

# Messenger

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

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## New office for AWR-Europe

by Shelley Nolan Freesland

Adventist World Radio (AWR) has dedicated its new Europe office building.

The facility is located in Bracknell, five minutes from Newbold College. The building offers increased space for staff serving the Europe region and AWR's global services.



Church and serves as a sort of "radio church". AWR director Gilles Durand, told of his recent trip to meet with Muslim listeners in North Africa.

One listener described being followed by six watchers every day, who took note of where he went, what he purchased, and who he talked to. 'You can't imagine what it is like to change your religion to something apart from what your country wants,' Durand said.

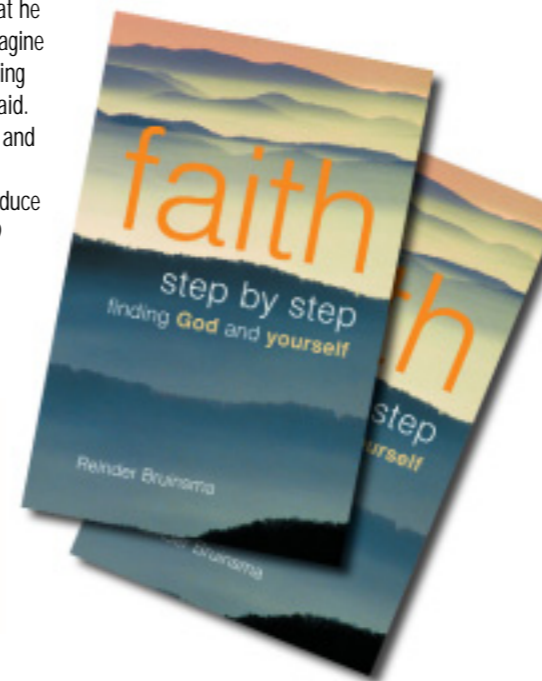
AWR first broadcast from Portugal in 1971, and now broadcasts around the world in nearly 70 languages. In the Europe region, 16 studios produce programmes in 25 European languages, and 49 hours of programmes are broadcast each day through shortwave radio, satellite, and FM networks.

## NEW BOOK TARGETS POSTMODERNS

A book written for postmodern people has been published by The Stanborough Press Ltd. Dr Reinder Bruinsma has not written with committed church members in mind, who are well aware of the essentials of the Christian message and Adventist doctrine. It is meant to communicate with people who are at a considerable distance from the church and who may see themselves as post-moderns.

Postmodern people have a growing interest in spirituality, but they are deeply suspicious of anything reminding them of organised religion. In this book Dr Bruinsma takes the reader, who may not know very much about the Bible and the basics of the Christian faith, on an exploratory pilgrimage.

A grant from the Seventh-day Adventist World Church has enabled the publishers to market this 190-page book at the low price of £5.95. Orders can be placed with your Personal Ministries secretary or directly on the ABC credit card hotline 01476 539900, Mon-Thurs. Have your credit card details handy! ANR



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# New cross-country records



Some did it with ease, some in agony, some to earn points for their house, some because they were obligated, but they all completed the race; and did so one second faster than ever before!

'It was tiring. . . I was just happy to finish it.' Jamal, Year 9Y.

Stanborough School students spent weeks in preparation for this annual event. Mr McKie, the Physical Education (PE) teacher, ensured that they jogged continuously in their PE classes to strengthen their legs and increase their endurance.

On a chilly Wednesday, 15 March, Stanborough School students and staff ran three laps around the school and the surrounding woods in twos or larger groups, and encouraged, rather than competed against each other, to make sure that they all reached the finish line. Staff members unable to gather enough energy to participate, stayed on the sidelines with water, cheers and uplifting words.

Setting new records were seniors Michael and Lavon of 11X, and Grenfell House who finished in 0.18.22 seconds and 0.26.15 seconds respectively. 'Michael looked like he was sprinting all the way around. . . . Lavon was doing the same,' remarked Tanisha, Year 8Y, who came 5th out of the junior girls.



