



## Pearls of Great Price

by Pastor Eric Lowe  
Executive-secretary of the BUC and chair of the Annual Appeals Committee

It dropped through my letterbox the other day, not the pearl, just the promise of some inside information that might lead me to a pearl or two. As one of their valued customers I had been selected to receive information about a special investment plan.

Dear Mr . . .  
With our uncertain economy, it is more important than ever not only to prepare for coming years, but to choose investment wisely. That's why XXXX has been designed with three distinct advantages for the careful investor.

First, this XXXX can offer you the opportunity of real growth on your regular savings because your investments are linked to stocks, shares and other securities.

Second, the XXXX offers returns that are free from all personal liability to income and capital gains tax for those who are basic rate taxpayers. So money realised from your account, money that rightfully belongs to you, won't end up going to the taxman instead!

Finally, this XXXX offers you a high degree of flexibility, as you'll read below, because it enables you to take advantage of a wide variety of valuable features and options.

But, just in case this wide variety of valuable features and options was insufficient to persuade me that I was on the trail to my pearl of great price, I was reminded that a free plastic alarm radio with auto wake music or buzzer, snooze facility and 2-wave-band radio was mine for the taking if I applied before the deadline. Why wait?

It set me thinking. Where did my *real* investments lie? What kind of investments had I been making lately?

Now I know there are grave dangers in thinking about life in investment terms – the worst extremes of which have been

highlighted among the televangelists on the other side of the pond – although most of us know that these dangers are not unique to just one side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Nevertheless it was the Master himself who said: 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'  
(Matthew 6:20, 21.)

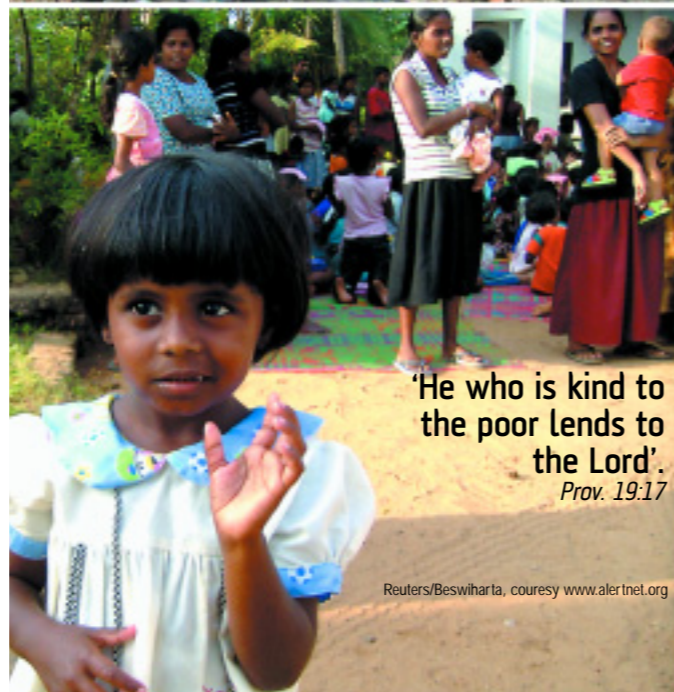
God is the greatest Investor this planet has ever seen. Think of the investment he has made in this one little world tucked away in the corner of his limitless universe. Think of his initial personal investment in terms of planning and resources. Think of his tremendous injection of further capital and personnel to meet emergency after emergency created by man's rebellion. Yes, God is a great Investor!

But more than that, he offers us the invitation to share in his investment. His multinational set-up has always been a stakeholder society.

It was the same Master who told the story of the 'rich fool' in response to someone who tried to persuade him to get involved in securing him a greater share of his late father's estate. The story ends with the punch line: 'This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves, but are not rich towards God!' (See Luke 12:21.)

What a privilege! Being a shareholder in the most audacious project in the universe!

Roland Bainton in his children's church history book, *The Church of Our Fathers*, in the chapter entitled 'The Flight to the Desert', recounts the story of a monk of



'He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord'.  
Prov. 19:17



## Church leaders test vocations at Newbold

British Union Conference officials visited Newbold on Wednesday 16 February to keep in touch with theology students at the College who might wish to be employed by the Adventist church in the UK or be sponsored for postgraduate studies in theology.

The thirteen church leaders from all parts of the Union interviewed thirty-one students about their studies and their call to ministry.

'Their basic question to us is "Are you really here at Newbold for what you think you are here for?"' said Irwin Larrier, a postgraduate theology student from Stoke Newington. 'I could describe it as "testing our vocation" but that would be more technical language.'

'We hear so much that young people are not being attracted into ministry these days. That perception has been denied by the young people we have heard today,' said Pastor Eric Lowe, secretary of the British Union. 'It has been very encouraging to hear the variety of experiences in young people's lives which lead them to sense God's call to ministry.'

