

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

# Messenger

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## Mercy not sacrifice

by Victor Pilmoor  
BUC and ADRA-UK treasurer

'I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.' Hosea 6:6.

The dreadful consequences of the Asian tsunami are capturing our imagination. A seismic shift in the earth's crust moves whole islands, causes waves that devastate the coastlines of eleven nations with the loss of hundreds of thousands lives, and the livelihood of many more, not to speak of cherished holiday resorts. In Iraq and Palestine millions are suffering the consequences of warfare. O Lord, when will it ever end? Oppression in Darfur has driven untold numbers to the limits of survival and beyond. Wasteful consumerism has accelerated global warming and exacerbated hurricanes and flooding, drought and famine. O Lord, when will we ever learn? AIDS continues to bring disease, death, suffering and poverty to millions upon millions of vulnerable people. O Lord, how will our people be healed?

O Lord, our nations are in trouble!

**We feel helpless. We are overwhelmed. What can we do? Can we make a difference?**

The same media that brings trauma to our attention takes a commercial break to reinforce our craving for bigger houses, designer kitchens, macho vehicles, plasma screens, audio surrounds and every digital gizmo under the sun. On-screen drama is driven by a quest to satiate our every sense: agony and ecstasy, fear and thrill, humour and sorrow, vivid images, ravishing

sounds, sumptuous tastes, delicate fragrance, intimate touch and, dare I say it, the best sex.

**Are we really so helpless?**

The prophet Hosea speaks for our time. Israel had become a prosperous, licentious wheeling/dealing nation. They had the means to 'live it up', to indulge every fantasy and then to absolve their puritanical consciences through repeated ritual sacrifice. The Lord's message through Hosea to us is still simple, 'I have desired mercy, not sacrifice.' God is not looking for a people who perpetuate their indulgence, and regard token donations to charity as sacrifice. Neither is he saying that we can resolve all of the world's problems. He is looking for a people who experience and express 'mercy'.

Mercy is one of those old-fashioned words avoided by modern translators. They prefer terms like kindness, pity, generosity, grace, loyalty, loyal love, gracious love and relentless love. In short, they are describing a deep-seated emotional response rather than a transactional pay-off.

Israel was intended to be a special nation. The sons of Abraham were to be a people through whom *all* on earth could be blessed.

'Pay attention: I'm teaching you the rules and regulations that God commanded me, so that you may

live by them in the land you are entering to take up ownership. Keep them. Practise them. You'll become wise and understanding. When people hear and see what's going on,

they'll say, "What a great nation! So wise, so understanding! We've never seen anything like it." Yes. What other great nation has gods that are

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Reuters/Beswharta, courtesy www.alterthe.org

**Annual Collection:** 26 March - 10 April  
(extends to 17 April in Greater London)





# Tsunami response breaks records

The instant response of ADRA-UK staff to the Asia tsunami disaster, and the appeal that was launched just two days later, prompted an unprecedented wave of generosity among Adventist church members in the UK and Ireland. The country as a whole responded generously when confronted with television images from the devastated areas, but Adventists have given, and are still giving, far in excess of the nationwide average.

'The response to the Tsunami Appeal has been overwhelming both within and without the Church,' said BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry. 'As of Wednesday 19 January our generous members had given over £143,000 and still more is coming in. Already 200,000 US dollars have been transferred to the ADRA Disaster Fund in Southern Asia, and more will be sent shortly.'

'On behalf of the British Union Conference let me express our deepest appreciation for all those who have been part of the outpouring of compassion to the unfortunate people of the Indian Ocean,' Pastor Perry continued. 'No doubt we who have been fortunate will always find the opportunity and occasion to give as God has blessed us.'

In concluding, Pastor Perry cast his thoughts forward to the spring,

'The 2005 Ingathering Campaign will give us another opportunity to collect for worthy projects and for disaster relief,' he said. 'This is true religion and neighbourliness to help relieve suffering and the pain of humanity. God bless you.'

There is still a great need for money and resources in the tsunami disaster area. Donations can be made by credit card on the ADRA-UK website at: [www.adra.org.uk/help/donate\\_form.html](http://www.adra.org.uk/help/donate_form.html). Cheques can be sent to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough



Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Please make your cheques payable to 'ADRA-UK' and include a note stating that the donation is for the 'Asia Earthquake Appeal'. Whichever way you give, if you are a UK taxpayer please ensure that you Gift Aid your donation. This can be done by ticking the appropriate box on the website, or by including a signed note with your postal donation saying 'Please Gift Aid this donation'.

Updates relating to the work of ADRA-UK in connection with the tsunami disaster, as well as some fundraising resources for use in local churches, can be found on the front page of the BUC website at [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

The number one problem of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles is not church growth, but church health.

In recent years few things have been more obvious than that.

There is only one thing the Church can give to the world that the world cannot get anywhere else – and that is grace. If the Church is not a means of grace to the world then the Church is nothing.

What is true of the Church is true of its members. We are saved by grace. The Bible says there is no other way to be saved. And once we have received God's grace, *we are meant to be gracious*. To be a means of grace to the world we *must* be gracious.

And that, I fear, is where the formula breaks down in too many cases.

Ungracious people are not winsome. So church growth and church health are linked.

Our growth is stunted because too many of us are ungracious.

Because I'm a Seventh-day Adventist pastor I must be *more* gracious than any other sort of pastor – not less.

A Seventh-day Adventist doctor should be a better doctor because s/he is an Adventist – *more gracious*, among other things.

An Adventist lawyer should be a different kind of lawyer because s/he is an Adventist – *more gracious*, among other things.

The windows in one part of north London used to be cleaner than in any other part of town because the team of men who cleaned them were all Adventists. Everywhere folk spoke well of those men and the word with which they described them was *gracious*.

An Adventist plumber was well known in one south-western city for three reasons: he did a good job, his prices were not extortionate – *and he was gracious*.

An Adventist businessman in a Midland city was known partly because he was a generous man, but mainly *because he was a gracious man*.

In the age of the Internet it is possible for a small number of people with time on their hands to use the relative anonymity of an email address to give themselves a disproportionately high profile. Ungraced and ungracious people who do this have not been elected by anyone and may not, indeed, be entrusted with church office in their local congregation. They are not of 'the Religious Right' or 'the Religious Left', not from any particular 'wing' of the Church. They are not associated with 'independent ministries', so let's not blame them. They speak for no one but themselves; *their*

Are you part of the 'remnant of grace'?  
*Romans 11:5, 6*

particular take on theology and church politics. But because they are ungracious and because they make free with the name of the Church and

because they are constantly 'on the attack', they do a vast amount of damage to the Church – because youth and those who know little of us assume that they represent our authentic voice.

Paul speaks of 'a remnant of grace' (Romans 11:5, 6, see KJV, NKJV, NIV and NRSV).

And means? A loyal minority who, having received God's grace and been saved by grace, *behave graciously*.

It's basic. It's very, *very* basic! Apparently it needs to be said. 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22, 23.) And the only word that comes within a mile of encompassing *all* those fruit is grace.

Listen to Paul giving advice on outreach: 'Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt.' (Colossians 4:5, 6.)

That applies to all of us. The Bible makes no exceptions. No one is exempt on account of trade, profession, financial interest, sex, race, creed, colour or camouflage. Grace and graciousness: the irreducible, non-negotiable minimum.

We are saved by grace. Those who are saved will be gracious. We are 'a remnant of grace'. There will be no ungraced and ungracious people in God's Kingdom.

If you have doubts as to whether a particular course of action is gracious, ask yourself the question, 'What would Jesus do?' – and be guided by the answer.

If your theology requires you to intimidate people, to put everyone down, to be a perpetual source of vexation of spirit to members and non-members with whom you come in contact, to distort the truth when it suits you, to discourage struggling (young) Christians – then there is something wrong with your theology.

How do such people become Adventists? Probably because they have been baptised having assented to a list of propositions or a particular interpretation of prophecy; instead of being baptised as an indication that they have been born again. Remember, only second-born people enter God's Kingdom. Here you have the root cause of our number one problem: *church health*.

Are you sowing seeds – or just frightening the birds?

It's not enough to think you are right. The community of saints has to *know* you are gracious.

Since the Church is the only vehicle to convey God's grace to the world, in this Year of Grace, *be gracious*. Don't be the vehicle's flat tyre.

Be part of God's 'remnant of grace' (Romans 11:5, 6). It's basic to church health. Without it there is no real church growth.

'Our work for the tempted and fallen will

# Are you sowing seeds – or just frightening the birds?



with David Marshall

receive real success only as the grace of Christ reshapes the character and the man is brought into living connection with the infinite God.' *Testimonies*, volume 6, page 111.

'The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity. Gospel religion is Christ in the life – a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 384.

'Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him; . . . It is through grace that we are brought into fellowship with Christ, to be associated with Him in the work of salvation.' *Selected Messages*, volume 1, page 366.

Christ 'delights to take apparently hopeless material, those through whom Satan has worked, and make them the subjects of His grace'. *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 234.



## Healthwise

### The Night Shift

Have you made any good resolutions lately? The chances are that you have not! Psychologists tell us that, on the whole, people do not make resolutions because they know full well they will not keep them. So that just leaves dreaming of change.

Or does it? Dreaming does not have a very good record of fulfilment either. In fact people usually cannot make head or tail of their dreams. For most people dreams are, well, *dreamy* and lacking in any recognisable meaning. All of which poses the question, 'What are dreams for?'

In truth there is no consensus

among those who study such matters. The renowned psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud and his colleague Carl Gustaf Jung thought that all dreams had deeply significant meanings, but they differed in the meanings that they placed on dream material.

Others believe that dreams are just a dialogue between different parts of the brain exercised during the sleeping hours. During our waking experiences information taken in too fast to process is merely recorded. When we are asleep the mind preoccupies itself with all the detail and tries to make sense of it by attempting to post relevant information to the

appropriate part of the brain.

