life particularly his roses. His interest in Many a cook was complimented by the way he sport was not always as a spectator as Norman eagerly tucked into a meal, and second helpings represented Nottingham City Hospital in his younger days. In his middle years he moved his were rarely refused. In his leisure time, the music centre was the focus of his attention for membership from Nottingham Central to most of the time. Legendary also are the many Clarendon church. He made an instant impreslittle expressions he would use, often repeated sion, bringing fresh thinking and a different and usually in fun. He loved a gentle tease to style to his new church. A man with a rich herwhich many of us fell 'victim'. The funeral servitage in the church, Norman was the grandson ice was held at the Arnold Methodist Church on of the first Adventist believer and founder mem-24 September and was conducted by Pastors ber of the church in the city. Mrs Jenny Shaw was baptised on 9 March 1915. Towards the end Melvyn Ellis and Peter Sayers. It was a service of thanksgiving and celebration of Mark's life. A of his life he went reluctantly into the Willows residential home and, when it closed, he transfamily tribute was presented by Mark's younger brother Michael, and his 12-year-old niece ferred to the West Lodge nursing home. It was Kirsten, who gave thanks to God for the very while a resident there that he died aged 83 years special kind of person Mark was and for the and 7 months. With his passing go memories of massive impact he had on so many lives. In a fita man full of spirit and exhilarating contrasts. Until he became ill, Norman probably never ting message based on Romans 8:28-39, Pastor Ellis expressed the sure hope that we will see knew a day that did not hold exciting possibili-Mark again when Jesus comes. Indeed, our Lord ties. As the Word of God says, 'Every man's work would have had a special place in his heart for shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare Mark, Mark's family feel privileged to have enit' (1 Corinthians 3-13) For his faith and kind joyed the very special gift that he was and we deeds, Norman can look to that day with hope now eagerly await the time when, in the words and pride. Until then he will be sadly missed. of 3-year-old nephew Rowan, 'Jesus will pick

ALVIN MARSHALL PICART (1924-2004) d. 5 September. Alvin was born on Tuesday 16

December 1924 in Jointwood, St Elisabeth, Jamaica, a few days after Jamaica's fifth and charismatic Prime Minister, the late Michael Manley. The 1920s in Jamaica were difficult, with poor pay and working conditions, and high unemployment due to failing harvests and lay-offs. However, Alvin grew up in a caring and loving family and community. Frank Rhoden, his cousin, the local dispensing chemist, had a profound influence on young Alvin, Frank was also

which was to have a bearing on young Alvin's decision to join the church. He was hardworking ambitious, and adventurous. This led him to the USA on a number of occasions. During one such visit in 1948 he was baptised at West Palm Beach church. Alvin met and fell in love with a pretty young lady, Heilene Thompson, who, like him, was also active in the local church in Jointwood. They were married on 31 August 1951 in Kingston. Alvin used his skills as a professional builder and joiner to build their first house on seven acres of land he had purchased. They were blessed with six children who were born and raised in Jointwood, where they enjoyed the love and care of their extended family and the vibrant Adventist community. In 1961 Alvin left his beloved birthplace for England; this time with his wife Heilene. England in the 1960s was a little difficult for newcomers, but he worked hard and overcame the social conditions to prepare a suitable home to receive his children Devon. Ted. Everett Jeanie Dave and Herman who had remained in Jamaica. In 1964 he realised his ambition and was able to pay for the flights to take Heilene to Jamaica and fly back with their five children to England The family settled in a newly-purchased house in Fallowfield a few minutes away from Manchester South church located on Wilbraham Road, Later, Alvin and Heilene were blessed with two more children. Wayne and Jackie. Alvin distinguished himself as a long-serving senior deacon at Manchester South and he and his wife and their children were active, baptised members, participating in various capacities in the life of an expanding and changing church. He worked for a major building construction company, while Heilene worked as a staff nurse at the local hospital. Both Alvin and Heilene retired to St Ann, Jamaica in September 1998. In 2001 he and his wife, family and friends were saddened by the sudden death of their fifth child. Herman, who died while he was working as a computer consultant for Nokia in Finland. Alvin suffered a stroke in 2003 and after a short while it was judged best by the family for him to return to the UK with his wife. where the rest of the children reside. His condition improved marginally but he was still unable to speak and did not regain movement in his right hand and leg. Although able to recognise everyone and communicate via his eyes and good hand Alvin's condition slowly deteriorated and he was called to rest on 5 September at Manchester Royal infirmary. At a funeral service attended by well over 500 relatives and friends on 20 September, his children gave fine tributes to a father they loved and respected. The Evans family remembered a much-loved uncle, and his nineteen grandchildren provided an insight into their granddad via a pre-recorded film presentation. The eulogy was ably given by one of his three daughters, Dr Jeanie McKerrow, and one of his five sons, Pastor Everett Picart. The president of the British Union Conference, Pastor Cecil Perry, and the president of the North England Conference, Pastor Egerton Francis, together with Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the South England Conference officiated at the service, as well as the resident pastor, Richard Brooks, and Pastor Fred Mapp. The singing groups Golden Chords and Just Men sang songs of hope and comfort. Many pastors were among those who travelled many miles to pay their last respects to a man remembered for his relaxed and easygoing manner, his faith in God and fine character. Alvin was laid to rest at Brooklands cemetery. Sale, in the same grave as Herman, He leaves behind his loving wife Heilene, his daughters Devon, Jeanie and Jackie, and his sons Ted, Everett, Dave and Wayne. He also leaves behind nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and three sisters and a brother. We await the fulfilment of the Blessed Hope.

