

## Our Global Village: Our Responsibility



by Dr Richard De Lisser  
Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, SEC

We live in a global village connected by technology and affected by geo-economic strategies; and we are touched by tragedies which are portrayed on our television screens as soon as they unfold. Land and sea may lie between us, but we are all connected and are mutually affected as we seek to survive in our ever-shrinking world, this global village we call Earth.

When disaster strikes it affects everyone. The rippling effects of hurricane Katrina sent shock waves through the world, which are still being felt today as global economies continue to struggle with high oil prices. The 9/11 tragedy may have occurred in the United States but, in light of this, legislation has been passed in many countries in an attempt to combat global terrorism. No one is unaffected.

Because we are all affected, we also have a responsibility for one another and to one another in our global village. We must seek to bear one another's burdens so that, when disaster strikes, we can help to relieve suffering and pain. One of the ways in which we can help is through ADRA.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) operates within the context of our global village. As the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its pre-emptive mission is to:

- REFLECT the character of God through humanitarian and developmental activities.
- SUPPORT communities in need through a portfolio of development activities that are planned and implemented co-operatively.
- PROVIDE assistance in situations of crisis or chronic distress, and work towards the development of long-term solutions with those affected.
- WORK through equitable partnerships with those in need to achieve positive and sustainable change in communities.
- BUILD networks that develop indigenous capacity, appropriate technology and skills at all levels.

- DEVELOP and maintain relationships with our partners, which provide effective channels for mutual growth and action.
- PROMOTE and expand the equitable and participatory involvement of women in the development process.
- ASSIST in maximising the capacity of each community to care for and manage its natural resources.
- FACILITATE the right and ability of all children to attain their full potential, and to assist in assuring the child's survival to achieve that potential.

To help these endeavours further, ADRA-UK is once again launching its annual Ingathering Appeal. Collecting will be 25 March-9 April in areas outside London, and 25 March-16 April in the London area.

This affords us an exciting opportunity to reach out to people around us with the love of Jesus and to connect with people who are in need of his love in action. We will be touching lives with the money we collect, in such places as Nepal, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sudan, Namibia, and here in the UK.

The theme for this year's ADRA-UK annual appeal is *'What you do makes a difference!'* This year we aim to raise £1 million. I would like to encourage you to collect or donate a minimum of £100 per person. This would help to raise the £1 million for the ADRA-UK Appeal 2006. It is our challenge. Together we can do it!

We live in a global village, we are all connected, and we are all affected, but we can help those in need in our global village by raising funds in this year's ADRA-UK Annual Ingathering Appeal.

Will you help to 'make a difference'?



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**INGATHERING DATES:** 25 March-9 April. London Greater Metropolitan Area, 25 March-16 April



# LET'S GO PUBLIC! God is not a secret to be kept!

by Ed Sammons, Welsh Mission Youth sponsor

Jesus said, 'Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. . . . You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house.' (Matthew 5:13-16, *Message*.)

These words are powerful words. Jesus asks us to bring out the God-flavours and God-colours in our world. In our church calendar, 2006 is the Year of Youth Evangelism. How are you going to bring out the God-flavours and God-colours in your community?

## Getting God onto the streets

Last year I was involved with a team of sixteen young people who washed cars in a supermarket car park. People asked who we were and why we were doing it. Our response was that we were Christians who just wanted to help people out in some way, and if possible raise money for the Prince's Trust Wales. During that time, we washed over fifty cars, received over £200 in gratuities, and raised the profile of our church in our community. In fact, the local newspaper ran a story profiling our service. Is this what Jesus meant by bringing out the God-flavours of this world?

When God created this world he built it on relationships, but since the fall, relationships have been in disharmony. I think that's why people are so surprised and touched when we serve them and expect nothing in return. Jesus came into the world to bring back harmony and reconciliation to broken relationships. The Bible reminds us that God so loved the world that he 'gave'. When we give we become like God and shine our light for him.

## Serving communities

For the last two summers I have taken groups of young people over to Lithuania on mission trips. Our purpose has been simply to serve others so that our work will speak well of our God. Over these two years we have done construction-like work, landscaping, litter picking, street-karaoke, crafts, gardening, a contemporary Christian concert, 'fund-raising' for local charities, a classical music concert, sports activities, cultural presentations and a school of English. During these activities local young people have asked members of our team, 'Why did you come here?' and 'Why are you doing this for us?' The same questions were asked by journalists when we were interviewed on TV. People were so surprised by our ministering that news of our projects was covered almost daily in local newspapers – especially when our football team played a match against a Lithuanian First Division side!

Jesus became flesh and lived among us, and the Bible says, 'He was the light of life!' Through

his kindness to others and his life of service he pointed others to God, explaining what God was like along the way. Did you know that 66% of Jesus' teaching was given in response to a question?

## How to introduce Jesus to your friends

In Luke 9 we find the story of Matthew. To cut a long story short, Matthew was a tax collector but, when he met Jesus, he made a decision to follow him as his disciple. Consequently, because he recognised Jesus' importance, he wanted to make sure everyone he knew had the chance to meet him as well. So Matthew threw a party and invited Jesus to dine with all his friends.

Have you ever wondered how you can introduce Jesus to your friends? Or perhaps introduce your church friends to your non-church friends? Why not throw a 'Matthew party'? Or perhaps you can watch a DVD or go bowling together? You never know what may come of it, particularly if you pray. If you want to be *you* and not somebody else, could this be a means of somehow bringing out the God-colours in the world?