The recorded material is scanned for similarities and patterns matching new information with what is already known and recorded. In trying to link disparate pieces of information new patterns and order are laid down in the brain. Since there is often no real link between say item A and item B the mind creates its own, and if the link is bizarre enough then a nightmare follows.

Many of the traditional views of sleep and dreaming have been challenged by recent research. Now sleep researchers Joe Griffin and Ivan Tyrrell say that *all* dreams can be understood, perhaps not initially but with practice. They believe that the experiences that come to us daily have an emotional component. If the emotional material is resolved

during the waking hours – no matter how powerful – it will not turn up in sleep. Only the *unresolved* emotional issues continue the resolution process as we sleep. However, even the resolving undergoes change, and we dream in metaphors (that is something like the original but hidden by pictures that are not quite like the real issue).

The trick of interpretation is to understand these shifts in pictures and to identify the emotion that caused the dreaming activity. So if you are contemplating changes, you may be best advised to sleep on it!



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





## Young people baptised

In his introduction to the baptismal candidates, church elder Dave Wright mentioned that although a particular drink gives you wings, 'Jesus gives you power'. On 4 December at Bristol Central six candidates gave their lives to Jesus and were awarded wings of joy! Amelia Kusack, Catherine Smith, Latoya Kelly, Cindy Mabhena, Preetesh Pawah and Kerris Hartley-Brown – all young people – openly declared their baptismal vows to a church so full that it was standing room only.

Kerris, whose membership is with the newly-formed North Bristol church, spoke for all when he said it was not an easy choice, especially when there was so much expectation placed on him for baptism.

The speaker at the service was Veronica Williams, a lay preacher from London, who encouraged the candidates to involve Jesus in the most mundane and intimate aspects of their lives: 'Nothing is too small or

insignificant for Jesus to deal with.'

The family and friends present were thrilled that young people were taking a stand for the Gospel and firmly placing their faith in the Lord. This show of faith is a real demonstration that Bristol is not taking lightly its endeavours to be a church relevant for young and old alike.

The officiating pastor, Richard Daly, spoke of his deep joy and pride in baptising six souls for the kingdom, and reminded the church of their responsibility in nurturing and supporting them.

SHILOH HARMITT

## Colchester baptism

On Sabbath 21 August Colchester church celebrated the baptism of Margret Ottaviano. The service was taken by Pastor Malcolm Taylor.

Margret is Sudanese. One of her school friends was an Adventist, and one day she went with her to church.

## Langley baptism

There has been a baptism at the Langley church in the West Midlands, when three people gave their lives to Jesus Christ through a formal baptismal service that took place on 27 November. The candidates' names were Samantha Lal, Meeth Nahar and Sakina Masih.

All three had been attending a Revelation Seminar that had been running for the past few months, conducted by Pastors D. Masih and S. Gill. The seminars ran on Sabbath morning and evening then midweek on Wednesdays. Attendee numbers to these seminars averaged between twenty and thirty, of whom some were non-Adventists. Upon completion of the seminars, these three individuals chose to dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ.

ALFRED MASIH



Left to right: Helen, Wilston, Katie

## Thank God for youth!

On Sabbath 4 September Canterbury church rejoiced at the baptism of three of its young people.

Helen and Katie Wilson, daughters of our elder John Wilson and his wife Brenda, are third-generation Adventists on their father's side. It was pleasing to see their school friends attend to witness their baptism.

Wilston Anandam, the third candidate, is the son of Sam and Juanita, a fine spiritual family who have recently joined us from Bangalore, Southern India.

Wilston is a fourth-generation Adventist on his father's side. He attended the Adventist school in Bangalore, being taught there by his father. His great-grandfather was one of the first to receive the Advent message in India.

Pastor Robert Hines gave the address, encouraging them all to persevere in their spiritual life as did Elisha of old.

Pastor Fernand Lombart baptised them and Pastor Bernie Holford offered the prayer of dedication.

MIRIAM EFFORD

After a few weeks her guardians stopped her going to the church, as they wanted her to follow another faith. Being only 14 she respected their wishes. It did not stop her praying to God, and God answered her prayer. She met and married Adventist Dr Philip Ottaviano. They moved to England in 2002 and now live in Clacton. They started attending our church and Margret decided she wanted to show her love to God by being baptised.

ELIZABETH JONES



## New member for Galway

Pastor Dumisani Bhebhe is the newest member of the Galway church. He was made a member of the church by profession of faith on Sabbath 24 January, and the ceremony was performed by Pastor Ashley Kongari. Pastor Bhebhe has been a refugee from Zimbabwe since 2002. He is married to Ntombiyosizi Neube, also a Zimbabwean. Reunited in Ireland earlier this year, they are blessed with two children: Primrose (7) and Prince (4). Primrose is a pupil in the second grade in primary school in Galway. Her brother Prince commenced the first grade in September.

Pastor Dumi has a BA degree in Theology from Andrews University. He has worked for twelve years as a minister of religion and is ordained. His ambition is to study for an MA in Philosophy at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He also intends to do an MA in religion.

OLIVER MARTYN

## Brixton baptism

Eleven people were baptised as a result of the 11-25 September Brixton campaign. The guest speaker for the series was media evangelist Pastor Glen Samuels of the West Jamaica Conference. However, our local minister, Pastor Hamilton Williams, had to step in for the greater part of the first week owing to the fact that Pastor Samuels was detained because of Hurricane Ivan.

JOAN REID

## Week of uplift

Sabbath 6 November marked the beginning of the special Week of Prayer meetings at Manchester South. The speaker for the nightly meetings was Roger Duncan, a lay preacher from Trinidad. Leaving behind his wife and children, he responded to the invitation of Pastor Richard Brooks to bring the word of the Lord to our congregation for this time of special prayer.

Arriving in time for divine service,



Roger Duncan

Roger delivered his first sermon, entitled, 'The Lame Man at the Gate'. From the beginning of his delivery the congregation was captivated and hung on his every word.

Near the conclusion of the service three short appeals were made, and those who felt inclined left their seats and met Roger at the front. The session ended with a rousing rendition of 'Lift Him Up', which helped to seal the promises and commitments made.

Every evening throughout the week the members and visitors filled the sanctuary, as Roger delivered each sermon with great dynamism, illustrating different aspects of God's love. As well as listening to the speaker, the members participated by giving personal testimonies of how the Lord had blessed them.

The second Sabbath was our Music Day when special items were given throughout the day's services. Following a week of spiritual uplift, everyone who attended expected to hear the speaker bring some news of comfort for the last time and they were not disappointed. Roger's penultimate sermon was called 'The Second Son'.

The specially prepared lunch was followed by a music programme, and those who participated included Pilgrim, Diadem, Fiona Peart, Janice Savizon, Dorothy Evans and Abide. All singers and groups came from the Manchester South congregation. The programme preceded a baptismal service in which four people committed their lives to God. It was a beautiful time and a perfect end to a day full of God's bounties.

At the appropriate time Pastor Brooks immersed the candidates and, one by one, each person had a story to tell of his or her journey to the pool. First was Jahved Duberry, a young schoolboy, who had responded to an appeal during a service some weeks earlier. Ricardo Lekolori sealed his commitment to Christ next, followed by Esther Cook. Her life had been rife with problems until the moment she walked into church. One of our elders, Carmen Liburd, took Esther under her care and prepared her for baptism. Last was Kepha Keengwe. Subsequent to coming to England a few weeks before, Kepha had decided to give his life to Christ. His brother, Dr Isaac Keengwe, who is also a member of the church, accompanied him to the pool.

Following the immersion, Roger Duncan concluded his final sermon, making a special appeal to the youth.

JANICE SAVIZON

## ADRA at Evidence Reunion

On Thursday 13 January, an up-to-date report of the work done for tsunami survivors and others was given by the aid agency ADRA-UK. ADRA-UK's four local officers visited the 'Evidence' reunion at Stanborough Park church and each spoke on different aspects of the aid agency's work.

Mark Castellino, ADRA's project manager, said the agency has five basic areas of work. All are helped by the fact that ADRA personnel are present in 150 countries, including trouble spots. The basic concerns are response and preparedness for natural disasters and war; people security – making sure there is access to food; health, especially child survival; economic development – helping individuals with business activities; and basic education where opportunities do not exist.

Karen Plaatjes, ADRA's local secretary, showed a video of children in a mental hospital in Serbia receiving shoeboxes full of gifts sent from Wafford in time for Christmas, 1,083 shoeboxes were sent out to Yugoslavian orphanages. David Balderstone, ADRA's Volunteer Transport manager, reported that nineteen containers full of humanitarian goods, all packed by volunteers, were sent out in 2004. He said, 'When you're in a rough situation with children there and you know that, because of your contacts, you can help them, it's a thrill. I go to these places because I like to see the people on the receiving end getting a little bit of hope.'

He went on to say that on 26 January a container was going to Latvia, where flood damage had wiped out half the country's electricity. He continued, 'People are asking for clothes, shoes and bed linen because so many have been evacuated from their homes. ADRA-Latvia has no more money to give them.'

The final speaker, ADRA-UK's director, Raafat Kamal, said, 'Disaster on the present scale caused by the tsunami we call a "negative" disaster and people are called from all over the world to help.' He mentioned that Newbold ministerial student Conrad Vine, the son of Pastor and Mrs Robert Vine, had been sent to Colombo in Sri Lanka to prepare proposals for governments – necessary before donations can be spent. He said, 'Conrad is working eighteen hours a day. The office, normally staffed by five, has thirty-five volunteers. We have been told the priority is supplying water. One of the volunteers is the Director of Water Supplies for Cape Town. Conrad asked a supplier (REDO, a German company) the cost of a machine to clean polluted water. Normally costing from £25,000 to £150,000 each, 12 of these were given free! They clean 10,000 litres an hour of polluted water. The first water disinfection unit is now serving seventeen camps, providing constant clean water and enabling cooking, drinking and washing with clean, safe water. Because dead bodies have polluted natural sources of water, graves need to be relocated. One advantage ADRA has is that within the Seventh-day Adventist system we have hospitals in many countries so doctors and nurses have been volunteering and have got to the right place quickly.' By 5 January, ADRA-UK had sent £50,000 directly to the disaster area, and at the time of writing over £130,000, donated by British Adventists and their friends, has gone out.