# Music and prayer

For five thrilling days at the end of March, Stanborough Students tasted a diversity of cultures and renditions at their very own Youth Week of Prayer.

The assemblies began with musical renditions from Stanborough students and International School students. Performers included Daniella and Mark of Year 11, whose melodious voices delighted those in attendance, and Naara and Niklas, international students from Spain and Finland respectively, who performed a piece penned by Naara. This piece demonstrated her vocal and guitar skills, and Niklas' drumming gift, which he discovered at Stanborough. The School's valued String Quartet offered a classical rendition.

The speaker for the Youth Week of Prayer, Pastor Matthew Vincent, originally from Seattle, America, with ties in Valencia, Spain, relayed various events of his life to Stanborough's students, urging them to increase their faith in God. Pastor Vincent is one of the founding members of 'Come As You Are', Stanborough School's Teen Church.

DIONNE WHITEHALL



# Is there ALWAYS an answer?

with Stephen Chavez \*

For the past six months several of the South-western states have suffered through a drought almost without precedent. Wildfires, fuelled by hundreds of acres of dry grass, trees and shrubs, have caused great loss of life and property. Is this also a demonstration of God's judgement? What about the forest fires that ravage the West nearly every summer?

There will be natural disasters – hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, tornadoes – that will destroy homes, schools and churches. No rational person – Christian or not – should presume to say what God had in mind by such mysterious acts.

After Job had sat patiently trying to make sense out of the calamity that had befallen him, after he had endured hours of finger-pointing and theologising from his friends about his misfortune, God asked, 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?' (Job 38:2.)

Why is it so easy to cobble together a collection of half-baked explanations for the disasters that befall humanity? Why is it so hard to admit we don't know why things happen?

Jesus said about the Father: 'He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.' (Matthew 5:45.) Translation: In this sad world, people don't necessarily receive what they deserve. If we're blessed, that doesn't necessarily mean we're good. If we're hammered by disaster or disease, we're not necessarily evil.

**Why is it so hard to admit that we don't know why things happen?**

I understand why people want simple explanations to nature's mysteries. It's an attempt to make sense of the unexplainable. It's why primitive, pagan cultures prayed to the rain god when they needed water for their crops, or why people worshipped the sun and celebrated the winter solstice or the spring or autumn equinox. It's why people offered sacrifices to the river god, so it wouldn't become angry and overflow its banks.

Simple explanations are for simple people. But Christians, who supposedly know God best, should realise that the issues in the struggle between good and evil are incredibly complex. Understanding that, they should resist the temptation to try to explain the mysteries of nature. It does no good for someone to meddle in things about which they know absolutely nothing.

In this complex and unpredictable world, we can count on being recipients of some cruel, unwelcome, and undeserved surprises. The longer we live, the more likely it is that we, or someone we know, will be afflicted with some dreaded, inoperable disease. There will be traffic accidents involving cars, trucks, buses, trains and aeroplanes that will decimate families, even church or school groups.

Last year's devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita along the Gulf Coast of the United States had the predictable effect of provoking religious commentators to rise up and proclaim that this was God's judgement upon a wicked and depraved society; just another sign, as if we needed one, of the Lord's imminent return.

Am I the only one who finds this kind of sensational finger-pointing trite and counter-productive? I mean, almost 2,000 years ago Jesus said, 'I am coming soon.' (Revelation 22:20.)† Every natural or man-made disaster since then only reinforces his statement. The disasters themselves don't do any more than remind us that we need to be in a constant state of readiness for the Lord's return.

**'The Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"' Job 38:1, 2, NIV.**

But even more troubling is how people use these natural disasters to affirm God's 'obvious' visitation on the sins of the communities thus affected. New Orleans, like any large American city, had its share of vice, corruption and immorality. But to say that Hurricane Katrina was God's judgement on its wickedness is to ignore the suffering endured by thousands not even remotely connected with the city and its sins.