HELEN PEARSON



Left to right, back row: Dr Kieth Davidson, Pastors Paul Lockham, Eric Lowe, Michael Hamilton, Fred Mapp, Egerton Francis, C. R. Perry. Front: Pastors Curtis Murphy, Alan Hodges, Don McFarlane, Dalbert Elias



Left to right: Four of the British theology students interviewed by the British Union leaders. Nerine Barrett (postgraduate theology), Daniel Thompson (2nd year BD), Irwin Larrier (postgraduate theology), Rebecca Pedersen (Licence in Theology)

### Willing Spirits

10th Anniversary Celebration

with

Steadfast, Ullanda Alexander & Resurrection

7pm, Saturday 19 March

Lytelton Theatre, Birmingham & Midland Institute,  
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3

Adults £10, Children £5.50

Call Deanne Jackson, Harper Bell School,  
0121 693 7742 (office hours)

### Acknowledgement

The treasurer of the North England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £20,000 tithe from XYZ.

M. Dove, Treasurer, North England Conference

### Job Opportunity – Senior Management Accountant

The Trans-European Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is seeking a senior management accountant to the Treasury Department at the international headquarters covering Northern Europe, part of Central and Southern Europe, the Middle East, part of Africa and Pakistan. This is a full-time position in a busy and varied environment. The successful applicant should have proven organisational skills, be able to work individually as well as part of a team, to work under pressure, meet deadlines, and have a good cross-cultural knowledge. Skills in staff management and work experience are required, preferably in other Adventist church offices.

The job description includes, but is not limited to, the preparation of monthly financial statements, budget control statements, travel budget reports, bank reconciliations and audit preparations, the control and monitoring of cash flows and investments, the review and authorisation of all ledger postings and accounts, the approval of transfers, signing of cheques, as well as annual budget preparation with the treasurer.

Professional qualifications required are BBA and/or BSA or equivalent, preferably in accounting, also advanced use of MSWord, Excel and Accounting Software. The office will be installing new SunPlus5 Accounting Software this year and extensive training will be provided.

Salaries and other benefits are according to the Trans-European Division remuneration scale. Details available upon application. A letter of application together with current CV and the addresses of two referees should be sent to: Harald Wollan, Executive Secretary, Trans-European Division of SDA, 119 St Peter's Street St Albans, AL1 3EY.

Email: [hwollan@ted-adventist.org](mailto:hwollan@ted-adventist.org)

**Deadline for Applications: 25 March 2005**

Sometimes pastors apostasise. It happens.

I once caught the swansong sermon of an apostatising pastor and will never forget how it ended.

Was he angry? No. He was wistful. This was his concluding sentence (made the more remarkable because he was leaving our church to become an Anglican!).

'... and whatever you Adventists do, never go soft on the Sabbath. It's your greatest contribution to Christianity. *Stay true to your Sabbath.*'

That sentence brought to an end twenty-five years in the Seventh-day Adventist ministry. After it the pastor left the pulpit, shook hands with each member of the (small) congregation, jumped on his motorbike and sped off into the great blue yonder. His words have stayed with me.

When next I saw him he had acquired an Open University degree, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education and was about to become an RE teacher at a big comprehensive school. 'I do miss the Sabbath, though,' he told me: after indicating that there were many pressures about being a pastor he decidedly did *not* miss!

Perhaps a couple of years later I caught sight of him jostled at the school gates in the throng of teenagers. He had that hassled, four o'clock expression teachers wear – but managed a smile and a 'What-ho!'

Some time ago I met his wife in a shopping mall and asked after her husband and family. Her husband, she said, had had to take early retirement. He had enjoyed his teaching but, by his mid-50s, the stress of his energetic career had taken its toll. By way of explanation she said, 'You see, he always missed the Sabbath. We enjoyed St Chads, especially the choir, but he never got used to life without the Sabbath.'

An issue of *Radio Times* in front of me has in it a picture of Moses carrying the two tablets of stone and, stamped over it, the words: 'BEST BEFORE AD2005?' The accompanying article, by Jon Snow, flags up a two-hour documentary on the current relevancy of the Ten Commandments to be broadcast on Channel 4. Snow has, apparently, polled 50,000 people. I really wish one of them could have been the Sabbath-starved ex-pastor.

The gadget companies have come up with all manner of devices meant to combat stress – from vibrating chairs to balls, beads and body-rollers.

The newspapers carry advertisements for CDs to combat stress – 'sound therapy' it's called: sounds of the ocean, birdsong, rainfall, sounds of the forest.

Stress-relief books represent the largest sub-category of self-help books and, according to the American Booksellers' Association, at least 2,000 new self-help titles are published in English each year, producing sales of around 500 million US dollars.

The present popularity of Yoga and Tai Chi is, according to commentators, down to the prevalence of stress.