BRONWEN ATKINSON



Left to right: Mark Castellino, Karen Plaatjes, David Balderstone and Raafat Kamal

Photo: Cecilia Davidson



## New beginnings and baptisms

From 23 October to 6 November the High Wycombe Sands church hosted an evangelistic series led by the lay members entitled 'New Beginnings – By His Word Seminar'. The New Beginnings Seminar is a complete evangelistic series illustrated on DVD. It is an ASI package in association with the 'It Is Written' TV programme.

Presented by the laity of the church, the emphasis was for each person to be used by the Holy Spirit and to 'preach it' with a 'thus saith the Lord'. Each of the nine presentations was well attended by the church members, who also brought along their friends and families.

On Sabbath 6 November the family worship time was taken to present the final part of this current series. Presented by Gideon Thomas, the subject was entitled 'The Best is Yet to Come – Heaven is for Real'. At the end of the worship an altar call was made. Many present committed or recommitted their lives to Jesus.

The climax of the entire seminar was experienced during Sabbath afternoon when four young people openly demonstrated their desire to surrender their lives to Jesus through baptism. The baptismal candidates were Joshua, Javid, Shannon and Selina, who gleamed with joy from the beginning to the end of their special service. Each candidate expressed his or her commitment before giving their young lives over to Jesus and to his service. Officiating ministers were Pastors Michael Anim, Israel Williams and Trevor Thomas.

A second baptism of six more candidates took place on 20 November. They were Rebecca, Danielle, Andre, Anita from High Sycombe Sands, Dr Tampale Fhanice-Mhango from Yeovil church-planting group and Christopher Thomas, who will place his membership with the Burngreave church in Sheffield. In 2005 Nyasha and Ivan will also give their lives to Jesus.

PATSY THOMAS



## What Women Really Want

by Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director, BUC

All roads led to An Grianán for the weekend of 17-19 September. From the west, north and south, the ladies drove to their Women's Irish Mission Retreat. For the first time they met at the Irish Women's Country Association headquarters near the village of Termonfechin on the north-east coast of the Irish Republic. Not only did the usual ladies come from across Ireland, but new daughters of the Irish Mission also came whose former homes were in the hotter climates of Africa and the Philippines.

On arriving at the 4-star bunga-

lows the women made themselves at home before finding their friends and mouth-watering meals at the comfortable, cheery hall.

The women in the Irish Mission do not have to kiss the Blarney stone in order to have the 'gift of the gab'. The whole weekend revolved around verbally sharing, sometimes seriously and at other times with great humour, on the theme of 'What Women Really Want'. The presenters – Betty Sisson, Vickie Murphy, Inge Vermeulen and Heather Haworth – spoke in response to the top priorities itemised by those attending, the first being that their family members would have a loving, saving relationship with Christ. Heather shared what resources Women's Ministries department had to reconnect those



loved ones who are 'taking a break from church'. Job satisfaction, coupled with appreciation for doing it well, was another priority. Vickie opened up the story in 2 Kings chapter 4 of two very different women, the starving widow and the childless prosperous woman. In doing so Vickie pointed out that these women's wildest dreams came true as they gave to God the financial aspects of their lives.

Perhaps the greatest need of every woman is to feel loved. Betty Sisson emphasised that God wants to be there for those whose love experiences have been abusive, while the writer shared how prayer power and opening up to the Father God could meet the need to be loved.

Besides talking and eating, a

good Sabbath walk to the beach was on the programme. Everyone set off in the sunshine only to be soaked by a tremendous shower. After sheltering in the foyer of a golf club, the women were drawn out by the re-appearing sun and dried on their journey back, all of which gave them an extra large appetite for the evening banquet.

Inge led out in the evening's vesper. On the Saturday evening she was given a standing ovation as she led out in the fun of the evening.

Sunday morning went too quickly. Those from Derry and Dublin who had come for just the Sabbath were missed, but not forgotten, as their needs were included in the discussion on how to minister to the Irish women including those in smaller churches such as Derry.

## Baptism at Fulham

A baptismal service was held at the Fulham church on 18 December when six people finally and fully turned over their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparations for baptism were sustained, serious and deliberate, both on the part of the pastoral team and the candidates themselves. Rarely had the church seen such desire to be right with God and to pursue an active and victorious Christian life, as was observed in the efforts of the individuals who were preparing for baptism. This group of new members was talented, ambitious and diligent as they commenced their spiritual journey.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, Fulham church



As reported in MESSENGER, 28 January, one of ADRA-UK's first responses to the Asia tsunami crisis was to arrange for special consultant Conrad Vine to fly to the stricken area. Conrad has now returned to the UK after spending three gruelling weeks on site in Sri Lanka. His regular reports have been published in the media and on the web and the following account has been compiled from two of these reports.

*Sabbath 8 January.* 'Since arriving I have been in the office about eighteen hours a day, working at the laptop and on the phones, connecting between our assessment teams in the field and various international donors and suppliers. The work is quite challenging, as the situation on the ground is fluid, and when you think that you have clearly identified needs and gaps in the relief effort, and a source of materials or finance which will enable you to meet those needs, the situation on the ground changes again.

'The scale of the disaster is only gradually becoming apparent. Entire households have been simply washed away, and the potential for future difficulties is enormous. Who owns the land of the deceased if there are no relatives? Can people build their homes and livelihoods on the coast again, or will they not be allowed to do so, even though it is legally their land? Our assessment teams have brought back varied and fascinating reports, ranging across the whole spectrum of primary health care, shelter, water, education and economic activities, and it is a real challenge to assimilate all the data, make sense of it, and then plan and co-ordinate a response.

'We in ADRA are working on the south coast of Sri Lanka, and today we shipped in water disinfection units on US military helicopters. The US government has provided emergency airlift support, and as we have in-country helo co-ordination expertise, ADRA received the first cargo space. The helicopters took water disinfection units to the south, flying over the devastated areas, and landing at a hastily constructed helopad at the ADRA field office. Once down, local community members, US personnel and ADRA workers off-loaded the equipment, and immediately set about installing the water disinfection units. The units have been donated by REDO, a German company which manufactures water filtration, disinfection and cleaning equipment, and they clean 10,000 litres an hour of polluted water. The water is pumped into portable water bladders, lying like huge balloons on the ground, and then water tankers come and take the water to the camps. The first water disinfection unit is now serving seventeen camps, providing constant clean water and enabling the victims to cook, drink and wash with clean water. As many of the victims are tightly packed into the camps, outbreaks of disease are a constant threat, so having a reliable and constant source of clean water makes a huge difference.'

*Monday 17 January.* 'Today has flown by in a blur of co-ordination meetings, interviews and planning sessions, and we are all looking forward



## Our man in Sri Lanka – Conrad Vine

to a pizza this evening. Our logistics personnel have been clearing two separate consignments of disinfection equipment that will be used in the clear-up operations in the east of Sri Lanka. The disinfection equipment consists of foggers (machines that blow out chemicals in a fine spray to kill bugs and viruses in the temporary camps for displaced persons), blowers (machines which blow out disinfectants and smell suppressants to allow the clearance of partially decayed bodies), face masks with bacterial filters, and body suits. This equipment will be used by personnel from a range of government ministries with monitoring and training from ADRA technical specialists to ensure that the equipment is being used properly. The clear-up operations in the south of the country are going relatively well so far, but on the east coast there are some difficulties with access and there are some local tensions, so the clear-up operations are not as advanced.

'Yesterday some of our personnel installed some water disinfection units in temporary camps around Trincomalee, a large port on the eastern side of Sri Lanka. The water units produce 5,000 litres of clean water every hour, and they require skilled engineers to keep them going, but the capacity and ingenuity of the Sri Lankan engineers is amazing, and they are picking up the skills very quickly. The water equipment was flown in by the US Air Force, who, together with the US Marines, are providing an impressive array of heavy lifting equipment and flight support for NGOs, enabling NGOs like ADRA to reach distant locations very quickly and efficiently. Some of our staff are really enjoying the flights over the beautiful countryside in helicopters, but when they arrive at their target locations the sober human realities of the disaster erase the pleasant memories of the flight.'

[www.adventistsinglesconnection.com](http://www.adventistsinglesconnection.com)

This is a site where single Adventists can meet other single Adventists. The staff at adventistsinglesconnection monitor the people joining the site and endeavour to delete anything untoward. Feel free to browse and access the credibility of the site.

ASHLEIGH SEMMONS

**Singles workshop.** A singles writing workshop was held at Holloway church in November. Participants discussed, articulated and recorded their perceptions and experiences on being single. We are extending an invitation to other singles to make a contribution to a project that will result in a publication entitled 'Making it Real'. All you need to do is write about any area of singleness that you think is important.

You can use any writing format that you are comfortable with. Your contribution can be anything between 100 and 1,500 words.

Please email completed pieces to [vbernard@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:vbernard@newbold.ac.uk) by Monday 21 March 2005.

If you want to discuss anything with Val Bernard please call 01344 407468.

VAL BERNARD

**Auditing Service vacancy**

General Conference Auditing Service (Trans-European area) will have a vacancy for a travelling auditor (qualified or near-qualified) after 1 March 2005. Requests for further details and applications (with CV) to Terence de Villiers at GCAS, 119 St Peters Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY.

ALAN REDFERN

The acting principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in January from the Manchester area.