How will you point others to God this year? What will you do that will make a difference for God's Kingdom? I remember hearing a saying that went something like this: 'If you're not sure of what you are called to, just go and find a dark place and shine.' It may be clichéd, but it contains tremendous truth and challenge.

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

## Healthwise

### Spud Bashing?

Potatoes were introduced to Great Britain in the 1590s, and were not immediately hailed as a wonder food. The Protestants would not plant them because they were not mentioned in the Bible, and to get round this theological handicap, Irish Catholics sprinkled their seed potatoes with holy water and planted them on Good Friday! The common name *spud* was an Irish gift to the English language deriving from the word used for the spade used to dig potatoes.

Varieties of potatoes have been created by cross-planting, and the different varieties are favoured for varying culinary use. The latest variety, *Vivaldi*, was introduced in

the year 2000. Named for the fact that it can be planted all year round (*Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'*), and used in a number of cooking processes, the potato has one third less carbohydrate, thus making it a better choice for weight watchers.

The *Vivaldi* potato was bred over a nine-year period of natural cross-breeding before coming to market. Not so some other potatoes in common use. Genetically modified potatoes on sale in the US had their DNA spliced with a gene related to *Bacillus anthrax* to produce their own insecticide – *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Research into potato genetic modification also took place in Scotland, at the Rowlett Institute, Aberdeen.

Dr Arpad Pusztai, the principal

researcher, extracted a naturally occurring pesticide – a *lectin* – from the snowdrop. This *lectin* protected the flower from aphids and other insects. Pusztai tested the *lectin* alone and genetically modified potatoes containing *lectin* on the rats in his laboratory. He fed his rats the equivalent of 800 times the amount of *lectins* that the potato would produce, with no ill-effect. However, when he fed the *lectins* in the form of genetically modified potatoes he had an unexpected result.

The GM-fed rats had a variety of problems after 10 days that persisted to 110 days – this latter figure reckoned to correspond to 10 years of human life. The rats had damaged immune systems; low white-cell counts, making them vulnerable to

infection; less developed brains, livers, and testicles; and organ damage, particularly of the thymus and spleen.

Since the damage did not occur with the *lectin* on its own, Pusztai concluded that it had to be the result of modifying the potatoes. Shakespeare's Falstaff said, 'Let the sky rain potatoes.' If it does, it had better be naturally bred ones rather than the GM variety!

Whatever the arguments of the GM industry, the issue *is* really one of safety. The researchers need to do a lot more spud bashing before they come up with something that is safe and acceptable!



# Fast Forward

David Marshall

We live in the fast lane and expect it to be Easy Street.

The microwave could be a symbol of our lifestyle. 'It takes longer than five minutes? Forget it! Let's eat out.'

God can use fast-lane (microwave) methods. He made the world in six days. The fact that he doesn't use them very often reflects the fact that, most of the time, he has to work with sinful human beings. Why? There is no other kind. And sinful human beings make haste slowly. They learn *very* slowly, and unlearn more slowly still. They reach spiritual maturity so slowly that their progress is barely discernable at times.

Salvation takes an instant. Spiritual maturity – growth in grace<sup>1</sup> – takes rather longer.

But there are periods in our experience, and those of Bible people, when God seems to move into – let's call it *fast forward*. It's a long way short of the microwave approach. Microwave implies mega results in minutes. God's fast-forward methods often take years! (Remember, he's working with sinful humans.)

James gives us an insight into God's fast-forward methods right at the start of his letter:

'When all kinds of trials and challenges come at you, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as potential friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. You know when you are under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so that you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.'<sup>2</sup>

When God puts your spiritual maturity on fast forward, he doesn't cause your trials, challenges and pressures. He may, however, use them to get your attention. Then, having your attention, he works with you – ever so slowly – to remove that root of bitterness, pride, unforgiveness, whatever it is you need to lose. But as God does that he also builds up in you those characteristics that will maximise your contribution to life – and his service.

Paul says that God puts his priceless treasure into 'a common earthenware jar'.<sup>3</sup> But, at the point when the priceless treasure is poured in, the earthenware jar may not yet have been fired up in the kiln or shaped by the Potter. The firing up, the shaping – that fit us for service – may involve some problems, pressures, but never despair. Paul says, 'We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!'<sup>4</sup>

Joseph is a case in point. God chose him for the top job when he was 17. Was Joseph ready? Far from it. Even his dotting father found his self-centredness exasperating.<sup>5</sup> But God knew that, with a bit of fast forward, Joseph could be *made* ready. Nevertheless, twenty years separated Joseph's being sold into slavery from the time he was ready for service. Only after years of slavery and unjust imprisonment was he called to be Pharaoh's Supremo.

David is another 'fast-forward' case study. God saw his potential when he, too, was a teenager. But, despite his early successes, David was by no means ready for kingship. Over the fast-forward years in which he was made ready, he lost his mentor, Samuel, to death, then lost his wife, Michal, to what we might call 'misappropriation'.<sup>6</sup> He had lost his best friend, Jonathan, to political geography and – when he 'acted like a madman'<sup>7</sup> in front of a Philistine king – we can assume that he had lost his self-respect.