According to the government's Health and Safety Executive, thirteen million working days per year are lost to stress in Britain alone. The same source tells us that 70% of visits to GPs are because of stress-

related illnesses, and 85% of serious illnesses are traceable to stress.

Log on to [www.stress.org](http://www.stress.org) and you will discover that the equivalent statistics for the USA are even more alarming.

\*85-90% of all visits to primary-care physicians are for stress-related complaints/disorders.

\*Stress has been linked to all the leading causes of death including heart disease, cancer, lung complaints, accidents, cirrhosis and suicide.

\*One million workers are absent on an average workday because of stress-related complaints. Stress is responsible for more than half of the 55 million workdays lost annually because of absenteeism.

\*40% of all worker turnover is due to job stress.

\*Job stress is estimated to cost US industry 300 billion dollars annually, as assessed by absenteeism, diminished productivity, employee turnover, medical insurance, etc.

Leading causes of stress? Work, money, children, health and marriage, in that order.

Harvard economist Juliet Schor has published two books that hit a nerve with most Americans: *The Overworked American* and *The Overspent American*. In the second book Schor claims that the average American works 163 more hours now than thirty years ago. Dr Schor insists that the additional workload is not the only reason most of us are coping with a profound sense of time pressure. 'We live in such a rush that we no longer fully appreciate and experience the moments of our days,' she writes. 'Life flashes by us in a blur, leaving us overworked, overspent, and overwhelmed.'

How can we cope with our overworked, overspent and overwhelmed lives in the twenty-first century?

Why couldn't somebody have invented a day – say just twenty-four hours in a seven-day week – when the pressures would be off? When the workaday week would be forgotten. Shut out. A day that would liberate everyone from the madding, materialistic society – the tyranny of the world of *things*. One day in a week when a man need not feel small, anonymous, a face in the crowd, but have a sense of his significance, identity, belonging, roots.

One day a week when a man, rushed off his hurrying feet on a weekday, could relax and communicate with, *enjoy*, his wife, his children, his family, his friends, his partners in the business of living. One day a week when, instead of *exploiting* God's creation, he could *experience* the rest and peace of *appreciating* it.

Was it too much to ask that there should be one day a week when a man could, so to speak, recharge his batteries: renew his spirit, revitalise his flagging physique, spark his mind into creative activity, and find joy in his family?

Ought not someone to have invented such a day?

Like God, for example?

# Best before 2005?



with David Marshall

Well, of course, God *did*. Right at the very beginning.

The Church of which you are a member is the primary means by which God seeks to communicate the blessings of that day in the context of the everlasting gospel 'unto them that dwell on the earth'. (See Revelation 14.)

So let's not be shy about it. 'Best before 2005?' Absolutely not. It has never been more important. Even one-time pastors look back wistfully and remember God's great day as the best stress-busting idea they have ever experienced.

## Healthwise

### Combat Stress

Not an order or a piece of advice, but a reality of life! A new survey of mental health problems in the UK has highlighted a growing concern – up to 20% of all military combatants will show some degree of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Soldiers are used to being guinea-pigs in that they provide a homogenous mass for experimental purposes. The cocktail of drugs given service personnel before the first Gulf War without prior knowledge of the effects of the mixture has likely contributed to what is now known in the Western world as Gulf War Syndrome.

Only recently was it discovered that the common cold experiments, at the Ministry of Defence's Porton

Down Biological Weapons Establishment, were in fact nerve warfare agents. This came to light when the 'volunteers' involved started to deteriorate in their health with the only common factor being their stay at the Establishment.

Combat stress, while not new, is nevertheless a recent and recurrent problem. Already, since being involved in the second Gulf War, more than 460 soldiers have been discharged from the services with mental health problems, with 50 of these diagnosed as PTSD. Some do not make it to the surgery. The suicide rate following the first Gulf War was 5 times higher than combat fatalities during the war.

The service personnel get a raw deal for fighting, with military psy-

chiatric hospitals scaled down in current defence cuts in spending. There are around 600 new referrals of combat stress annually, with a 6-month waiting list for treatment. It may take up to ten years for a diagnosis to be made and appropriate treatment given. Some of those receiving treatment started it after the PTSD of WW2.

Typically, the PTSD sufferer has poor concentration, intense fear, insomnia, and recurring, intrusive flashbacks to scenes better forgotten. Lacking any real help, alcoholism rates rise as these distressed people try to drown their sorrows. Many find themselves in trouble because of their eccentric or explosive behaviour and end up in prison. At the present time approximately 5,000 ex-service men and women are imprisoned.

War, even by military personnel,

is seen as an unpopular and controversial issue with close quarter, or hand-to-hand fighting, the most horrific. The carnage caused by so-called 'friendly fire' does nothing to instil confidence. Whatever our personal views on war and bearing arms we can at least recognise the tremendous pressures under which large sections of our society work.