# 2,000 Adventist youth at Wembley

by Jacqui Grant

**G**ale force winds blew and the rain poured down, but they could not keep away those who were determined to 'Sing a New Song for 2005'. Over 2,000 young people from the South England region and some from even further afield attended the SEC Youth Rally, which marked a new start for 2005.

On 8 January young people joined together in praise and worship at the Wembley Conference Centre. The Sabbath programmes incorporated powerful morning and afternoon worship services followed by a lively evening concert.

Guest speaker Pastor Ron Halverson Jr from the US presented two dynamic sermons. The aura within the auditorium during both presentations showed total concentration. Worshippers sat gripped as the sermons unfolded. Everyone was left wanting more.

Under the heading 'Salvation' the title of the morning's sermon was 'The Painful Paradox'. Pastor Halverson's main focus was on the paradox: 'He saved others and himself he cannot save.' To illustrate his sermon the speaker used his experience as a young basketball player. Many young people related to his story and the need to pray to God for his guidance, especially during those times when the temptation to do wrong becomes overpowering. 'It is especially during these times that we should stand up for Jesus,' he said. 'How is it possible for us to forget to do so when he chose to remain on the cross for our sake?' 'Don't let him die for nothing,' was a powerful and thought-provoking end to the morning.

A cross-section of worshippers were questioned about their opinions on the morning sermon. Here are some of their responses:

**Mark (Visitor)** 1 thought it was a good sermon. It was entertaining, interesting and grabbed attention. The quality of the singing was good, although, I would have liked the songs to be a little more up-tempo as some folks appeared not yet quite awake.'

**Pastor Stefan Burton-Schnull (Gloucester/Chalford churches)** 'Pastor Halverson used excellent word crafting. The sermon hit you right between your eyes and in your heart.'

**Lauri Preston (Visiting singer from the USA)** 'An excellent sermon which has left me very moved.'

Collectively, Dwain (16), Fallon (16) and Nicole (15), all members of the North Wembley Community church, used the following terms to describe how they were touched by the morning service: 'Relevant, interesting, had a message that I needed, and entertaining.'

The afternoon session commenced with the wonderful chorus, 'Lord, I lift your name on high'. Paul Lee and the praise team continued to lead out with some uplifting praise and worship songs, which led nicely towards the main sermon for the afternoon.

Again Pastor Halverson came up trumps. Under the heading 'Service' the title of the sermon was 'Here I am Lord, send Aaron'.

Pastor Halverson described how Moses saw the burning bush and walked up the mountain towards it to satisfy his own curiosity. 'It was not really his problem. He wanted to watch, not to hear or to be a part of it. As Moses got closer, however, before he knew it he was already standing on holy ground. He wanted to take a turn and run; this was not his plan! But he wasn't quick enough. Moses was called by name. It's not about how far or how fast you run. Once called, the fire will always burn within you.'

With the exclusion of the traditional platform party, the afternoon programme, like the morning's, left some worshippers perhaps feeling a little cheated as things came to an earlier conclusion. However, a sermon that is short and sweet is said to have a more long-lasting effect!

The Sabbath was brought to an end with a lively evening concert where there were sixteen different acts featuring singing, poetry and cultural story telling. These were: The Chiswick Gospel Choir, the



Beckenham Community Choir

Beckenham Community Choir, Nicole Baptiste, Soul Symphony, Edmonton Young Female Ensemble, Hannah Spearing (all the way from Scotland), Davis Dean, Rebecca Lindo, Matthew Lombart, Joel and Desron, A Heart to Praise, Hosanna, Leah Oyeanus, Devoted, Alan Charles, Victor Acquah and finally Lauri Preston (special guest singer from the USA). Despite having problems with her voice, Lauri managed to sing three beautiful songs to bring the concert to an end.

It was explained that there was a special concept behind the concert. For 2005 there is a call for all young people to 'go out and do something different and make it work'. Perhaps what was being done in the past did not work. In other words, 'Sing a new song.'

Two special awards were presented by the Youth Department during the concert, showing that indeed some young people are already singing that new song and should be encouraged to continue doing so.



Lauri Preston



The first was awarded jointly to Adrian Blake and Kitron Satney from the Hackney church. They are winners of the '2004 Film Competition for Evangelism', with a film titled, 'A Witness From Above'. The second award was for 'Teen of Excellence 2004' and this went to Rebecca Lindo from the Walthamstow church.

Overall, it was a grand day, well timed and truly appropriate for the youth. An important part of the concert, though not in the original plan for the day, was a special collection for the ADRA-UK Tsunami Disaster Appeal. A total of £1,514 was collected. Youth pastor Robert Hines concluded with, 'An excellent day, everything went according to plan. To God is the glory.'

### LETS CONFERENCE

**Pentecost 2**  
23 April 2005

Aston University Central Hall, Birmingham.  
All NEC lay members who are running or have run a successful evangelistic outreach should send details to Pastor Roy Morgan, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB.

# Retired head of BBC religious broadcasting trains communicators

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

**T**he South England Conference was privileged to play host to David Winter, the retired Head of BBC Religious broadcasting. David is a teacher, journalist, author, broadcaster and also an ordained vicar, and on Tuesday 7 December he was the lead trainer for a Communication department training session.

The main part of the SEC Communication strategy revolves around getting the Adventist Church known to the world by developing a structured media evangelistic presence that portrays the Church in a positive light. One of the objectives of this strategy is to encourage regular contributions to mainstream radio, ideally programmes like Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' and Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought'. In addition to this, there is a team that is currently developing a programme series for Premier Christian Radio. David Winter, who produced the Sunday programme on Radio 4 for many years, was able to draw on his vast experience and give expert advice on how to write scripts for contributions to national and local radio.

Working together with David Winter during the training day was Clare Catford. Clare is an experienced broadcaster working in both radio and television for more than twenty years. Her extensive career has included working on many programmes on the major networks including Channel Four News, BBC Radio 4, BBC Five Live, Capital

Radio and LBC. She is currently presenting a new three-hour Sunday morning news programme on BBC Radio Berkshire, looking at ethical stories, as well as working for BBC Breakfast News, BBC London, GMTV and other networks.

Those attending the training session were: Pastors Jeremiah Bonner, Steve Thomas, Michael Hamilton, John Surrudge, and the writer. Although the trainees all have previous experience of radio work to a greater or lesser degree, they all found the hands-on training helpful and were excited about the valuable insights into the specific discipline of writing.

This training day, like many previous and similar events tailor-made for the Adventist Church in the UK, was organised by Chris Doggett of The Media Suite.

Top: David Winter. Bottom left and right: Jeremiah Bonner, Clare Catford.





# Discovering a distinctive voice

## Newbold's new partnership with University of Wales, Lampeter

**N**ewbold's long tradition of excellence in the study of theology enters a new phase this academic year with the signing of an agreement to offer theology degrees in partnership with the University of Wales, Lampeter (UWL).

The following interview with Dr Laurence Turner who, as Head of Department at the time, initiated discussions with UWL, explains what the new partnership means for Newbold and the Adventist Church.

### Why should theological and pastoral education change?

Standards of pastoral education always need to improve within our Church. The proportion of educated Adventists is high and getting higher. These people want an intellectual content to their faith beyond that offered by the average Sabbath School class or the pastor's sermons. We need to find the best ways of developing our pastors intellectually.

The equipping of the Church is also important. People who have no intention of entering full-time pastoral work are also seeking training for their work in various church contexts – café churches, church planting, chaplaincy in university towns, college churches. The Church needs to train pastors and lay people to minister in different ways and receive different types of qualification. Theological education needs to be flexible.

The financial costs of educating students outside their own countries are increasing. Perhaps more important are the personal and familial costs entailed in uprooting families while a ministerial father or mother trains at Newbold. We do not want to develop a pastoral parent while alienating the rest of the family from a Church which separates their family. 'Disencultured' students and families returning to home countries (especially those with a lower standard of living) at the end of a training session at Newbold sometimes face problems. We need to find new ways

of offering ministerial and lay education within cultural contexts. UWL opens some new possibilities in this area.

### Why change from Open University validation to Lampeter?

Twenty-eight full-time lecturers in its reputable Department of Theology and Religious Studies make Lampeter a leading centre for the study of theology at a time when the training of European theologians is being concentrated in fewer academic centres. Partnership with Lampeter gives Newbold the chance to offer a degree accredited by a reputable European university, the flexibility to create content appropriate to students and context, and the independence to continue to develop training with a solid Adventist identity.

### In what ways will the Lampeter curriculum differ?

Basically the curriculum is the same at the moment – the change is not in the subject matter but in the flexibility with which it can be offered.

### How much influence will Lampeter have on the content of the curriculum?

We still determine the curriculum as we have always done. Content is developed in church context and arising out of the church's perceived needs.

The academic quality of the qualifications will be assured by assessments from academics both inside and outside the Church. Lampeter's quality assurance function is to maintain high academic standards. They will be particularly concerned with the qualifications of lecturers and the process of external marking and scrutiny. Their concern, however, stops there. They will make no demands at all concerning doctrinal content.

### Is the Lampeter partnership a threat to the Adventist identity of the ministerial training offered at Newbold?

By no means. The team from

Lampeter who toured the Newbold campus and visited the Ellen G. White and SDA Research Centre (Europe), were impressed with the opportunities offered on campus for primary research in Adventist studies and expressed their expectation that Adventist Studies would be a core component of the Newbold undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

### Are there additional benefits?

Newbold's Department of Theological Studies (DTS) is now relating to an authentic theology department with lecturers who are themselves involved in the business of theological training and who recognise Newbold's gifted theologians and scholars as peers. Newbold's theology staff members teaching UWL courses are now Associate Lecturers of the University of Wales and may be asked to give lectures from an Adventist perspective to theology students on the Lampeter campus or to other theological and ecclesiastical groups connected with the department. Indeed, earlier this year, I accepted an invitation to present a day's seminar on expository preaching to the Roman Catholic priests in the Archdiocese of Wales. Along with Dr Jean-Paul Verrecchia, Dean of the Department of Theology at Collonges, I am also an Associate Member of the UWL Centre for the Contemporary Study of the Bible. Additionally, I am now contributing book reviews to the Roman Catholic publication *The Scripture Bulletin*, edited by a UWL lecturer.