Only when he had lost the support of the 400 misfits who looked to him as leader, did David learn the lesson: You have only one Resource – GOD.

He and his 400 misfits had secured a leasehold on the Philistine town of Ziklag. One day, when David and his men were away, the Amalekites burned Ziklag to a crisp and captured the wives and children of David and his 400. On their return, the 400 played one round of the blame game. David lost. When they picked up rocks to destroy him – when it was clear that he was *totally alone* – David knew he had only God. And he found that God was more than enough.<sup>8</sup> He immediately moved from loser to learner. Within two chapters he was king!

God's longest fast-forward-to-maturity was with Moses. *Moses took forty years!* Perhaps that long period of preparation reflected the scale of the job God had marked out for him.

It is possible that Moses had grown up with the idea that, one day, he would be the man to liberate his enslaved people, the Hebrews. Before the Sanhedrin, Stephen would imply that Moses' murder of the Egyptian overseer was meant to jump-start the liberation movement: 'Moses thought that his own people would realise that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.'<sup>9</sup> The following day saw Moses jump-starting a camel and heading for the nearest frontier.

God used the forty years that trainee Pharaoh Moses spent being an assistant shepherd in Midian to teach him the lesson of Psalm

46:10. 'Be still! Stop striving, Moses! Know that I am God – above political strategems. My plans cannot be jump-started. I have my own timetable: I don't do microwave. Take a loving look at your High God, Moses. Wait for his timing.'

For forty years in solitude and discomfort God dealt with the pride and ambition of Moses. He taught him humility. And humility brought with it a teachable spirit. When God had finished training Moses, he was ready to spend the forty years remaining to him as God's great Old Testament liberator.

The burning back of the Sinai desert was the kiln in which the Potter shaped the earthen vessel for service.

- Through the kiln of adversity
- Abram the liar became Abraham the friend of God.
- Rahab of the red-light quarter became Rahab of the Hebrews 11 'Hall of Faith'.
- Moses the murderer became Moses the greatest leader of men the world has seen.

Do you think there were days, weeks, months of the forty years of fast-forward-to-maturity when Moses wondered what God was doing? There must have been. But towards the end of his life, in the Song of Moses, he could in retrospect see that God had led him every step of the way. In the 'desert land, . . . in a barren and howling waste' God had 'shielded', 'cared for' and 'guarded' him.<sup>10</sup>

God called you: he saw your potential. But when he called you, he placed his 'priceless treasure' 'in a common earthenware jar'.<sup>3</sup> If, just at present or even for some time, you have lived through tough times – bad stuff – is it possible you are in the kiln, being shaped for higher things? That your best times are yet to be?

'When all kinds of trials and challenges come at you, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as potential friends.'<sup>2</sup>

- Is it all about maturity and growth in grace? If it is, two principles hold true –
- his grace is sufficient for you;
- his strength is maximised when you are at your weakest.<sup>11</sup>

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>2 Peter 3:18. <sup>2</sup>This rendering of James 1:2-4 owes something to J. B. Phillips and a lot more to Eugene Peterson's MESSAGE. <sup>3</sup>2 Corinthians 4:7, Phillips. <sup>4</sup>Verses 8-10, Phillips. <sup>5</sup>Genesis 37:2-11. <sup>6</sup>1 Samuel 18:20, 21; 25:44. <sup>7</sup>1 Samuel 21:12, 13. <sup>8</sup>1 Samuel 30:1-6. <sup>9</sup>Acts 7:25. <sup>10</sup>Deuteronomy 32:10-12. <sup>11</sup>2 Corinthians 12:9.



## Ldi: Gathering momentum

by Alan Hodges

Altogether six hundred members attended one-day LIFEdevelopment conferences at the Bristol Central church and Wolverhampton Oxford Street church on Sabbaths 7 and 14 January respectively. The conferences were held in response to the gathering momentum of LIFEdevelopment in the British Union. The excellent attendance indicates that members are beginning to see the potential of this exciting concept, which is biblically based and follows the example of Jesus.

Speakers at the events were Miroslav Pujic, LIFEdevelopment director at the Trans-European Division, and Alan Hodges, LIFEdevelopment director at the British Union. The programme covered a number of areas, including the problems we are facing as a Church in reaching people in our postmodern world, the importance of relationships, the concept of LIFEdevelopment, the strategy of focusing on the discipleship path, and the implementation of the

concept through LIFEdevelopment Groups and LIFEdevelopment Centres.

'Many postmodern people in our society are spiritual seekers,' said

Pastor Pujic, 'and the LIFEdevelopment concept is the response to their search. We need to develop relationships, but how can we do this effectively if we do not first have a genuine relationship with God?'

Members took advantage of the events to acquire copies of the *LIFE.info* magazine, as well as the video and DVD resources that are now available. Special prayers were said for those who are committed to planting a church in south Bristol, for the forty groups that will be formed to fast and pray in the Wolverhampton area, and for those who have committed themselves to be leaders and members of LIFEdevelopment groups.

Further one-day conferences will be held in Hampstead, Leeds and Croydon. For further information on LIFEdevelopment email [ask@lifedevelopment.info](mailto:ask@lifedevelopment.info), phone 01923 672251, or write to LIFEdevelopment Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.