# Healthwise

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



## What is 'reasonable'?

Politician Sir Alan Patrick Herbert (1890-1971) remarked that the 'Reasonable Man' described in English law is a mythical figure. If reasonable is hard to pin down in human terms, spare a thought for the people who have to determine what is *reasonable risk* in the use of food additives and pesticide safety.

Food safety rules in most countries ensure reasonable certainty that no harm may result. Determining reasonable risk or otherwise is no easy matter. Relatively few experiments are conducted using human beings, and obviously rats and mice are not an exact match for human bodies!

While there may be similarities

in body mechanisms across the human/animal world, body size, types and age spans vary considerably, thus making the average mouse or rat just as mythical as the reasonable man. Most studies show that in attempting to determine risk, animals are subjected to many times the quantity of the experimental agent than would be allowed for human consumption.

Acceptable daily intakes (ADI) are arrived at by dividing the highest non-toxic animal dose by what is called an uncertainty/safety factor (100<sup>2</sup>). There are no means, at present, to assess the extent to which this factor is more than a 'guesstimate', so uncertainty remains.

Supposing that the factor established actual risk, there is still a ques-

tion as to the cumulative effects of food additives and pesticide residues. Animal diagnostic techniques are insensitive to human pathologies. Rats and mice cannot tell us of headaches, depression, learning difficulties, menstrual irregularities, etc, although there may be some suggestive evidence of these effects.

The scientists are the first to admit that their work is based on estimation, extrapolation, modelling and assumption, and share concerns that, for example, biological synergism between chemicals may turn weak carcinogens (cancer causing agents) into strong ones. However, growing awareness and laboratory investigation are all part of the ongoing monitoring and learning process.

While there are no immediate public health concerns concerning food additives and pesticide residues, the term 'proven to be safe' requires some qualification. Clinicians, rather than describing such additives and residues as having 'been proven safe' might more accurately state 'existing data has not proven them harmful'.

Of course, it is argued that ADIs are for our good, but maybe we should follow the observation and sentiment of Frederic Ogden Nash (1902-1971) when he said, 'women would rather be right than reasonable'. We are a long way off being right on this issue!

\* Stephen Chavez is the managing editor of ADVENTIST REVIEW where this editorial first appeared on 13 April 2006. Have you renewed your ADVENTIST REVIEW subscription?

† Bible texts are from NIV unless otherwise stated.

## Different ways to worship

A report on the Scottish Women's Ministries Retreat by Judith Martin, Scottish sponsor

The annual Scottish Women's Retreat was held this year from 31 March to 2 April, our fourth year at Scottish Churches House.

Laverne Byng led out in our theme of Worship, setting up experiential prayer stations for us to discover different ways to worship.



We also discussed how to seek God's will in our lives.

Karin Edwards presented the topic of Experiencing God, looking at the different ways we can get close to him, and discussing the different names of God. One way we experienced him was on our walk at nearby Loch Katrine in the bright spring sunshine.

Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries director, shared with us some of the wonderful ways in which Women's Ministries have been channels of God's blessing.

Through these sessions, and through prayer, testimonies and song, as we praised our Lord and shared what he had done for us, we experienced the renewal we were hoping for: we developed a close fellowship over the weekend, through these organised activities and in the fun times, playing games together, and talking and laughing deep into the night.



## 'Jubilee' Ingatherer raises thousands

1956 was the year that Clifford Golding, also known as Jim, began Ingathering in the UK. Now at the ripe age of nearly 82 the only thing stopping him from doing more is an arthritic knee. The otherwise fit and committed campaigner has collected in Nottingham, Watford, Hemel

Hempstead, Leeds and Milton Keynes over the years.

It was while Brother Golding was engaged in his door-to-door campaigning in Hemel Hempstead that he experienced what would be his most generous supporter. As Clifford made himself familiar to the residents, by visiting the same area year after year, he became known. Even though he has been living away from the area for nine years, an initial contribution of £10 has grown into a regular contribution of £100, right up to the present day.