'Combat stress' should be an order; it should also be advice, and we should help provide the kind of environment that will put an end to the activities that cause it. While we serve a God of peace let us remember and help those whose peace has been so tragically damaged in our service.



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







## Not just any old party

Friday 14 January was a day of celebration shared with the residents of The Dell in Oulton Broad. There were 102 reasons why all were gathered in the lounge, cameras clicking and faces smiling. It was the occasion of Irene Osborne's birthday, but not just any birthday as you may have guessed.

Irene was born in 1903 and it was her 102nd birthday.

We were reminded that she was born before we had polio jabs or penicillin, radios or refrigerators, television or the Internet, and before men walked on the moon.

We listened with pleasure to poems and songs performed by members of the Waveney

Singers, a popular local group invited for the occasion by Jean Spoor, the manageress of The Dell.

Irene was thrilled to receive flowers, a mountain of cards, and a special box of mints from the Houses of Parliament, given to her by the local MP Bob Blizzard, who came in person and helped her cut her birthday cake.

Irene told us that she gave her heart to Jesus when she was 8, and has never regretted it as he has led her all her life. We were glad to rejoice with her and praise the Lord that her life continues to blossom and encourage others to this day.

F. PEAKE

## London Ghana church at work Four baptised at Walthamstow

Sunday 17 October was a defining moment for the London Ghana Central church which worships in Tottenham. The day was organised by the LIFEdevelopment department with the aim to serve the community. The journey of a thousand miles began with the first step of cleaning the Down Lane recreation grounds where Pavilion Pre-School is located in Tottenham. As work was in progress, a passer-by commented, 'I have never seen anything like this. It is really good.'

organise more community work in the future, at least three times a year.

In the last few years, the London Ghana church has engaged itself in mobilising members to use their God-given gifts in sharing their faith and witnessing. This was evident in this year's campaign entitled 'Hope for Today' by church pastors Dr Emmanuel Osei and Fergus Owusu-Boateng. Two souls were baptised.

FRANK ANIPA



The pastors, elders, their wives and church members, participated in this initiative geared towards practical application of evangelism in the twenty-first century. The day began with the distribution of LIFE.info magazines to homes around John Loughborough Secondary School in Tottenham. The children, youth and adults participated in this evangelistic initiative and distributed 240 magazines.

In his closing remarks, church Pastor Dr Emmanuel Osei thanked all those who attended and prayed that the church continues to

On 29 January four young ladies were baptised by Pastor Leslie Ackie. They were Rebecca Bodkin, Hannah Lindo, Le-Jhel Williams, and Monica Ncube.

Three of the candidates have grown up in Walthamstow church. All have been using their gifts and talents already in teen ministry, singing, puppet ministry, playing the clarinet, acting, public speaking, and encouraging. All are endowed with warm personalities. The candidates are already looking forward to serving in their new roles, including trainee deaconess, Youth department and Communication assistant.

The families and friends of the candidates came from as far away as Wales for this special day.

The elders who conducted the Bible studies with the young ladies spoke candidly about the challenging questions they had been asked during their studies. It was an emotion-

al occasion with many tears of joy being shed by families, friends and candidates. COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

### PLAY (Project Lewisham Adventist Youth)

Volunteers are needed to help with Lewisham Adventist church's play scheme. Please contact Barbara Robinson-Perry on 020 7652 1960 for more details.

### National Parenting Week

Members of the Llandrindod Wells company organised a full week of events for National Parenting Week late last year. Mornings were mainly taken up with Kidz Club, and afternoons and evenings saw a variety of seminars using both our church experts and experts from local organisations. First Aid, good eating habits, drugs recognition and advice was given.

The 'Care for the family'



Parentalk programme also followed, which did much to raise the profile of the church in the town and helped to secure grant money which the council will be using to improve facilities for future events such as ours. Their comment was 'We need more events like this one.'

The organisers received phone calls and messages of encouragement from organisations and parents in the town. One parent said, 'I just had to phone you to tell you how impressed I was with the programme you put on. Thank you.'

Christ mingled as One who desired their good, met their needs, won their confidence before saying, 'Come, follow me.' The events of the week tried to follow this example.

GORDON LETHBRIDGE

### Pastor speaks out

On Sunday 9 January the local newspaper *Express and Star* interviewed Pastor Jude Jeanville – one of many ministers from various denominations – for thoughts about the now infamous Jerry Springer TV programme. While other ministers pointed out the obvious in terms of profanity, blasphemy, etc., Pastor Jeanville focused on the underlying message of the programme that there was no 'good or evil'; that this was just two sides of the same coin.

The reporters were impressed, stating that this was an angle that everyone else had missed.

Congratulations should go to Pastor Jeanville, as it is more than likely that this statement will be published rather than the usual comments about the programme, which will once again highlight the positive message of our faith.

SIMON DOUGLAS

### Health week at Liverpool

In late October Liverpool was graced with yet another visit from Brother R. Angel and Sister J. Wade.