PATRICK McKERROW (son-in-law)

The family would like to express their sincere

thanks for the kind words and support given to

them by everyone during this sad and difficult

a senior elder at Jointwood Adventist church

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International News

Paulsen meets the Press after Annual Council

Saving that the 20-million-plus Adventist world community is 'a big ship that turns around slowly', world church president Pastor Jan Paulsen told reporters on 14 October that leaders must consider the cross-cultural implications of growth and governance in the movement.

He made his comment after a five-day meeting of the church's executive committee, a session known as Annual Council, and noted that the 2004 council, the last annual gathering before the 2005 world session in St Louis, Missouri, was particularly loaded with administrative items, as well as larger issues. The question of how to reconcile more conservative forms of Christianity found in some nations versus the 'Northern Christianity' of many Western lands, is 'a big issue', he said.

'Even raising the issue is important,' Paulsen added when discussing matters such as the guidelines expressing an Adventist philosophy of music as well as a report affirming the church's traditional view of a literal, six-day, recent creation

Asked to comment on those academics and others who may hold differing views on such subjects, Dr Paulsen said it was important to recognise the common Christian faith among members in the church. Those academics and pastors who disagree with various positions have settings in which to raise and examine their theories, he said, but the classroom, or the pulpit are not proper locations for this.

'When you identify with the ministry of the church, you have to identify with what the church stands for,' Dr Paulsen explained.

Responding to a guestion about Christian-Muslim relations, Dr Paulsen said 'Our relation as Christians needs to be nonconfrontational, non-hostile . . . there has to be an element of respect. Once you

become confrontational and hostile, you draw the worst out of others, including the fanatics among them."

World church leaders affirm historic

World leaders of the 13.6-million member Adventist Church voted to affirm the denomination's historic 'belief in a literal. six-day creation', saying such a view 'is indissolubly linked with the authority of Scripture'.

Responding to 'An Affirmation of Creation' report, presented on 11 October, delegates voted to 'strongly endorse the document's affirmation of our historic, biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation', and reaffirm the church's 'understanding of the historicity of Genesis 1-11'. The action also includes a call upon Adventist educational institutions to 'continue upholding and advocating the Church's position on origins' and urges church leaders to educate young people on issues surrounding the doctrine of creation, as well as calls on church members to proclaim and teach this doctrine. The response also calls for 'a wide dissemination' of the 'Affirmation' report.

Lowell Cooper, a general vice-president of the Church and chairman of the conferences' organising committee, presented the 'Affirmation' report to leaders. It recognises the Adventist faith-based belief in the biblical account of creation, but it also expresses an affirmation of Adventist scholarship in theology and science.

The complete text of 'Response to "An Affirmation of Creation"', along with the report from the International Faith and Science Conference Organising Committee, can be viewed at www.adventistreview.org.

New fundamental belief endorsed

In a 12 October vote delegates to Annual Council recommended a new addition to the 27 doctrinal affirmations currently identified in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Fundamental Beliefs.

'Growing in Christ', the proposed new statement, will be on the agenda at the church's worldwide General Conference Session in July 2005 in St Louis, Missouri. It's the first addition recommended by the executive committee since the original beliefs document was approved at the church's 1980 world session.

The new statement addresses several the present statement of core beliefs.

'As a church, we've set a priority on reaching those who live in the 10/40 window - nearly 70% of the world's population,' says Michael L. Ryan, vice-president for strategic planning, and director of the church's Global Mission initiative. 'Most of these people go to bed each night fearing evil spirits. Their first question to us invariably is, "What will your Jesus do about the evil spirits?"

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areas of Christian belief and practice that many church leaders and theologians believe did not receive adequate attention in

He added, 'If we're going to be a people of hope, we also have to be able to show people where to find it – and that's why these spiritual resources and practices that point to Jesus have been identified in the new statement

The complete text of the 'Growing in Christ' Fundamental Belief, along with supporting Bible references, can be viewed at www.adventistreview.org

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Messenger

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Sunset

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

			Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
	Nov	19	4.06	4.18	4.04	3.58	4.16
		26	3.59	4.11	3.56	3.49	4.07
	Dec	3	3.54	4.06	3.51	3.42	4.01
		10	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.39	3.58

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The London Youth Federation presents 'Sleeping through the sirens'

27 November to 3 December, 7pm

At the following venues, and with the following speakers: Holloway church

381 Holloway Rd. N7 Enoch Adu

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Contact: LYF on 07956 688 923

UPCOMING EVENTS WHEN WHO HOW WHERE Contact Val Bernard on Writing seminar for Sunday 21 Holloway church Val Bernard vbernard@newbold.ac.uk or call 01344 407468. 11am-4pm Judith 0121 544 3990, Lorna Gospel Concert in aid of 4 December Harper Bell School, Various artists from 01922 683387, Lois 0121 608 Hurricane Appeal 7.30pm Ravenhurst St. Birmingham, Nottingham Birmingham B12 Luton and London i.spencer@aston.ac.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.