Brother Golding has, by God's grace, been instrumental in raising thousands of pounds for the charity Worldwide Advent Missions, now ADRA-UK. In one congregation he collected over the £900 goal set for the whole church! The greatest amount collected by him in one campaign was a staggering £1,300. This year, despite his arthritis, he still set himself a personal goal of £500 while collecting for the West Bletchley Community church, Milton Keynes, and raised a grand total of £605.

We praise God for the marvellous contribution Brother Golding has made throughout his fifty years of 'gathering in' much-needed finances for those around the world in desperate circumstances, and the witness he has been and continues to be in the community where he is.

SYLVONIE NOEL



## Gospel music makes a difference!

Chiswick Gospel Choir (CGC) knows how to make music that makes a difference. Their voices tingle the soul and leave you wanting to know the reason why they sing.

On Saturday 18 March, at St Michael and All Angels in Chiswick, the Chiswick Gospel Choir hosted their premier concert, with guest artistes Antonia Francis, Ullanda Alexander, Blessed Voices, A New Beginning, The Filipino Anklong Band, Paul Boldeau, and the young and vibrant Joint Praise. Together they permeated the air of this affluent part of West London with the sound of music.

The audience represented faith groups from the community. At the opening of the performance there was standing room only, but this did not cramp the spirit of excitement and praise. To use the words of the audience, they were 'blessed', 'touched', and 'inspired' by the ministry of these artistes.



Pastor W. Blake, Enez, and Dr De Lisser

## Stoke Newington's March baptism

Family, church members and friends gathered at the Stoke Newington church on Sabbath 18 March to witness the baptism of Enez Espeut.

Enez was introduced to Adventism by Angela Doyley and her mother Yvonne Smith. She had been attending church for some time and had studied with our Personal Ministries leader Ken Aaron before she finally decided to give her life to Christ.

When she started attending church, Enez immediately attached herself to the Community Ministries department by helping out in our outreach programme, The Open Door Drop In Centre, where we feed about sixty-five people each Wednesday.

Before Dr De Lisser left his ministry here, Enez had asked him if he would return to baptise her when she had decided, and Dr De Lisser granted her request.

The sermonette was given by our minister Pastor Wilfred Blake before the immersion. In his sermonette Pastor Blake told Enez to hold on to the promise of Christ as the devil will be after her.

F. R. SUTHERLAND

## Yeovil: 'Inside out'

Sabbath 12 March was a special Sabbath for over thirty people of the Yeovil church family, as it officially multiplied into two groups: the 'Yeovil SDA Church', which is already a company and is now led by Shekar Thananki, is a lay leader trained and mentored by church planter Leslie King; and the newly formed group 'Inside out people' led by Leslie King.

A very special part of the day was the extending of the right hand of fellowship to John and Christine Hutchins in whose lives God moved in a wonderful way, leading them to become part of the 'Inside out people' group.

Present for the occasion was also Pastor M. Smart, who has been a great support to the work there, and together we have provided coaching and mentoring to the groups.

LOUISE FRANCOIS

## GRADUATION NEWBOLD COLLEGE

Sunday 21 May at 3pm, Newbold Church Centre

Speaker: Dr Daniel Duda

Education director and Ministerial Association secretary, Trans-European Division

Admission will be strictly by ticket only. These will be limited to two per person and distributed on a first-come basis, and can be obtained from Helen Savage, Newbold College, St Marks Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4AN. Tel: 01344 407420. Email: [hsavage@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:hsavage@newbold.ac.uk)

## Tess and Sonia

On Sabbath 21 January the High Wycombe churches, Sands and Micklefield, the Amersham Church Planting group, along with family and friends, gathered to celebrate the baptism of Tessel Franciene Wickham and Sonia Elizabeth Lee at the St Andrews church, High Wycombe. Both Tess and Sonia have been faithfully attending the High Wycombe Sands church for the past year. Members opened their hearts and homes to ensure that our new friends were made welcome. During this special baptismal service Tess and Sonia made their desire to follow Jesus known to family and friends who came to support and witness their baptism.