'Not another health series,' may have been among the thoughts of many members of Liverpool church as announcements were made and posters displayed. Yet as the week commenced the meetings were well attended, especially Thursday night (being the cooking workshop). We were pleasantly surprised by the eggless pancakes and low-fat homemade crisps.

The programme was aimed not only at the church members but at the community, and the compelling

topics included cholesterol, smoking, combatting weight, and cancer prevention. Indubitably the main emphasis of the week was to look at how our bodies can be 'temples of the Holy Spirit' (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

We learned that spiritual life is not separate from the physical and can be more edifying when we are healthy. So, rather than being just the same old message, these programmes help to re-establish health principles within our lives.

ABIGAIL REY

### In the picture

In 2004 Ken Jones of the Colchester church, who is a keen photographer, went on two holidays. In 2003 many of us sent shoeboxes to Latvia. How many of you wondered where they were going? Who they were helping? These questions were in Ken's mind. He contacted ADRA and asked if he could go over and take photos and make a slide show of the shoeboxes in the Latvian school.

In March 2004 he flew out and was met by the ADRA director of Latvia, who kindly let him stay at his home while he was there. He was taken to the school where the shoeboxes had been given. He met the headmistress and the children who were very grateful for the presents. He interviewed the ADRA director and the headmistress for his slide show. He was also taken to a Latvian Adventist church, which is also on the slide show.

His second trip was to the Poland Youth Conference in August, where he took more photos and slides so that those who couldn't go could see what went on. He met lots of interesting people and joined in the events. He got out of the marathon though. His reason? He had to take the photos, of course!

If any church, not too far from Colchester, is interested in seeing his slide shows, he would be happy to come to your church to show them. Please write to: Ken Jones, c/o Adventist Church, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex.

### York Silver Weddings

Just before Pastor Roger Neal, following a five-and-a-half-year pastorate, left York for Shrewsbury, he officiated at a thanksgiving service for two couples who were celebrating their silver weddings – Maurice and Dawn Franks, and Geoff and Sharon Puckering. The two couples were unaware of one another but



Left to right: Dawn and Maurice Franks, Pastor and Mrs Neal, Geoff and Sharon Puckering

they married at the same time, on the same day, and had the same hymns. Now they worship at the same church.

ANDREW PUCKERING

### STOP International Fundraising

In the 5 November issue (Vol. 109/24) of *MESSENGER*, STOP International had a report of the 2004 summer orphanage project in India. Following the publication of the article a number of enquiries were received from potential volunteers to be involved in the 2005 project.

STOP International have received several donations for which we would extend our thanks. The fundraising team have also been active raising funds for the next project. On 23/24 October twenty-four members of the Stanborough Badminton Club took part in a 24-hour Sponsored Badminton in the Stanborough School gym. Students of Stanborough School and members of the church and community took part. Their brave and exuberant effort raised over £2,000.

During four days of the Christmas season members of the Stanborough Park church sang Christmas carols in the Watford Harlequin shopping centre and the Watford ASDA hyperstore to raise funds and share the wonderful story of the Gospel with the shoppers. Pastor Robert Vine tirelessly accompanied the willing singers on his

accordion and the Lord blessed us by raising £1,239. June Williams has a special gift of baking delicious Christmas cakes. She donated 21 beautifully-decorated works of art which were sold to raise just under £400 for STOP International's 2005 orphanage project.

The Board of Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all STOP International's supporter and would welcome any enquires regarding Project 2005. Please write to the following email address: [kishpoddar@netel.com](mailto:kishpoddar@netel.com).

KISH PODDAR

### SITUATIONS VACANT

**STANBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
The post of **Nursery Manager** will be available from September 2005. If you would like to join our team and are enthusiastic, innovative and committed to quality learning; experienced in teaching the early years; are suitably qualified: minimum NNEB or NVO3 in Early Years, and are a committed Adventist, please send your CV to address below.  
The post of **Key Stage 1 Teacher** will also be available from September. If you would like to join our team, and are enthusiastic, innovative and committed to quality learning; possess a recognised teaching qualification; are experienced or newly-qualified, and are a committed Adventist, please send CV to: The Headteacher, Stanborough Primary School, Appletree Walk, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 0DD.

**BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE**  
Full-time vacancy for a **Groundsman for Stanborough Park Estate**, from May 2005. Applicants must have relevant skills and experience in estate management, and be sympathetic to the ethics and values of the Adventist Church. Application forms from: BUC Secretariat, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 672251. Closing date: 7 April.