## Hampstead hosts Ldi Conference



Sabbath morning 25 February was bright and held the promise of bountiful blessings for the worshippers at Hampstead church. Regular Sabbath services were waived in favour of three sessions. Session 1 replaced Sabbath school, Session 2 replaced divine service and Session 3 replaced AYS. David Burnett, local church pastor, warmly welcomed the guest speakers, Miroslav Pujic and Alan Hodges, to 'heavenly' Hampstead.

Miroslav Pujic, TED Comm-

unications director, presented an interesting conference programme at Hampstead, highlighting key challenges and opportunities for evangelism in a postmodern and post-industrial world. The children's story was told by Aris Vontzalidis (SEC departmental director), who held the children's attention.

The programme was strategically structured:

**Session 1:** Characteristics and values of a new, emerging culture; challenges and opportunities for evangelism

**Session 2:** Principles for growing relationships

**Session 3:** Implementation (LIFEdevelopment.info): Discipleship path; Implementation; Organisation. In this presentation Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial Association,

who held the children's attention.

gave some practical suggestions on how to establish a LIFEdevelopment group.

The new, contemporary approach to evangelism/outreach has become necessary because of a changing world. Pastor Pujic humorously said that sometimes our language is not 'un-churched' friendly. He quoted the example when we refer to 'drinking blood' and 'eating flesh' when participating in the holy communion service. To an un-churched person this type of language may sound strange!

The sessions were well attended by members from the Hampstead church, as well as members from other local churches. Lunch was provided for all the visitors.

Many members made a commitment to begin LIFEdevelopment groups in their areas and were presented with starter packs to kick-start the LIFEdevelopment.info programme.

CHARLEEN ARENDE

## Baptism at Blackburn

by Jenny Jeffers

Members from Blackburn, Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool, Bristol, Manchester and London assembled to witness



the baptism of four young people on Sabbath 14 January at Blackburn church.

The officiating pastors were Barry Stokes, Felix Jack, and Kevin Johns.

Pastor Stokes addressed the candidates and the congregation. He reminded us that it is important how we spend our time for God.

Emma Mary Mwita, who attends the Lancaster and Preston churches, celebrated her 14th birthday two days prior to her baptism. She was born into the Adventist message and, through encouragement and support from her family and friends, decided to take her stand for God.

Roy Zinyemba, from Zimbabwe, is a 19-year-old studying print journalism in Huddersfield. He was also born into the Adventist message and attended the Blackburn church before going to Huddersfield.

## Stoke Newington's fortieth anniversary

Stoke Newington celebrated its fortieth anniversary over the weekend of 12-14 August. It was forty years ago when a house group, after holding Bible studies and prayer meetings, stepped out in faith to seek larger accommodation. The place chosen was the present site of our church. The theme for the anniversary weekend was 'We've come this far by faith'.

Leading up to the celebrations, preparations included painting the church inside and out, cleaning the carpets and chairs in the sanctuary, and building a new porch at the front of the church – built by Lascelles Mackenzie, one of our elders.

### Friday night

The celebration began with a consecration service. Our speaker was Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC president. In his sermon Pastor Perry reminded us

that we are no longer children; we are forty years old. He asked the question, 'For forty years, has God got the best of you?' Musical items were rendered by Paul Lee. Following the service we gathered in the youth hall to receive a piece of special birthday cake.

### Sabbath school

The Sabbath school lesson was conducted by Pastor Richard Holder, a former minister. Part of the Sabbath school programme took the form of an interview with three longstanding members. The sanctuary was almost full for Sabbath school.

### Divine service

By the time divine service began there was standing room only. Some of the worshippers stood in the foyer and on the paved patio areas. Many of our former members living over-

seas in places like South America, Canada, the Caribbean and the USA came back to join us in the celebration. There were about 400 people present, including many of our London pastors. Included in the platform party was Pastor Don McFarlane, then SEC president, who dedicated the new pulpit that was bought for the celebrations.

Our main speaker for divine service was former minister Pastor Hymers Wilson II who now resides in Canada. Commemorative pens were handed out to all who attended. Musical items included our own church choir and male group.

A hot lunch was served to all who wished to stay.

The AYS programme took the form of a concert based on the Early Years, The Coming of Age, The Next Generation, and The Millennium,



when various artistes gave their best performances.

### Sunday

The children were not forgotten. Despite the unpredictable weather, nearly fifty children joined in various games and activities. Varied menus were served to suit their tastes.

The weekend celebrations were rounded off with a banquet for the youth and adults in the local hall. This was the time for the fashion

show, when the ladies were resplendent in ball gowns and the men with bow-ties. Everyone enjoyed the delicious three-course meal and the entertainment.

It was a blessing-packed, joyous and reflective weekend and, in his vote of thanks, our minister Dr Richard De Lisser, with his infectious smile, thanked everyone who had made the weekend celebration so successful and memorable.

F. R. SUTHERLAND

## Three Missions Pastors' Retreat

There was a Scotsman, an Irishman and a Welshman. Along came a professor, a pastor and a few laymen. They gathered, not to see who could outwit the other, but to build inspiration and encourage one another. The gathering was a two-day retreat, 12-14 February, for the pastors and workers of the three Missions in the British Isles, that is, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. This was a first event of its kind for many years, when the pastors of the three Missions met, independent of the two English conferences.