Tess is a very warm and caring young lady who is hard-working and has her own business. Her greatest ambition is to preach the Gospel and do missionary work.

Sonia is a very busy mother with two teenage children, Sirlene (18) and James (15). Eighteen months ago Sonia left her family and friends in London to move to 'the lovely countryside of High Wycombe'. Shortly after moving into her new home, Sonia accepted the invitation of the former house owner to attend a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Sonia was open to the Holy Spirit that night and began attending Sabbath services and social activities and later began Bible studies. It was during camp meeting 2005 that Sonia made her decision to be baptised.

PATSY THOMAS

## Wallasey raises money for the blind

The Wallasey church on the Wirral took up a special collection to raise money for 'Henshaws Society for Blind People'. Encouraged by Pam Gittins, our Community Services assistant leader, who herself is partially sighted and has learned Braille at Henshaws, the Wallasey church members raised the sum of £270.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES



PASTOR ARIS VONTZALIDIS

## AN INVITATION FROM STANBOROUGH SCHOOL WATFORD: JOIN OUR TEAM IN HONG KONG!

Vacancies exist for English Teachers and a full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Sam-Yuk Adventist Secondary School in Hong Kong where, for two decades, English Language programmes have been offered to pupils from all over the world.

**What's on offer generally:** Free accommodation on campus; Good monthly salary with subsidies as applicable; Free medical insurance; 1-way air ticket for 1 year of service, return ticket for 2!

**General qualifications required:** Applicants must be Adventists with a sense of mission and adventure, having an ability to work as team, and English as a first language.

**Qualifications required for English Teachers:** Bachelor's degree in English or Education. Diploma/certificate in Teaching of English or equivalent an advantage. Applicants must be willing to help with extra-curricular English-learning and spiritual activities in the school and at public venues.

**Qualifications required for Kindergarten Teacher:** Appropriate academic qualifications; young graduates or retirees welcome to apply. Working hours: 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. Interested? Email your CV and photo to: [principal@tpsy.edu.hk](mailto:principal@tpsy.edu.hk) for English Teacher post, OR [lin\\_chit\\_tsang@hotmail.com](mailto:lin_chit_tsang@hotmail.com) for Kindergarten Teacher post. Deadline for all applications: 19 May 2006. Time is needed for processing working visas, so please don't delay. We need you for 1 September!

## COULD YOU FILL THE GAP?

The Gap Year Experience is a 1-year programme focusing on mission work.

**First semester at Newbold College:** courses include anthropology, development and religion.

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Email: [admissions@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@newbold.ac.uk)

GAP YEAR EXPERIENCE



FILL THE GAP

## Doris at 100

Stanborough Park church's oldest member, Doris Clarke, celebrated her 100th birthday on 6 May.

Mrs Clarke's father died when she was three and she was adopted by her aunt and uncle who relocated to Melbourne, Australia, when she was eight years old. Returning to England in 1924 they settled in Manchester where Doris found secretarial employment in the cotton trade.

Always a churchgoer, and interested in religious topics, she attended a series of evangelistic meetings which led to her being baptised into the Adventist church in November 1932. From that time onwards her priority in life was to serve her Master and the church.

As her employment presented problems with Sabbath-keeping she enrolled for the Bible Instructor's course at the old Newbold College in 1933. There she met her future husband, David, a ministerial student. Graduating in 1936, she worked as a Bible Instructor in the north of England until their marriage in September 1938.

Doris's ambition of becoming a missionary was fulfilled when she joined her husband in West Africa in 1947, along with their young daughter, Ruth.