# Arlene Senior reports from Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka



Just after 7am on the morning of Tuesday 8 February Anita Obenaus, our project director, Damith our driver, Krishan our translator, and I left Colombo and drove down the west coast of Sri Lanka to Hikkaduwa, one of the areas that ADRA-Sri Lanka is providing relief to in the wake of the tsunami. We drove for almost three hours on rough and smooth roads – the after-effects of the tsunami very evident. Fishermen's boats lay destroyed and abandoned, their owners' livelihoods ruined. Most of the buildings close to the sea had been damaged, some partially, some completely. The railway line which used to carry people down from the west to the south was a tangled mess, but at least it is now being repaired by workmen. A lot of debris has also been removed, but in its place you see tents – donated by various charities and other organisations and housing a vast population of people whose homes have been destroyed.

ADRA-Sri Lanka will be providing 600 tents to one of these camps for Internally Displaced People; our reason for being in Hikkaduwa. On this particular day we were to assess the situation, attend meetings, sort out the priority families, and have the lists and procedures ready for the arrival of the tents.

While we were visiting one par-

ticular camp we saw that another relief organisation was busy distributing household items. They had a list of names and called the families' names out one by one to receive their items. A group of ladies surrounded us, all talking at once, and our translator told us that they thought we had also come to give out aid. Apparently their names were not on the list and they were not receiving anything. They needed shelter and household items. Some of them had babies, but there was nothing we could do. It was heart breaking.

On a more positive note, as I looked around the camps I saw that they were extremely clean and well organised. Each tent bore the name of the organisation that had donated it and a number so that the family could be identified. Every now and again a child would be brave enough to look over, smile at us, and wave. I felt as if I was a tourist coming to stare intrusively at these people in their time of need. I discretely took photos, necessary for my communication work, but we did not stay long enough to speak to anyone.

Later we spoke to some of the government officials and were shown around other camps. Common complaints, we were told, included the fact that ants were getting into the tents, there were cobras



Left to right: Geraldine Turner, Katrina Connaghan, Saralinn Frazer, Kathy Mitchell, Anita-Zeline Frazer

## Gifts for an orphanage

Members of the Junior Sabbath School in Rhyl, who were deeply impressed to send Christmas presents to a children's orphanage in Serbia, devised a unique method of doing so. Gifts, relevant to age groups, contained clothes, toys, goodies and handmade Christmas cards with friendly messages on them. These were placed in six shoeboxes, but it was discovered that two more were needed. An opportunity was then given to the members of Rhyl church to contribute to this heart-warming venture, and the loaves and fishes increased to eighteen!

Imagine the delight and excitement the children of the orphanage experienced on opening the shoeboxes and discovering all the gifts inside!

Special thanks to Pastor and Mrs Fretson Taylor, who were visiting Rhyl at the time and who agreed to take the boxes to the ADRA headquarters in Watford.

LESLIE RISKOWITZ

around, and there was no lighting at night.

Back at the office in Colombo we had to deal with logistic issues. ADRA's 600 tents had arrived on Sunday 6 February but were waiting to clear customs. Without this clearance we couldn't do anything. Then

at around 10.50am on Thursday 10 February we received a call asking us where we wanted the 600 tents to be distributed. We all celebrated and cheered as this meant that they were going to release our tents fairly quickly. Unfortunately, as I write, they still haven't appeared.



OLIVER MARTYN

# Galway Mayor at Grianach House School

The Mayor of Galway, Councillor Catherine Connolly, was the special guest of honour at the Christmas play staged in Grianach House School. Councillor Connolly stayed for the entire performance and afterwards told the audience how the play had helped remind her of the innocence of Christmas. All the students of the school took part in the play which was largely researched and written by the students of fifth and sixth class.

The play involved songs and readings based on five topics: the story of the Christmas tree, the story of Christmas cards, information about holly, ivy and mistletoe, the story of Santa Claus and information about gift giving, and it finished with the dramatisation of the nativity story and the singing of such carols as 'Away in a Manger', 'O'iche Chiúin' ('Silent Night' in Irish) and 'Joy to the World'.

School principal Esther Robartson thanked all who had performed, Gerry Gough who had helped so much with rehearsal and the music on the night, and all the students' parents, relatives and friends who had turned up to watch a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas.

# Speaker asks, 'What went wrong?'

Stroud Green Baptist church was the place to be when Muswell Hill church held its Children's Day on 6 November. 'We've never seen anything like it,' was the recurrent remark by members as our numbers swelled to over 120 as family members, visitors and friends joined us in celebration of our children.

Nineteen-year-old Victor Aquah was the guest speaker for the Children's Day. His aptly-named sermon, entitled 'Atishoo, atishoo, they all fall down', focused in some part on our teens who grew up among us and then 'fell' away. 'What went wrong?' he asked. We were reminded, too, that in the Bible God often chose children to give his messages even to older ones.

'We've bought into the idea that God only uses adults, but that is not the case. . . ' Many people left church that day with a new determination to spend more time with their children and to nurture them in the

Lord. Others were determined to introduce family worship into their homes after hearing Victor speak about the family altar.