The professor who came along was Dr Richard Rice, who lectures at Loma Linda University. He is also the

author of many books used in Adventist colleges and universities around the world. One is *Believing, Behaving, Belonging*, which was used as the object of our discussions for the two days. His wife Gail, who teaches at Loma Linda, accompanied him. She describes herself as a teacher of teachers in the area of Group Dynamics and Leadership Styles. Dr Rice aimed, over the two days, to develop in each of us a mental paradigm that would allow us to view the life of the church as an environment that would permit people to feel they belonged primarily to a family – alongside the vision to share with them our

beliefs and rub off our behaviour.

And then there was the pastor, a Scot working in England, Bryan Webster with his wife Isobel. Bryan took charge of the devotionals that allowed us to focus on our personal family life and how it relates to God as our parent, and how we respond and feel about him.

Including the laymen, around thirty-five people gathered each day to listen, think, and share the concepts and thoughts which Richard and Bryan brought to us.

Let me not forget the daily woodland walks, the saunas, the jacuzzis, the swimming pool, the food, the treatments and the good company that made the two days worthwhile and memorable. Everybody obviously had a rewarding time together and echoed in a unanimous voice that it should be done more regularly.

CLIFFORD HERMAN  
Scottish Mission Communication sponsor



## Lewisham Youth

August 27 saw the culmination of the Lewisham Youth Fellowship Week with a Youth Day. The word was presented by Shareen Mahlangu, whom the Lord used to help us to look

within ourselves to see 'how far we are from home'.

The week started on Sunday 21 August with the young people enjoying a trip to Thorpe Park. We continued on Monday night with a drugs education programme from Julie Cameron. On Tuesday, David McQueen took us through a relationship workshop, and we learned that God should be the centre of *all* our relationships for them to work. We also need to have self-respect in order for others to respect us.

On Wednesday we learned about 'How to be a Playa'. Many of us came with preconceived ideas about juggling relationships, but Pastor Eddie Hypolite set us right by stating that a real player take his responsibilities seriously and must always be willing to stand up and be counted. We were educated about not allowing ourselves to be defined by stereotypes, because stereotypes only become true when we embrace them and live them.

The week moved fast. Thursday was celebration night. We had a wonderful evening, when we ate plenty soul food, sang karaoke and played games. On Friday we acknowledged how all types of talent can be used to glorify God. The SDA Steppers demonstrated this and were very impressed with some of our very own steppers.

LEWISHAM COMMUNICATION SECRETARY





## A teary, twofold farewell

by Dionne Whitehall  
Stanborough School marketing

In an assembly filled with music, drama, memoirs and tears, the Stanborough School family said goodbye to Judy Fox and Daniel Meder who shared their time, effort, and love with Stanborough for over four years.

Seven years ago Judy Fox began her life at Stanborough in the teacher training programme. She immediately found her place as history teacher, and soon her dedication, motivation, sincerity and responsible attitude awarded her the position of senior mistress. 'She was always fair, firm and frank. She was always a pair of ears you could depend on whenever needed, and a mother figure to the girls to help them become ladylike; but without a doubt someone you could rely on as a teacher and a friend.' Lavon, Year 11.

Mrs Fox will be taking up her post in the Jewish Education Department shortly so that Jewish students, too, can benefit from her love and talents that we at Stanborough will truly miss.

Daniel Meder has served at Stanborough School for four years. On his arrival from Brazil, Mr Meder knew no English, and, like several of our students, he learned English at Stanborough. In the position of house master of the boarding school, and with his compassion and commitment, sense of humour and art for planning tricks, Mr Meder has had a significant impact on the lives of the boarders.



'He is like my father and cheers me up when I'm depressed.' Karen, Year 11.

'When I hurt my foot and had to be on crutches, he was the one who carried me to the car.' Medinat, Year 9.

At the farewell assembly, in the middle of her tribute to Mr Meder, one student burst into tears because her father-figure would return to his homeland of Brazil. Mr Meder has also been active in the operations of Stanborough's International School and Summer School. He has returned to Brazil to complete his studies in Theology.



## Stanborough's humanitarian project

A team of volunteers from Stanborough School's Year 11 class has been in India painting and carrying out maintenance work on the BESSO Children's Home in the town of Hosur, Tamil Nadu State, India. The BESSO Children's Home is an orphanage funded and built by STOP (Save The Orphans Please) International in 2002, and its 66 children will benefit from the renovations to their home and the fellowship with Stanborough's students. As part of the trip, the Stanborough group will treat 26 children from the Blessing Home in Bangalore to a day out in the beautiful Nandi hills.

This two-week humanitarian trip, which commenced on 12 February and ended on 26 February, fulfils the community service ethos of the school and prepares the students for the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) element of the International Baccalaureate programme due to begin in September 2006. For more information about STOP International visit [www.stop-intl.org.uk](http://www.stop-intl.org.uk).

Please remember the orphans of the BESSO Children's Home and the Stanborough team in your prayers.

### International Baccalaureate at Stanborough School

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is a two-year, Pre-University course, which is preferred over A-levels by many universities. Eton, Harrow and North London Collegiate are a few of the schools offering the prestigious IB. From September 2006 the IB is available at Stanborough School.



Stanborough School provides for a strong academic and personal development of pupils which enables them to make good progress in a caring family atmosphere. OFSTED Report November 2005.