### What are the benefits for serving pastors and lay people?

The Church is increasingly taking in-service training and professional enrichment seriously and recognising the need for lay training in pastoral work. The Lampeter partnership offers potential for programmes of flexible study both by groups of lay people and by groups of pastors who have undergraduate degrees and wish to study further in their own districts. This means that some pastors with spouses and young families may not need to uproot



them to come and study at Newbold.

### What benefits of this programme will accrue to the Church at large?

This is a new opportunity to do something creative and constructive. These courses will benefit the Church in Europe. The Lampeter arrangement will enable us to offer PhDs in the British style and to offer a PhD in Adventist studies in Europe

addressing European issues from a European perspective. So if a PhD student wants to do research outside the UK, as long as they have access to appropriate resources in their own location, and have a number of face-to-face encounters with their supervisors in the UK, we can accept them as students. We hope that such students will be able to fly in periodically on budget airlines and not need to uproot their families for extended periods. We are not naive enough to believe that we can change Adventist culture in Europe but the Lampeter arrangement means we can do original work within the European Seventh-day Adventist context. Areas of Research would include Biblical, Theological, Pastoral and Adventist Studies.

### Do these opportunities to offer off-campus training mark the beginning of the end of Newbold as a seminary?

This is a redefining of seminary. The professional formation of ministers has always involved thinking, being, doing and feeling. The Lampeter partnership will allow us to combine training in these four areas in a mix of creative ways. To continue this process with various contents in a variety of locations with different modes of delivery – that is a challenge to us as a DTS staff. Our task is the theological rejuvenation of the Adventist Church.

### What is your vision for the future of Adventist theological education?

The Adventist Church has a problem with its identity. At one time we were too distinct. We neglected our Christian roots. Now that we have shown other Christians how much we have in common, we need to find again our distinctive voice. In a language that they can understand, we need to be able to offer other Christians and the wider world, the benefits of Adventist belief and practice. It is to this end that all our theological education is directed.

HELEN PEARSON

An edited version of this interview appeared in *The Newboldian* – the magazine for alumni and friends of Newbold. If you would like to receive *The Newboldian*, please contact Pat Dyckhoff on 01344-407583 or by email: [pdickhoff@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:pdickhoff@newbold.ac.uk).

\*Potential students interested in PhD studies should contact Dr Laurence Turner on 01344-407480.

# A love letter from God to a married couple\*

by Karen and Bernie Holford, Family Ministries directors, SEC

*To the two of you,*

You have been married for a while now and I just wanted to write and say how happy I am that you have committed yourselves to each other in love.

I expect you have discovered by now that marriage is not necessarily an easy option in life. You will have had your fair share of disagreements, but I also hope that you have had many amazing moments of closeness.

When I gave you the gift of marriage I had four main things in mind. Firstly, I wanted you to be able to experience the incredible closeness and oneness that I share with my Son and my Holy Spirit. We are three beings and we are very different, and yet we are one in purpose. And I wanted you to be able to experience the power and passion of my love for you both, and for the whole world, through the power and passion of your love for each other. Love each other in ways that I would show love for you if I were in your home, being willing to serve each other, and seeking each other's happiness. Strive for closeness as friends, lovers and spiritual companions. It can be hard work, it will hurt at times, but it will be worth all the effort.

Secondly, I knew that life on earth would hold many challenges and struggles and that it would be easier and happier when you could share those with someone who cares for you intensely. You are very different from each other, and sometimes this drives you crazy! But I gave each of you various talents, ideas, ways of communicating and thinking about things, so that you would have more resources, skills, and abilities that would enhance your life together. I wanted you to support each other, mutually, in your family and in your ministry.

Thirdly, I want the best for each of you. I want you to grow and develop and mature as Christians. A loving and committed relationship can help you both to grow in your ability to be patient, kind, and unselfish, considering ways to meet each other's needs before the other

has even noticed that they have a need! I want you to learn how to forgive each other, and accept each other, just as I forgive and accept you. It's a high goal, I know, and it won't happen overnight, but I want to journey with you as you make these discoveries and as you develop your spiritual maturity through your intimacy with each other.

Fourthly, I need you to be witnesses to my love for you, and the difference my love has made in your relationship and your lives. If you have children, they need to experience the love I have for them through the ways you show love to them. This world is hurting and hungry for love, and as you both grow in my love for you, I need you to share this love with others. I want them to see that a Christian marriage is a positive experience. Find a ministry

where you can serve others together, making sure that you always protect the special relationship you have with each other.

Commitment to another imperfect human being is not an easy choice. Believe me, I know! I have been doing it for billions of you for thousands of years!

I just want you both to know that my love is here for you all the time. When you don't know how to love each other, or forgive each other, or comfort each other, or support each other, just come to me and let's work on it together. Marriage is, after all, my idea, and my gift to you, and if it's not working as well as it could, bring it to me, work with me, and let's look for some miracles!

Now, as ever, all my love,

*Your Father God*

\* In this letter we have used our creative imagination to put into the first person sentiments drawn from the inspired passages listed below. They are a very brief attempt by us to summarise some of God's clearest intentions for our marriage relationships.

### Living God's desire for your marriage

- Building closeness towards God's love.** Take time to listen to each other and show that you have heard each other by asking questions. Proverbs 18:13, James 1:19. Take time together to have fun and be friends. Do what you used to do when you were first friends! Proverbs 17:17. Work towards creative solutions to your problems where you are each happy with the outcome, so that you can live in loving unity. John 17:20-23.
- Supporting each other with God's love.** Each day ask your spouse, 'What can I do today that would be most helpful for you?' Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Genesis 2:18. Find ways to soothe each other and relieve each other's stress. 2 Corinthians 1:4, Proverbs 16:24. Encourage each other in creative ways. Romans 15:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- Growing spiritually.** See the challenges you face as opportunities to grow closer to God and to each other. James 1:2-5, Proverbs 27:17. Prayerfully consider, with God, where you might need to say sorry to your spouse. Ask for forgiveness and receive comfort. Romans 3:23, 1 Corinthians 2:7.
- Being witnesses.** Find ways to combine your spiritual gifts into a shared ministry that blesses others. 1 Peter 4:7-11. Showing love is a witness that we are God's disciples. John 13:35. Godly wisdom shows when we love others in tangible ways. James 3:13-18.

### Exciting weekends for married couples!

**Turning Water into Wine Retreat** – joint SEC and NEC event. 20-22 May

Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry. Practical Biblical Seminars to enhance your intimacy, couple time, banquet, treats, leisure facilities. £200 per couple – contact NEC or SEC – [csweeney@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:csweeney@necadventist.org.uk) or [bholford@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:bholford@secadventist.org.uk)

**Love Connects Retreat** – Autumn 2005 – SEC  
A spiritual retreat for exploring the means of God's love in your relationship.

**NEC Counselling Helpline:** 0161 740 3602  
**SEC Cornerstone Counselling Service:** 0845 741 3602

Helpful websites for married couples: [www.marriagepartnership.com](http://www.marriagepartnership.com), [www.2-in-2-1.org.uk](http://www.2-in-2-1.org.uk), [www.themarriagecourse.org](http://www.themarriagecourse.org)



# Friends for Jesus posters

Heather Haworth, BUC Prayer co-ordinator

'Every evening as I came back from work, there they were sitting on the bench near the village shops. These three lads, in their mid-teens, always grinned at me when I would say "Good evening". What they did not know was that as I walked by I would send up a prayer for them too.'

'One night as I approached the bench the Lord told me to tell the lads that I was praying for them. Before my embarrassment could stop me I added to my "Good evening", "Each one of you is in my prayers." A stunned silence greeted me as I walked on.'

'A couple of weeks later I was late back home so I didn't expect to see the three lads. To my surprise one of them was there. Seeing me, he got up from the bench and walked alongside me, just for a moment, requesting I pray for him as he was going for his first job interview. Before I could ask for more details he was shouting thanks and running off in the opposite direction.'

'While putting my key into the lock I sent up a "thank you" to "His Majesty" for letting me witness for him through prayer ministry.'

Listening to this prayer conference testimony, it reminded me of the quotation on page 40 of *Prayer* by E. G. White:

'As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with the quickening influence of God's grace; our affections will glow with more divine fervour; our whole

Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful.'

Although over the last decade a prayer ministry has been growing in our Union it has been given an extra boost by being an integral part of our LIFEdevelopment evangelism. The main thrust of this style of evangelism is to help us view people as Jesus did which means seeing the most unlikely person as a candidate for God's kingdom:

- The couch potato who lives for football
- The housewife with no interest in God
- The lad down the street who smokes 'funny-smelling' cigarettes
- The divorced dad who only sees his child at weekends
- The alcoholic at work who cannot cope
- The person who is swearing like mad at their car being clamped
- The unmarried person, at your church, or home who has AIDS

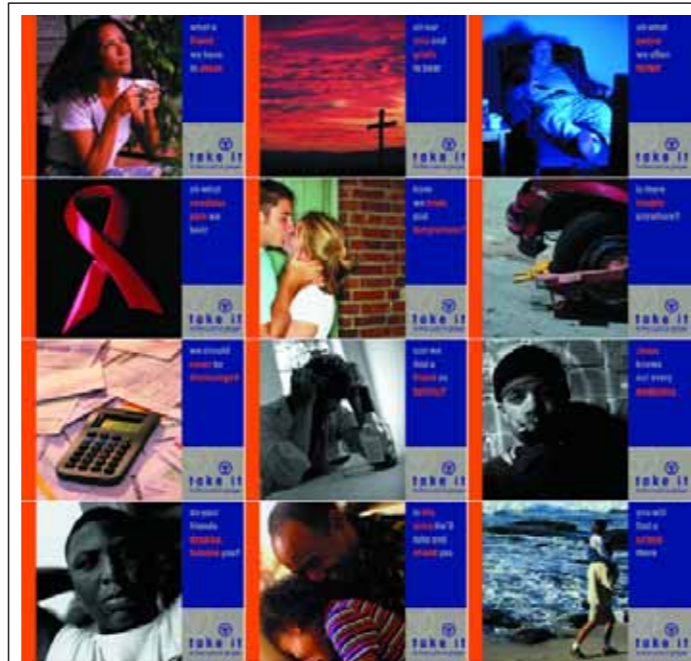
It was these types of people whom Jesus especially took the time to contact, and of course, was criticised for doing so. Perhaps it is time for us, his modern-day disciples, to go outside our comfort zone when we pray, and include those we consider the least likely to enter the kingdom of God. To help us remember them in prayer, your churches received a gift set of beautiful prayer posters last Christmas.