The evening's concert was a showcase for Muswell Hill talent and we were not disappointed as the children sang and recited poems. The proceeds of the sale of food during the intermission was donated to our church building fund and that, with an offering which was collected, brought the total to £480.

Four weeks later, on 11 December, Anthony Fuller was the speaker at our Youth Day. He had the rapt attention of the congregation as he gave many life stories telling of where God had brought him from and of his hope that all present, especially the youth, could get to know God for themselves. The day ended with a drama group from the West Green Road church putting on a play entitled 'Choices'.

DORIS ADAMS

## Summer revival

In the dark days this winter Stoke Newington church members have found themselves looking back on a Week of Revival meetings last August.

Pastor Clive Dutton, a conference Youth director from Trinidad, was used by God to deliver the message. Between 300-400 gathered in the 29-degree heat of Sabbath 7 August. Eight were baptised: Philistina Vincent, Madeleine Mathun Carol McKenzie, Wilfred Roberts, Theola Marshall and Leon Johnson.

We are praying that Pastor Dutton will make a return visit this year.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## Help for Ukraine

Residents living in Gwydyr Road were intrigued by the huge ADRA lorry parked for some days on the church driveway, and the local paper eventually carried a large write-up of this event. Mike Thompson, who works at Roundelwood, had the vision of doing something for the needy in Ukraine and started to collect clothes, toys and furniture for this purpose. Just by word of mouth his project got around Crieff and people started to bring aid to the little ADRA warehouse in the church grounds. After less than two years, the warehouse was full and so Mike drove the ADRA lorry from Watford to Crieff to collect the humanitarian aid. Ten volunteers loaded the lorry which Harry Wilby drove back to Watford from where the aid will be forwarded to an orphanage in Ukraine. This orphanage has 188 children, many of whom have learning difficulties, and receives very little State help. Indeed, since the laundry facility broke down, there has been no money to repair it so the washing has to be done by hand. The article in the local press carried quite a lot of information about ADRA and the church's work. This was another avenue for witness.

PASTOR A. R. RODD

### Church campaign 'You can make it!'

12-26 March

Brixton church  
Santley Street  
London SW4

Speaker  
Pastor H. Williams

Tel: 02072 748 283  
07956 546 338

# Health seminars at Canterbury

Canterbury church organised a series of health seminars every Sabbath from 4 September to 2 October. Members of the church as well as visitors were inspired by the health messages which were delivered by various health professionals. The first speaker was Warwick Bryan, who spoke on Basic Food Combining and Detoxing to Prevent Arthritis. The presentation was based on Bible teaching and Ellen G. White writings on healthy living. As a result of this presentation, many people were determined to change their lifestyle, including what they ate.

The speaker of the next evening was Dr Hazel Barron, a general practitioner at one of the local surgeries in Deal, Kent. Dr Barron spoke on ways to control weight and the effects of being overweight. Free checks for blood pressure, blood sugar level and body mass index were offered by Dr Barron at the end of the presentation. On the third evening, Abi Morgridge, head of the Nutrition and Dietetics department at one of the local hospitals, delivered a talk on Healthy Living. Abi described the types of food we require and the portions recommended as set out by the British Heart Foundation. She stressed that eating a healthy diet alone was not sufficient to lose weight, and that physical exercise should also be included.

A presentation on diabetes was made by Hilary Payne, a diabetes support nurse based in the Medway area. The final presentation was Relationship and Self-Esteem which was delivered by Matthew Morrissey, lecturer in mental health nursing, and Brenda Wilson, a teacher and counsellor at a local primary school. One of the things stressed was that all human beings need love. However, the only person who can offer an unchanging love and a love which lasts forever is Jesus Christ.

VIOLET NG



# Rhyl baptism

A baptism took place at the Rhyl church, conducted by Pastor Theunis de Buisson on 11 December.

It was a wonderful occasion as two precious souls gave public testimony by giving their hearts to the Lord, witnessed by family and friends. The candidates were Mary Skelton of the Wrexham group and Cameron Knight who attends at Llandudno. How we need to pray that these soldiers of the cross will do great exploits for the Lord.

For the pastor and his wife it was a spiritually rewarding experience because their great mission in life is the winning of souls for the kingdom. To this end they dedicate their lives to God.

LESLIE RISKOWITZ



< p1  
**Pearls of Great Price**

Alexandria in Egypt who often came into the city. Through his ministry he came to know a rich young woman who was, however, very greedy. One day the monk said to her, 'I know how to get you a set of jewels at a very low price. If you give me five hundred pieces of silver, I can get them for you.' She entrusted him with the money, but he never brought the jewels. Eventually she confronted him. 'I'll show you the jewels, answered the monk and if you are not satisfied, you may have your money back.' He took the woman to a house and enquired, 'Would you like to see the

emeralds first or the gems?'