There they spent eight years working in the Gold Coast (Ghana), Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Doris revelled in the missionary life and loved the hot climate. However, after her husband's untimely death in 1955, she needed to find work in Britain, first as preceptress at Newbold College and later as a Bible Instructor in the London area.

Retiring in the autumn of 1968 Doris moved to Watford and commenced a long period of voluntary work. She led the London Welfare Federation for eleven years and helped to set up the Chiltern Welfare Federation, becoming its first vice-president. After her retirement from this role she settled for a quieter life and ran the welfare department at Stanborough Park church for over ten years. In recognition of her long service she received a special award from the Chiltern Federation in 1998.

Doris undertook many additional roles as well, in her retirement, including leading Bible study classes and taking prayer groups. Her last public role was cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new church extension at Stanborough Park as the church's oldest member.

Now a grandmother of three and great grandmother of four, Doris has finally succumbed to the demands of advancing age and moved to the Fairhaven Home in Watford – a retirement home



Photograph by Stanley Maxwell

owned and run by church members – and a fitting location for a lady who has always maintained that 'My church is my life'. Her special event was celebrated at the home with a party for family and friends.

JUNE COOMBS

It was most appropriate that on the day that celebrated Sylvia's faithfulness a new member was admitted to the Ulceby church. Janet Millington, who was baptised into the New Life Church in 1983, took her vows in the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church after a period of Bible study with Pastor Solon Kyriacou. The Ulceby members accepted her membership unanimously and welcomed her to the church with the presentation of a basket of flowers and various books. Janet has remained a faithful Christian for many years despite difficult times, and has worked with youth through Royal Rangers and Sunday School groups. She renewed her vows based on her faithfulness to the Word of God.

The celebrations continued with fellowship and a meal at the Wootton Village Hall. All the congregation, members and visitors alike, received a special blessing through the celebration of the 60 years of faithfulness demonstrated, as an example to us all, by our beloved sister, Sylvia Hawken, and the admittance of Janet as a new member of the church fellowship.

JOHN WILLIAMS



Janet Millington, Sylvia, and Pastor Kyriacou

## 60 years of faithfulness

Sabbath 18 March saw the members and visitors at Ulceby Church celebrate the 60th anniversary of the baptism and entry into membership of loyal and faithful member Sylvia Hawken. Husband Colin opened the service, outlining Sylvia's family history as members of the Ulceby church going back as far as 1883, when Adventism arrived in the North Lincolnshire village of Ulceby and six founding members were baptised. There was no church building at that time but members met for regular Bible studies.

Ellen White spent six weeks at Ulceby in 1885, strengthening the Adventist message in the region. In 1886 there were seventeen baptised members of the Ulceby church and by 1887 this had grown to nineteen. In 1888 the church building was constructed and by 1889 membership had grown to twenty-four.

It was on 28 August 1887 that Mary Ann Snowden was baptised, and 16 July 1922 when her daughter Mary Ellen Parks joined the faithful band of members. Mary Ellen was a loyal missionary worker in the area, cycling around the villages delivering *Present Truth*. Mary Ellen married Norman Marshall in 1929, and subsequently brought five children into the church. Her daughter Sylvia was born in 1932 and baptised on 23rd March 1946 by Pastor Eric Zinns along with her brother Ted, who subsequently attended Newbold College and became an Adventist minister. While her brothers and sister moved on, Sylvia has remained a member of the Ulceby church ever since. During that time she has seen twenty-two ministers come and go.

Sylvia has been a faithful worker throughout her period of church membership. She has run Pathfinder training groups, played the organ for at

least 55 years and been church treasurer for 36 years; all this in addition to being a loving wife and mother. Sylvia represents the middle of five generations of church family, and her daughters and grandchildren are set to continue the family line of church membership. Daughter Davina and granddaughter Catherine were able to join the celebrations and presented a musical item to the pleasure of all those present. Unfortunately, daughter Julia and her family were unable to make the journey from Plymouth to be with us for the celebration but they were there in spirit and sent their love and best wishes. Sylvia has travelled from Grantham to Ulceby week in and week out for many, many years to maintain the Adventist presence in the area, even through periods when the Hawken family were the only active members and most people would have been discouraged. Today, in part through Sylvia's faithfulness, the membership of the Ulceby church now stands at nineteen.