The wording on them is from the

hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.' They are also available on the BUC website. (The pictures on the posters cannot be used commercially, as

they are copyrighted ©).

We hope you are displaying the posters at church and during the main prayer, 'Come to God in faith and pour out our supplications before Him, believing that He will work on our behalf and on behalf of those we are seeking to save. We are to devote more time to earnest prayer.' *Prayer*, page 39. Remember: Prayer is more than talking – prayer is ministry.



**take it**  
to the Lord in prayer



## Myanmar

ADRA-Myanmar is planning to distribute food to 10,000 people for about six months.

## Indonesia

UNICEF has asked ADRA-Indonesia to take over the WATSAN component in rebuilding the school buildings, constructing housing for teachers, and providing supplies for students, in the area of Meulaboh.

## Sri Lanka

ADRA-Sri Lanka is flying in face masks and bacterial filters, body suits and blowers for the disinfection of areas where corpses and dead animals have been lying.

ADRA-Sri Lanka has installed a water disinfection unit in a camp near Trincomalee. The unit produces 5,000 litres of water an hour.

## India

ADRA-India is making final arrangements for the shipment of relief supplies to the Andaman Islands. The shipment will contain tents to provide shelter for 200 families, and provide blankets, mosquito nets, water containers and health education in the relief camps.

ADRA-India also plans to build 30 schools and health clinics on Great Nicobar Island. The project will enable the displaced families to access education, health services, and water and sanitation facilities.

## Thailand

ADRA-Thailand visited Ban Tung Nang Dom, an Island where two children were killed as a result of

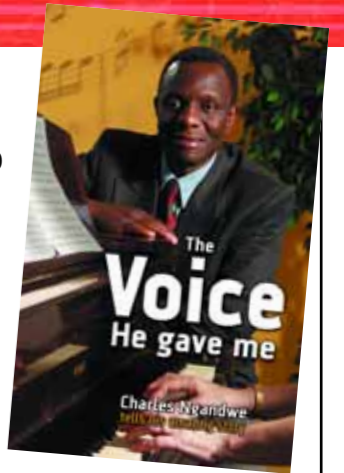
## The Voice He gave me

The astonishing story of an African village boy who had one asset: a remarkable singing voice.

'A truly inspirational story.' How God led from the first in the life of Charles Ngandwe, winner of 'Stars in Their Eyes'.

£6.95

Order through your PM secretary or on the ABC credit card hotline: 01476 539900.



the tsunami and all the property on the Island was totally destroyed. ADRA-Thailand has committed to helping the village with the re-establishment of their water supply system and is also looking to work with the villagers on community and household rehabilitation.

The ADRA-Thailand water team has also received requests from local government and village officials to work in other villages affected by the tsunami.

ADRA-Thailand has submitted a proposal for a project that takes a comprehensive programmatic approach in two different phases: Phase 1 focuses on water system rehabilitation, community recovery, household recovery and health intervention. Phase 2 will focus on a long-term development plan, which will be supported through vocational training and/or microfinance activities to restore the affected villages and their populations to sustainable vibrant communities.

## Maths teacher

This month Tamsin Vine, the second daughter of Pastor and Mrs Robert Vine, was outward bound to help



Photo: Audrey Wolfram

children at the other end of the world who are finding life difficult. Tamsin is a qualified and experienced mathematics teacher, having taught maths for five years.

On Thursday 20 January she flew out to New Zealand from Gatwick. She will stay eleven months, and will go around different schools, one of a team, encouraging young people aged 11-16 to do activities designed to bolster their self-esteem. She will work with small groups, and use equipment such as the climbing walls used in outward-bound situations.

Asked why she was going, she said, 'I've heard so much about New Zealand and would like to explore another country using my teaching skills.'

BRONWEN ATKINSON

## Newbold Week of Prayer

The pastor of one of the biggest Adventist churches in the United States came to Newbold College in early October for last year's Week of Prayer.

Randall Roberts of Loma Linda University church in California presented a week-long series entitled 'Twice Told Tales'. He chose the topic for Newbold's annual event, and in twice-daily meetings on campus he intertwined stories from the gospels with stories from his own life.

'The thing people thirst for most has to do with Jesus,' Roberts said about selecting the theme. 'Finding something about what he lived and said was important.'

'It's been a wonderful week here,' he added. 'The students have been very attentive in the meetings and I've been really impressed by them.'

TIMOTHY PUKO, Public Relations assistant

## Special tribute

The North England Conference wishes to pay special tribute to Brother Sydney Oliver



Denham, a star Ingatherer who passed away on 23 October 2004.

On behalf of ADRA and the NEC, I wish to recognise the sterling contribution that Brother Denham made to the annual Ingathering appeal.

His name was posted on screen at the 2002 NEC Camp Meeting as one of the outstanding collectors for that year, because at the age of 90 he collected £662!

Brother Denham continued to collect for ADRA right up to the year of his death. He was out Ingathering in April, and he died in October. The impressive thing was his consistency. Every year you could count on him, no matter what. It seems clear that only death could stop him! Surely, this uncommon dedication demands that the Personal Ministries leader of the NEC acknowledge the indefatigable work of Brother Denham, albeit posthumously.

Could it be that the Church should not wait until the deaths of members who make invaluable

contributions, before we pay special tribute to them?

Brother Denham and his wife have been long-standing members of the Wednesfield church. Both have been among the pillars in their church. Brother Denham's life has contributed to the soul-winning thrust, not only of his local church but also of the NEC. No way could you be associated with him and not feel the heat of his passion for personal evangelism. The NEC will miss his incalculable contribution! The rise of someone to fill the vacuum will go some way to offset this loss. So my question must be the Lord's: Who will go for us?

PASTOR ROY MORGAN, Personal Ministries director

See page 14 for Sydney Denham's obituary.

**students**  
r u @ university or in higher education?  
r u studying away from home?  
get connected  
2 other students - stay connected 2 God  
with Retreats, Devotionals, Camps, Conferences, Days of Fellowship  
Remember with the 1000 Higher Education Champions Network

## 'Nothing to fear - Except we forget'

**Camp Hill Church History**  
On 14th May 1955 Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was dedicated as a place of worship and a Centre from which to send the Advent Message out to South Birmingham.  
Sunday May 1st 2005 will be the day when every individual who has been associated with Camp Hill Church over the past 50 years is invited to review, remember, reminisce and be refreshed by where we have been & where we are going.  
Mark the day in your diary.  
**Sunday 1st May 2005**  
**Great Hall, University of Birmingham**



## More on the tsunami

In early January the editor asked thirty Adventist thought leaders – in Britain and overseas – to attempt an answer to the question ‘Where was God?’ in connection with the tsunami. Most of the responses were published over pages 2 and 3 in the last issue. Here are two final responses:

### Dr Bryan W. Ball:

With the passing of the years I have learned at least two things: 1. Not all the questions life throws at us mortals can be easily answered. 2. As a Christian, I must be prepared to live with the tension of some unanswered questions because my world view is shaped by other certainties. One day not too far distant, God willing, we shall stand on the sea of glass and begin to understand the things we didn’t understand down here. Until then, I struggle with moments of doubt like everyone else. Tragedy and suffering are at the top of my list of questions that cannot be easily or completely answered.

The usual things we say about Satan, the great controversy, the watching universe and the eventual triumph of good over evil may help, but no thinking person would claim that they can answer the question completely. Many years ago I came across a little story that in my youthful ignorance and lack of experience I discarded as trite and unhelpful. A distraught father, after his son had been killed in a road accident, cried out in anguish, ‘Where was God when my son died last night?’ And the answer came back, ‘He was in the same place that he was when his own Son died.’ It is, indeed, the cross which points us in the direction of an answer. No amount of tragedy or disaster – and there are likely to be more sooner rather than later – can nullify or minimise the historical reality of Christ’s death, or his resurrection. Together they stand unscathed by time as the great monuments of God’s own suffering and triumphant concern for mankind.

Every unanswered and perhaps unanswerable question of human existence is given a new dimension by the cross of Jesus. It is *there*, a fact of history which nothing can change, the eloquent, powerful and enduring evidence of God’s involvement with the human race. It informs Christianity’s unique view of the world and human existence. It must be allowed to speak again in times of doubt and darkness – to us, and through us to others.

We may not completely understand tragedy, pain, suffering and disaster, but to let them blot out Christ’s cross as a fact of history and its significance for human life would be to deny both reason and our own experience.

### Victor Pilmoor:

During the last month or so many of us have been asking the question ‘Why?’ The answer is simple: The tsunami happened because the earth’s tectonic plates moved as they have been doing since creation. This is straightforward science! I suspect, however, that that is not the ‘Why?’ that most people have been asking. I suspect also that by now you will have dismissed me as a heartless technocrat.