- Oxbridge universities recommend the IB
- IB accepted worldwide
- IB Scholarships and Bursaries available
- Competitive IB Fees
- IB Entry from Six GCSE grades A to C



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### Park church keeps neighbours informed

For several years Stanborough Park church has printed an attractive newsletter each quarter in order to keep the local community informed concerning internal happenings and future events of interest to the public.

More than 7,000 of these colourful six-page bulletins are distributed to the same homes four times each year under the direction of Ed Hammond.

'The church operates a variety of programmes for people of all ages, and we have to make sure that we advertise them properly,' commented Ed, who has been active in door-to-door witnessing for several decades.

The current issue of the newsletter highlights the 'Hope for Tomorrow' meetings to be conducted by layman Brian Davison. Mention is made about Pastor Ian Sleeman's presentations on the 'Characteristics of a Good Neighbour'. Other features include the annual ADRA Appeal, the launch of a special church service for teenagers, and the involvement of several church members in humanitarian projects in India

organised by STOP. There is also the usual comprehensive list of future events such as the Seniors' Club (which regularly attracts almost 100 friends from the community), the Mothers and Toddlers Group, and the weekly Pilates Class.

The church building has the benefit of a newly-built adjacent complex of rooms and catering facilities which are hired out to local businesses for conference use.

With such a commendable spread of programmes, and a communicational strategy which keeps its neighbours informed, the Stanborough Park church is on course to enhance its reputation further among the public of North Watford and further afield.

JOHN ARTHUR

### Dagenham baptism

It was a lovely way to end a beautiful Sabbath day. October 22 was a day of rejoicing and blessing four times over for Dagenham church. We proudly proclaim four wonderful individuals have made their vows to the Lord. We baptised and welcomed to our family husband and wife Jomo and Caroline Lewis, Curtis Rodney,

and Reynold Alleyne. Pastor Delcina Rodney and Pastor F. McPherson officiated at the baptismal service held at Plaistow church and were supported by Woodford Green and Plaistow church members. This was Pastor Rodney's first baptism, and she was overjoyed with the added blessing of baptising her own son Curtis – her first baptismal candidate. We thank God for Curtis, Reynold, Caroline and Jomo.

CHURCH CLERK

### Concert for Children with Cancer

A fund-raising concert was held on 4 February at the Boys' Grammar School, Canterbury. Ralph Lombart and his son Matthew organised the event in order to raise money for Caring for Children with Cancer.

Matthew, a pupil of the school, is passionate about gospel and country music. He performed several songs which showed his ability as a singer.

He was joined by fellow pupils Jonathan Rogers (piano) and Grant Dowse (guitar); also Kathrine Shaw (clarinet) and Susannah Jackson (flute) from the Girls' School, who all rendered different classical pieces.

The children's choir from St Christopher's School delighted us with 'God is watching us'.

The Adventist mime group, Inspirations, also participated.

The penultimate performance was given by 10-year-old Roshnie Kumara from Ashford church, who played Mozart's Sonata in C for the pianoforte beautifully.

A collection made at the end of the concert, with pledges, raised £1,000 for the charity.

MIRIAM EFFORD

### Aid for footsore Kashmiris

'There are people in the Asian earthquake zone walking around in snow with no shoes on their feet – so what are we going to do about it?' This was David Balderstone's challenge to the members of Stanborough Park church.

He explained that ADRA-UK had made arrangements two days earlier for a huge storage container to leave Watford on 9 February for Pakistan and Kashmir.

'Time is not on our side! Therefore I would like you to bring any surplus shoes to church next weekend, and throw them into the

boxes which we will have at the front and rear entrances of the building,' continued David. 'The large container which is 40 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 8 feet high, will have an additional use in that it will be converted into a regional office for the agency's relief operations in the Bagh area of Kashmir, which has been assigned to ADRA by the international disaster co-ordinating committee. Windows and a door will be built into one side of the container, the internal walls will be lined, and a wooden floor laid. This facility will be a big improvement on the canvas accommodation which is being used. It will also have the advantage of being transportable to another region as the needs demand.'

ADRA has already sent hundreds of items of clothing, as well as blankets and other relevant supplies, to this needy area, and the load will be topped up with the footwear as a result of the latest request received from the front line.

'Please give the shoes a good clean, and make sure they are tied together!' David concluded.

JOHN ARTHUR

### Park hosts inter-denominational service

More than 200 worshippers met on Sunday 22 January at the headquarters church for this year's annual 'Churches Together' service for North Watford. The congregation included 150 visitors from eight nearby assemblies, including almost all the local ministers.

The main speaker was Pastor Ian Sleeman who outlined five blessings which come to Christians, as recorded in Romans chapter five.

Following the service, which included some lively hymn singing, refreshments were served in the Stanborough Centre.

Traditionally the pastors and members of Stanborough Park have enjoyed a close linkage with other Christian bodies and with the civic leaders of the town. This co-operation involves such areas as community welfare, hospital chaplaincy, prison visitation, overseas humanitarian projects, and lifestyle enhancement.

'In times when secularism is making such a big inroad into people's lives, we Christians need to work together wherever possible,' commented a Salvation Army lady who attended the service.