'It doesn't matter,' she retorted. So he took her first to his hospital for people with leprosy. 'There are my emeralds.' Next he showed her people who had been crippled. 'These are my gems. Will you have your money back?' he questioned. 'No, it's worth it,' she reflected.

Of course it's worth it. The greatest investment we can ever make is in *people* – and the greatest investment we can ever make in people is reaching out to assist the most vulnerable in our world. There is a catching truth in Proverbs 19:17: 'He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord!'

Our annual ADRA-UK appeal will provide each one of us with another

opportunity to join in God's great investment drive. Moreover, in the light of the above quote, as we visit from door to door, or as we go from shop to shop or business to business we are inviting others to join us in lending to the Lord!

Wouldn't it be great if we could 'lend' the Lord £750,000 via the ADRA-UK Appeal 2005! Did you know that although this is half as much again of what we have traditionally raised, it is not as impossible as it seems. Our church membership in the UK is just over 24,000. But we know that perhaps as many as a third of these are on the fringe of church life or have lost contact altogether, so that takes us down to 16,000. And then perhaps

we need to take off another 8,000 to account for those who are too old, too young, too ill, or too whatever to be engaged. So that only leaves 8,000 people who have the challenge of raising £750,000 to lend to God! But if each of those 8,000 people raised just £100 we would more than reach that target.

Let's join together in making the ADRA-UK Appeal 2005 the greatest investment in God's precious gemstones.

**NEC Youth Day  
'Total Commitment'**  
on  
26 March at 10am  
at Huddersfield Town Hall  
**Guest Speaker:**  
Pastor Damein Johnson  
Afternoon concert at 5pm

## 2004 ADRA Annual Appeal supports mobile health clinics in Nepal

by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

One of the areas targetted in last year's ADRA-UK Annual Appeal was the Kavre district in central Nepal. Primary healthcare resources are in very short supply in Nepal generally with just four doctors per 100,000 people, and there are many isolated villages in Kavre where the villagers must walk for up to eight hours to get proper medical attention.

Money raised during last year's Ingathering campaign was used to set up mobile health clinics to serve the 385,000 inhabitants of the Kavre district, and since July last year some 30,000 women and children have benefited.

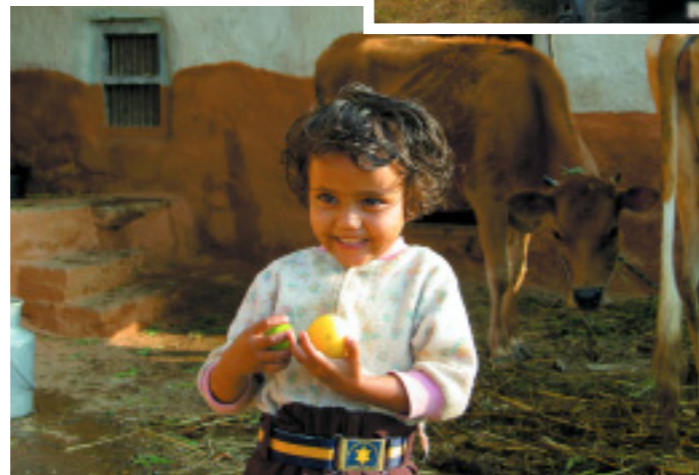
Over the last eleven years ADRA, in partnership with the Scheer Adventist Memorial Hospital in Banepa, has been able to run medical camps throughout Nepal. The

mobile clinics are particularly successful because they enable local villagers to be treated by specialists such as gynaecologists and dental assistants whose skills are usually only available in expensive clinics in large towns. Typically the mobile

clinics offer: general health check-ups, gynaecological services, family planning, birthing assistance, screening and checking for breast cancer, immunisation, cervical cancer screening, dental care, and laboratory services.

In parallel with the mobile clinics there is a strong emphasis on health education. Whole communities are

been able to work in partnership with our Adventist hospital. We get skilled Adventist volunteers coming from as far away as Australia so labour costs are kept low. It was also good to see with my own eyes the way that the project leaders have converted former buses into rugged mobile clinic vans with the ability to reach the remotest parts of the country. Altogether it was very obvious that this project is working well and the local people are really getting the help they need.'



given education in primary and child health care, oral hygiene, family planning, sanitation, anti-smoking, nutrition, and other essential health basics. The education is backed up with brochures, posters, and some innovative tools such as videos to show while patients are waiting for services.

ADRA-UK director Raafat Kamal visited the area in November last year and was very pleased with what he found. 'One of the things I was really pleased about with this project was the way that ADRA has

### ABC BOOK SALES

**March**

12 Leeds 6.30pm-8pm  
13 Huddersfield 10am-12 noon  
20 Peckham 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
Mar 11	5.58	6.11	6.02	6.08	6.20
18	6.10	6.23	6.14	6.23	6.33
25	6.22	6.34	6.27	6.37	6.47
Apr 1	7.34	7.46	7.40	7.51	8.00

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