The early Genesis account, however, is somewhat similar. It begins with the reality of cosmic creation and the creation of mankind. It does not ask or answer the question as to why the waters and firmament shifted, other than to say that it happened as a consequence of God’s speaking. There is no emotive, ‘why?’ In the narrative that follows it is God who asks the questions:

Genesis 3:9: Where are you? 3:11: Who told you that you were naked? 3:13: What have you done? 4:6: Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen? 4:9: Where is your brother?

I suspect that in the wake of the tsunami, God still asks those questions with the same emotive passion as when he spoke to the Adam and Eve family. These are the questions that people ask in the mayhem of disaster.

Research by Kohlberg into the moral development of children in particular, suggests that moral character is developed through the presentation of conflict and the attempts by people of different abilities to resolve that conflict. He found that the only effective intervention in the process was by teachers who continually ask the question ‘Why?’

We will never have moral answers for the consequences of natural or physical events. Rather these events will always give us the opportunity to hone our moral compasses and develop our character. It is through these events that the Great Teacher asks us the question ‘Why?’

Paradoxically the answer to the question ‘Why?’ is the privilege and eternal importance of asking the question. The answer is in ‘the still small voice’ that has been active in the consciousness of every thinking world citizen. The answer is in the still small voice that discovered a well of generosity that none realised they had.

‘And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.’ 1 Kings 19:11, 12.

Ingatherer. During the last five years he has been the Top Collector in Wolverhampton, and that included last year. He was a champion for Jesus, distributing thousands of tracts and magazines. He wanted all to know about the pathway that leads to Heaven. He gave of his best for the Master in totally loyal and devoted service. The funeral service, on Tuesday 2 November, was conducted by the resident minister Pastor R.

Jackson. Tributes were paid by Pastors Egerton Francis, D. Masih, R. Brooks, G. Gordon and other members of the church family. Brother Denham is missed by his loving wife Reva, daughter Madge, grandchildren Jeremy, Shane and Joy, nephew Levi, and all his other relatives, church family and friends whose paths he crossed and lives he touched.

GRACE MCCOOL

### Harry Leonard Johnson (1915-2004) d. 2 October



The Lowestoft church members are sad to report the death of Harry Johnson, a faithful member for many years. Harry was born in 1915 at Weybourne, Norfolk. For many years he worked on a farm where he met Violet, and they married on 4 June 1944. They had one daughter Pat (Now Pat Dyckhoff). It was in Kimberly that literature-evangelist Tony Brownlow called at the door selling our literature.

That started an interest in the Adventist message and, after studies with Pastor Paul Cummings, the family were baptised in the Norwich church. Serious accidents led Harry to change employment from farming to light engineering. That change also made necessary the move to Oulton Broad where, as an answer to prayer, a house was offered. After settling in Lowestoft, Harry and Violet became staunch workers, selling books and loving ‘Harvest Ingathering!’ Over the years Harry held several offices: elder, deacon and church treasurer, a post he held for thirty years. After Violet died, Harry courageously carried on with his church responsibilities and managed on his own for a few years until his health deteriorated and he went to live in one of The Dell flats. Then, for a short time, he went into The Dell rest home. When he became too poorly to stay in The Dell, Harry was transferred to Northgate hospital, Great Yarmouth, and then to the Coach House nursing home at Hemsby in Norfolk where he was tenderly cared for and the staff there testified

that you could tell Harry was a Christian man by his quiet manner. The funeral service was held in the Lowestoft church on 15 October. Pastors David Neal and David Foster shared the service, recalling experiences they had had with Harry. Pat gave a moving tribute to her Dad, and Mark read a poem, ‘My Grandad’. After Harry was left on his own, the hymn he always

chose was ‘I need Thee every hour’. It was fitting that that hymn was sung at his funeral. Harry was tenderly laid to rest with Violet in the Kirkley cemetery to await the call of the Lifegiver when the dead in Christ shall rise first. Our love and prayers are with Pat, Terry and Mark, also Harry’s brother Maurice.

JEAN BAKER

### Harold Vivian Satherley Baker (1912-2004) d. 5 December



It is with sadness that we record the death of Harold Baker at the age of 92. A great Christian warrior is now at rest and awaiting the call of Jesus to eternal life. Harold was born in Bridgewater, Somerset. His father Ernest was a master-baker on Transatlantic liners, but following the loss of the *Titanic* in April 1912, Ernest left the sea and brought the family, Florence his wife, and Olive his daughter, to South Wales.

While attending the Congregational church in Maindee, Newport, Harold joined the Band of Hope, where he learned of the dangers of alcohol. Following evangelistic meetings by Pastor Byrd, Harold and his mother were baptised in the newly built Newport church. They were also convicted of the truth after they read a copy of *Present Truth* left in their home by Albert Charles. In 1930 Harold went to Stanborough Missionary College to train for the ministry. In 1931 the college moved to Newbold Revel, near Rugby, and it was there that he met Esther Woodhouse, a founder member of Edmonton church, whom he married in 1935 in Edmonton. The Depression cut short Harold’s ministerial training as he had to leave to care for his parents, so he began a window-cleaning business. Though unpaid, he continued his ministerial work, preaching and teaching. In World War II he worked at Rogerstone Steelworks, and later did his National Service in the Ambulance Service. He made a significant contribution in the

### SYBIL EVA HOME (1908-2004) d. 1 August

Sister Home was brought up in Easkey, Co. Sligo. As a young woman she went to London to train as a children’s nurse, but finally settled in Belfast where she worked at the City Hospital. There she met and married a widower with two small boys. One son was born from this marriage. It was in the 1950s that she first made contact with Adventists through a series of meetings held by Pastor K. A. Elias. Twice widowed and still grieving for a beloved aunt, she was drawn to a special Remembrance service where the subject was, ‘Shall we meet our loved ones again?’ Sister Home had no difficulty in accepting the truth of the Scriptures on this subject or any other that was presented in the series, and she became a dedicated Adventist. As she provided B&B accommodation for students, she had to adjust her housekeeping in order to observe the Sabbath. This became the talk of the neighbourhood, especially when the students’ bed linen appeared on the line on Sunday instead of Saturday – unheard of in Belfast in those days! She was equally faithful in tithing, despite restricted means, and took on extra work to ensure the tithe was paid in full. God certainly blessed her and she frequently testified to this. Over the years she held various offices in the Belfast church, including head deaconess and welfare leader in which she faithfully took care of those in need. In later years it was a joy to her to see her grandson, Sean Robinson, lead the ADRA work in Albania during the Kosovo crisis. With her family grown, she had the opportunity to travel, even visiting Russia while the iron curtain was still in place. Failing health in the late eighties led her to leave Belfast and move to Leamington, where she could be near her sons and grandchildren. There she became a founder member of the new church, and kept a photographic record of renovations to the building. Her funeral service was held in the Leamington church, where words of comfort and encouragement were spoken by Pastor R. Purkas and tributes were paid by family and friends. According to her wishes she was finally laid to rest in Belfast. It was a privilege to know Sister Home and we look forward to meeting her again on the great resurrection day. She is survived by three sons, Kenneth, Gerald, and Pastor Brian K. Robinson, seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

PASTOR R. E. HULBERT

### JOYCE ARCHER (1922-2004) d. 20 September

The church in Britain lost one of its most loyal servants in the passing of Kathleen Joyce Archer on 20 September. She

died in Harefield hospital after a long encounter with heart trouble. Joyce Richter was born in Watford. Her parents were Emily and Charles Richter – well known as workers in the church institutions on Stanborough Park. Joyce had two sisters – Myrtle (Hyde-Crocker) who died in 2002 and Molly who lives in Australia. Joyce grew up in Watford, being an early pupil at Stanborough Preparatory School when it convened in Sheepcote Villa in Sheepcot Lane. The one time Joyce lived elsewhere was when she lived in Wakefield and met and married Reg Archer. The Archers had two children – Christian, now an occupational therapist in Surrey, and Stuart, living in Australia. The family moved back to Watford, and Joyce worked in the Granose Foods office, the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, Stanborough School and the British Union Conference office, all of which benefited from her skills in money management. At the Union she was secretary to Pastor Ken Gammon, and also worked with Pastor Maurice Musgrave in the Missions office, again deploying her accountancy skills to great effect. Members will have come in contact with Joyce’s influence through the SDA Association and its work of helping them organise their wills. As well as being a lover and creator of beautiful things – tapestries and pictures – Joyce had a great capacity for friendship. Close friends included Mrs Wilf Proudley and Winnie Cowley from Granose days. At home in Avon Close, Garston, Joyce made friends with Elsie and Ray Alloway across the garden fence. In her later days in Beken court, opposite the British Union Conference office, Joyce became very close to Nora Marriner and her daughter Adina Jarvis, also to Britta Dunton and to the Gammons. Joyce is missed at the Park church, where she was treasurer for some time as well as being a deaconess and flower arranger. Though her eyesight failed latterly, Joyce was always early at Sabbath School and loved to study the Bible with her friends. She had an absolute trust in the Advent Hope and had no bitterness in spite of sadnesses in her life and her decreasing physical powers. She remained sweet and optimistic. When in Harefield hospital, she was cared for by the best possible team: the heart team led by the famous Dr Yacoub, the Intensive Care Unit, and the wise and sedulous care given by Christine and David Smithers who visited every day in the weeks she lay ill. She died of complications arising after a valve-replacement operation at the age of 81. The funeral at the Park church was conducted by Pastors Ken Gammon and the writer, with Gill Huzzey on the organ.

Committal was in North Watford cemetery. Joyce leaves behind her children Christine and Stuart, and grandchildren Luke, Amelia and Jordan. Our prayer is that we shall all meet again when Jesus returns to reunite families sundered by death and to take his dear ones home.