JOHN ARTHUR

**PHYLLIS NIGHTINGALE (1923-2006) d. 17 January.** Phyllis Buckland, the oldest in a family of four children, was born in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, on 11 August 1923. Throughout her life she retained her delightful West Country accent, as she did also, until her final illness, her youthful good looks, as the present writer, who knew her in the early 1950s in the Wood Green church, north London, can testify. In childhood, her grandmother was a leading influence and encouraged her in Bible reading, along with the Christian and old-fashioned rural virtues of hard work and selflessness. When she was ten, the family moved to a farm and Phyllis found what, in other circumstances, might have been her vocation. She left school at fourteen and went to work in Swindon, a round trip of fourteen miles accomplished by bicycle. In 1941, some soldiers arrived in Wootton Bassett and, as soldiers do, especially in wartime, they eyed up the local girls. Phyllis attracted the attention of one named Ron Nightingale. The friendship in Wiltshire was brief, as in 1942 Ron was posted to North Africa as a medical orderly. There he was captured and spent the next three-and-a-half years in a POW camp. Phyllis became a Red Cross nurse, as it made her feel nearer to Ron because one of the few joys of POW life was receiving Red Cross parcels from home. In 1944, however, Ron received something even better. It was a leap year, and Phyllis, acting on the old tradition that ladies could propose in such a year, did just that. As soon as possible after the end of the war in 1945 they married. Ron had already had some connection with the Adventist church, but had not been baptised. In 1946, they were both baptised, Pastor D. J. Dunnett having studied with Phyllis. Because Ron's work was in north London, they became members of the Wood Green church, where Phyllis held many offices over the years. After the tragedy of a still-born daughter they reaped double, when, in 1949, the twins, Roger and Keith, were born. Ron and Phyllis were active in the George Vandeman campaigns of the early 1950s, especially as members of the choir. Their home in Stroud Green provided hospitality for numerous young intern ministers fresh from Newbold and perhaps feeling lonely in the metropolis. Phyllis's friends, however, felt that she was rather like a country flower transplanted to the city and when, in 1966, the opportunity arose to move to Ropley in Hampshire, it seemed that she was back in her rightful element – smallholding in the countryside. For years the Ropley company met in Ron and Phyllis's living-room, and it was always a joy to be invited there. In 1979 the group moved into the nearby city of Winchester, where there had been no previous Adventist presence, and Phyllis again became a major church office-holder, most notably as treasurer and head deaconess. Sadly, Ron died in 1985, but Phyllis soldiered on, keeping the little business going and rejoicing in the proximity of Keith and his wife, Lorna and their two children. Her receipt of the news last autumn that she had cancer was typical of her. She had had a good life, had not expected to survive Ron by twenty years, and was perfectly resigned, without complaint or self-pity, to God's will. That will was the rest of sleep, and it came in her own home in Alresford, to which she had moved some years earlier, with Keith and Lorna at her side. The funeral at the Basingstoke crematorium was taken by Pastor Viv Llewellyn. Afterwards there was a joyful (Phyllis had asked that it be so) and well-attended memorial service in the Alresford Parish Church with Pastor David Foster and the local Anglican minister leading out, with tributes from her children and several friends. Our sympathies go to her two sons, four grandchildren and six great-grand-

children. There are very few of whose eternal salvation one can be more certain.

DENNIS PORTER

**JOHN HENRY ROBERT HICKSON (1916-2005) d. 8 May 2005.** John Hickson was born on the island of Montserrat on 10 July 1916, to Mary and Bob Hickson, the eldest of nine brothers and three sisters, and was educated at St Mary's Anglican School in Plymouth. At first he worked on his father's cotton farm, and cared for his lime orchard, but took an apprenticeship in carpentry as he felt it would have better prospects. He learnt other skills and became a 'jack-of-all-trades'. John came to know Jesus through Bible reading and discussions at home, led by his Adventist father, and was baptised in his late teens at New Carmel Adventist Church, Salem, where he served as a deacon. At the age of 24 he married Alice Lynch and lived in Delvin's, a community in Montserrat that was 95% Adventist, and raised a stepson and a nephew. The family moved to London in the mid-1950s, where John worked in construction and attended Holloway church, where he continued serving as a deacon. After thirty-seven years of marriage, Alice died. Holloway became his second home, and his great joy was to support and listen to the Male Voice Choir. In 1976 John remarried, and was sure that he would have died many times over had it not been for Sister Hickson's prayers, patience and tender, loving care. John wrote, 'She has been for me the kind of wife in Proverbs 31: "Her price is far above rubies... all her life she stretches out her hand to the poor and needy." ' John also felt he owed a great debt of gratitude and thanks to his stepchildren and step-grandchildren, especially Daniel and James. He often said that if he had been their 'real' dad he could not have hoped for better; they had been a blessing from heaven. In retirement the couple returned to Montserrat, where John gardened and became 'Mr Fix-It'. God blessed his labours so well that he always had garden produce to share with neighbours and those in need. He and Sister Hickson also engaged in missionary work of what they considered the highest order – visiting the sick, helping the aged, and clothing those in need. By 1993 John was ill and they came back to England for treatment. The volcanic crisis in Montserrat prevented their return, and John's health continued to give cause for concern. He was so grateful for the support of family members, friends like the Lees and Johnsons, the pastor and members of Walthamstow and Holloway churches, his transport and visiting teams, carers and medical staff. The day before he died, he wrote, 'One day I will waken. It may be at noon, it may be at midnight, or noon. I'll rest in Jesus. See you in the morning.' The funeral was held on 26 May at the Holloway church.

(This obituary was put together from notes made by John Hickson via his niece Beth, and with the help of Caru Green, former Communication secretary, Walthamstow.)

<http://www.middlebroughadventist.org.uk/presentations/presentations.php>  
The Middlebrough Adventist church website's webmaster, Bryan Gilbert, is expanding the content of the site. Recently he has added some astronomical pictures taken by one of our members, Larry Todd.

If you are interested in viewing them you can use the above link and view our website, which has links to our Bible study page (soon to be updated), a Bible-reading guide we encourage the use of, and some presentations made for us by visiting speakers.

PETER JEYNES



**the magnificent**

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**YLC** 3-10 September 2006

**Contributors:**  
 Andrew Elliott (Director of the National Centre for Youth and Family Ministry)  
 Graham Hill (Youth Pastor of Newbold Newbold SEC Church)  
 Robert Kruger (Youth Director for the South-Region (United Kingdom))  
 James Black (Youth Director for the South-Asian Church)  
 Paul Tompkins (Youth Director for the North-England Church)  
 Ben Whitehead (Director for the Centre of Youth Experiences)  
 Steve Cook (President of the SEC)

### Youth and the Word 26 March

The first in a four-part series addressing our theological roots began on 12 March with Pastor Gifford Rhamie. As a lecturer in the department of theological studies at Newbold, and minister for countless years, Pastor Rhamie brought to the table a carefully balanced presentation addressing 'Which translation is it?' We learned about the origins of the Bible we hold in our hands. Our second session is on 26 March with Dr Radisa Antic, director of the E.G. White Estate at Newbold College. He will address the question, 'Is EGW still relevant today?' Our third session is on 9 April with Dr Gunnar Pedersen, director of the Theological Department at Newbold College. He will start to unravel the mystery of the Sanctuary and Salvation, the message and application in our lives. Our final session will not be until 29 October, well worth the wait. Dr Laurence Turner, director of research degrees at Newbold College, will help us understand how to interpret Scripture. Not only will the principles be examined, but you will be given the chance to apply them.

Even though this is sponsored by the SEC Youth department, all ages are welcome to join us. You just need to book. It's free for all who book. Sessions will take place at Stanborough Park church from 11am to 5pm, and will start on time. The church will be open for prayer and worship from 9am for those who wish to join us. All sessions are on Sunday, so that you do not need to miss your church on Sabbath. For more information please contact Japhet De Oliveira 07815 799 019 or via email at [jdeo.liveira@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:jdeo.liveira@secadventist.org.uk).

**12 March 2006**  
Gifford Rhamie  
*Which Version is it?*

**26 March 2006**  
Radisa Antic  
*EG White: is she still relevant?*

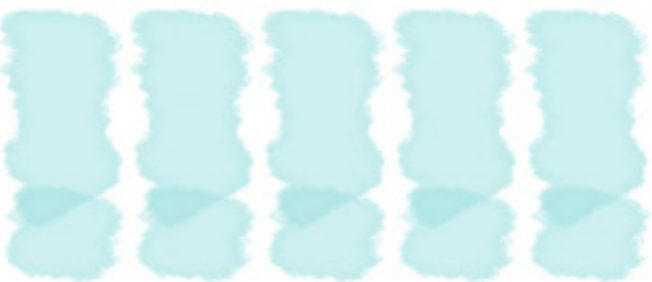
**9 April 2006**  
Gunnar Pedersen  
*Sanctuary + Salvation*

**29 Oct. 2006**  
Lawrence Turner  
*Interpreting Scripture*

**11am-5pm**  
Stanborough Park Church  
809 St Albans Road  
Garston, Watford,  
Hertfordshire, WD25 8JL

*If you'd like to attend, please register with the South England Conference Youth Department.*

### Making the Bible make sense Youth and the Word



Youth Ministries Department, South England Conference of SRA, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WF17 1PX. Tel: 01925 252 529 email: [plb@stjohnssecadventist.org.uk](mailto:plb@stjohnssecadventist.org.uk)

**Social Sciences Open Days at Newbold**  
Want to find out if you would like to do a Social Sciences degree at Newbold? Why not attend our open days on 27/28 March. To make appointment or for further information call Val Bernard, 01344-404-468.

**ENDLESS LOVE . . .** returns to the NEC The Marriage Enrichment Weekend not to be missed! 28-30 April Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, Bedfordshire Contact Pastor Cyril Sweeney for further details: 0115 9606312 (Apply early to avoid disappointment)

**Balham History**  
Calling all who attended the Balham Adventist church, including those from other churches, in and after 1969, and who were part of its subsequent history! You are invited to a grand weekend reunion in Summer 2007. Just contact Joan Fuller, [aldeanjuanita@hotmail.com](mailto:aldeanjuanita@hotmail.com), or telephone 01604 511242, soon.

**ABC BOOK SALES**

<b>March</b>	26 West Midlands	10am-2pm
<b>April</b>	2 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
<b>May</b>	7 West Midlands	10am-2pm
	14 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
	21 Newbold Graduation	From 10am

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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 17	6.08	6.21	6.12	6.20	6.31
24	6.20	6.32	6.25	6.34	6.45
31	7.32	7.44	7.37	7.49	7.58
Apr 7	7.44	7.56	7.50	8.03	8.11

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