ROBERT G. VINE

### PETER HENRY STUBBS (1934-2004) d. 22 December

Born in the little village of Shenley, near St Albans, Peter attended St Albans Grammar School, then enlisted in the RAF with the ambition of becoming a pilot. After failing a stringent eye test necessary to be a pilot, he refocused his energies and became a specialist in Ground Radar. While serving in Norfolk he met and married Margaret, also gaining a ready-made family in Margaret’s three children, Ann, David and Sue. In the late 1960s, Peter saw an advert for evangelistic meetings to be held in Norwich, run by Pastor Ted Pettit. He attended, with the result that he and Margaret were baptised and joined the Adventist church in Norwich. After 22 years in the RAF, Peter joined the diplomatic service at the Foreign Office in Downing Street; then in the late 1970s he became an executive officer in the Customs and Excise Office in Bristol, which was when the family moved to Weston-super-Mare and, in 1974, fostered Michael, who became an integral part of the family. Peter was a very rounded person with a wide range of interests. He was a keen musician and played a number of instruments including the piano, clarinet and organ. A man with a strong faith in his Lord, he faced his brief illness in a calm and dignified manner. Peter had no fear for the future, knowing with assurance that his Lord had a place ready for him when he calls his people home. The service of thanksgiving was taken at Weston church by Pastor Geoff Dennis, who thanked God for the life of a man whose charm, warmth and loyalty have warmed and touched so many lives. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Margaret, Ann, David, Sue, Michael and their families, and with them we look forward to seeing Peter again in the Earth made new.

MAUREEN REES

### HILDA ELLA NEVA WEST (1914-2004) d. 16 September

Hilda West was born in Laver-de-la-Haye in Essex to father William Keeble, a farm manager, and mother Emily. She had a Christian upbringing, and around 1951 became a Seventh-day Adventist. Growing up in a village in Essex, she loved the countryside and animals. The open-air life, the healthy living, and the fresh food she enjoyed during her first twenty years may well

have contributed to her long and, in the main, healthy life. She was a very talented needlewoman and excelled in many crafts, training as a tailoress after leaving school. She had a beautiful singing voice, too, and played the piano, enjoying a variety of music. Hilda met her first husband, Ernest Barnett, a member of a cycle club from London, when she was 15, and they married in 1934. They had their own bungalow near Billericay. They had four children: Val, Celia, Keith and Rosemary. Hilda and her husband, who was a master cabinet maker, ran their own shared businesses, including a babywear shop and two furniture shops. Then, when she was only 38 and Ernest 45, he died suddenly and tragically from a coronary thrombosis. The children were aged 6 to 16. Hilda found work caring for children in a local council children’s home while at the same time bringing up her own children alone. After thirteen years of widowhood, Hilda met Raymond West, and they were married in 1965. One of the main highlights of their thirty-nine years of marriage was the physical undertaking of restoring two completely derelict listed properties in Suffolk, one in Assington Green and the other in Great Bromley. They learnt from books and by trial and error, and completed these projects unaided by outside contractors and to the complete satisfaction of Building Regulation Authorities. Hilda part-funded the projects by undertaking bespoke tailoring. She also trained both as a postmistress, when she and Raymond ran the post office at Stansfield, and as a City and Guilds housecraft/needlecraft teacher at adult education colleges in Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds. Her unusual strength of character and determination gave her the remarkable fortitude to tackle and succeed in such diverse directions. The couple moved to Bournemouth in the late 70s to be near their daughters, and Hilda attended Bournemouth church until prevented by failing health. She enjoyed mid-week fellowship at the home of Charles and Daphne Richards. The funeral on 27 September was conducted by Pastors M. Anthony and I. Lorek. Our sympathy is extended to her husband Raymond, her four children and their families.

DOUGLAS VINE

**Advent Centre**  
Notification of change of opening times on  
**Sundays**  
from 10am - 2pm  
to 11am - 3pm  
(Weekdays, please ring the bell)  
For further information phone the Advent Centre on  
**020 7723 6849**

### Sydney Oliver Denham (1911-2004) d. 23 October



Brother Denham was born in Jamaica, the second son of Alfred and Ethilda. He married Reva Jackson on 25 June 1949 and together they enjoyed 55 happy years of marriage. A shoemaker by trade, Brother Denham took his work very seriously. He came to England in 1956 but was unable to continue his trade, working instead in factories. He was baptised in the Dudley church in 1957, and never turned back from his commitment to the Lord. In June 1960 his wife Reva arrived in England and they settled in Wolverhampton. Brother ‘D’, as he was affectionately known, was one of the founder members of Wednesfield church in April 1980, and helped win many souls to the Lord, including his wife Reva. As his faith got stronger, he marched on, seeking, searching and spreading God’s wonderful message to all who came in his path. He served in many different departments in church and was a fervent



## Second ADRA-UK consultant leaves for Sri Lanka

by John Surridge

By the time you read this report a second ADRA-UK consultant will be working in Sri Lanka. Miss Arlene Senior, who attends the Birmingham Camp Hill church, has a great deal of experience in communication and she will be joining the ADRA-Sri Lanka team to serve as their Public Relations and Communication officer.

Speaking before she left the UK, Arlene told of how the phone call had come to her from ADRA's Command Centre in Thailand. 'ADRA-UK had my CV and, as it happened to match the profile of the person ADRA was looking for in Sri Lanka, they made the connections and put me in touch. That was on Thursday 13 January and I decided pretty quickly that I would like to go. However, the appointment is for six months, which is a long time to leave your family and friends. What finally clinched my decision was a sermon from Pastor Roy Morgan in Camp Hill on Sabbath 15 January. His theme was, 'When God opens the door make sure you go through it', which was just what I needed to hear. My flight was booked and I'm now just making the final arrangements. Conrad Vine has already given me a list of the things I need and I'll have a full briefing at the ADRA-UK office. Of course I'll also take my laptop, microphone and minidisk recorder, and digital camera, which are the basic communication tools that I'll be using. I'm hoping to be able to send regular

reports back to the UK, and I'd be really grateful if my friends and fellow church members could pray for me.'

Arlene's work in Sri Lanka will be funded completely by ADRA-UK.

## Out of the communication loop

Of all the feedback that ADRA-UK has received in connection with the South Asia Earthquake Tsunami Appeal, the vast amount has been positive. However, there have been one or two complaints from people who found themselves out of the communication loop. 'The fact is that these days the world runs largely on electronic communication,' said BUC Communication director Pastor John Surridge. 'We really are very sorry that not everyone heard about ADRA-UK's activities and the tsunami appeal as quickly as we would have liked them to, but when a crisis coincides with a major public holiday, as happened in this case, letters and phone calls may not be feasible.'

News of the South Asia Earthquake Tsunami Appeal was communicated to church members and ministers through thousands of email messages and via the BUC website. [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk). As soon as was possible letters were also sent out from the Conference offices.

If you would like to be more fully in the communication loop you can subscribe to BUC News, the free weekly email newsletter of the British Union Conference. Simply email your request to: [bucnews@adventist.org.uk](mailto:bucnews@adventist.org.uk) or use the form on the BUC website.



## Mercy not sacrifice

intimate with them the way God, our God, is with us, always ready to listen to us?' Deut. 4:5-7, The Message.

Faith has always been connected to social consequence; message without mission is meaningless and preaching without practice is purposeless. Sabbath School Lesson without the Sabbath School Mission would be self-indulgent! And is not Adventist Discovery without Adventist Development inadmissible? Paul reminds us of the futility of tongues, prophecy, understanding, knowledge, earth-moving, philanthropy or human sacrifice outside the context of a charitable spirit (1 Corinthians 13). We are called, as was Israel, to be a witness and a blessing.

People do not experience hope because we talk about a future Kingdom, rather it grows through authentic relationships that embrace the values and attitudes of that Kingdom. God's redemptive faithfulness is demonstrated through the faithfulness of his people, especially to people in need.

It would be simple to suggest that participation in the Annual Appeal serves to satisfy our charity stake for the year. A one-off penance! In practice the Christian ethic demands that we practise faith, generosity and mercy every day of our lives. The purpose of the Annual Appeal is to bring honour to 'the nation' of God's covenant people. Our object is not the transfer of wealth through token gestures, it is the gift of opportunity through job creation, it is the gift of ability through skill creation, it is the gift of encouragement to people with limited prospects, it brings healing to the hurting and forgiveness to broken relationships.

Over the last year, through ADRA, we have brought relief to people throughout Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean and closer to home in the Baltic and South East Europe. We have become an agency of repute that many depend on, with growing respect from national and European agencies. We are now a significant partner in the ADRA-International network. Our purpose is not to extract sacrifice, but give our nation, our church and our people the opportunity to exercise mercy. O Lord, give us the courage!

**The South England Conference requires a Counsellor/Counselling Service Administrator for Cornerstone Counselling Service Advent Centre, London.** This half-time joint position will shortly be vacant due to the retirement of the present post-holder. Minimum qualifications required:  
Certificate Level II in ACC counselling course or equivalent  
Three years' counselling experience  
Proven administrative abilities  
Team management experience beneficial,  
Salary £20,000-£22,500 p.a. incl., pro rata, (depending on qualifications/experience) 20 hours a week.

**Closing date: 14 February**  
For more information please contact Bernie Holford on 01923 232728. For an application pack please contact Pearl Beckles on 01923 656527 or [pbeckles@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:pbeckles@secadventist.org.uk) or write to 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ.

**NEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School training weekend** 11-13 February 2005, at The Hayes Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The main presenter will be TED SS director, Paul Clee. Special professional support will be proffered by Beulah Plunkett. Application forms are available from local pastors, PM and SS leaders, or phone/writer/ email [rmorgan@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:rmorgan@necadventist.org.uk) NEC PM department now.

## ABC BOOK SALES

**February**  
20 Newbold School 10am-2pm  
27 West Midlands 10am-2pm  
**March**  
6 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
**April**  
3 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
10 West Midlands 10am-2pm

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb 11	5.09	5.21	5.09	5.08	5.23
18	5.21	5.34	5.22	5.24	5.38
25	5.34	5.46	5.36	5.39	5.52
Mar 4	5.46	5.59	5.49	5.54	6.06

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