Pastor Solon Kyriacou, Sylvia's twenty-third minister, recognised her faithful service and compared this to the faithfulness of Abraham. His message to the congregation was to 'hold on and be ready'.

Sylvia was presented with a basket of flowers and a further translation of the Bible as she reads the Bible through at least once each year! The service ended with the hymn 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' sung ably by Julia Smith-Samuels.

## Dublin's anniversary

by Douglas McCormac

The year 1859 saw have the first (recorded) Adventist baptism in Ireland.\* It was the result of J. Andrews' sending literature from America to relatives in County Cavan. But for forty years the work in Ireland was slow, very discouraging and at times non-existent.

In 1901 E. J. Waggoner reported in the General Conference Bulletin that there was no Adventist work in the south of Ireland. But it took only twelve months before twenty people were baptised in a Jewish baths in Dublin. This would appear to have been an exceptional event, with only a handful of baptisms being recorded in any one year thereafter.

We do not know when the denomination purchased the first church building in Dublin but we do know that in 1909 there was a portable chapel in which to worship, and that by 1928 we had the use of a galvanised shed. At some stage Deverell Hall was acquired and it became the home of the Adventist church until 1956. In 1948 Dublin church was served with a compulsory purchase order from the council who planned to build flats on the site, and so the search began for a new home.

Plans were in motion to start a clinic in Dublin. They had received the full backing of the General Conference, and it opened in 1950 in Ranelagh, then a suburb of Dublin. Attached to it was a small piece of land. It was there the first purpose-built Adventist church in Ireland opened its doors on 17 March 1956. Pastor W. G. Nicholson at the time reported in *Messenger* that it was not only the first Adventist church but also the first Protestant church built in Eire in over fifty years. At that time there were only about 30 Adventists in the whole of the South-east of Ireland. Today Ranelagh is no longer a suburb of Dublin. Rather it sits on the edge of a busy and thriving City Centre.

And so here we are fifty years later celebrating and giving thanks

for what God has done in Dublin.

With the service being relayed by video into the youth hall, the kitchen and upstairs there wasn't an inch that wasn't being occupied by somebody. Ray Sisson, our Sabbath School superintendent, shared the 150-year history of the Adventist Church in Ireland and illustrated how God had directed the members over that time, bringing us right up to today. Pastor Patrick Boyle, our guest speaker for the day, was among those first baptised in the new building fifty years ago, having himself grown up in Dublin and answered the call of his Saviour. He spoke about what it meant to be an Adventist and the three pillars upon which the church was built: God as Creator, Christ crucified, and Christ coming soon. With all the groups in the district invited to the special day we had over 300 in attendance. As a memento of the day each of the members was given a specially prepared bookmark.

God has blessed the church in Ireland. Fifty years ago there was only one church in the Republic, today we have five churches/companies and nearly ten groups who meet on Sabbath mornings to worship God. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless his people in Ireland as they preach the good news.

\* Those interested in the beginnings of church work in Ireland, as elsewhere in the British Isles, should visit the Rex Riches dissertation on the Adventist History Website. The story of the early work in the south of Ireland is told in chapter three.



- Above, those who attended Dublin's anniversary day.
- Centre, members and friends of the Dublin church in the 1940s outside Deverell Hall.
- Right, the interior of Deverell Hall which was acquired for the Dublin church in the 1930s.

## Obituary

MORFYDD EDWARDS-JONES (1916-2006) d. - February. It may seem almost inconceivable that a loquacious girl born and bred in Britain and regularly attending the local school, could speak no English. Morfydd, with her sister, found herself in that situation on a farm in the Welsh-speaking district of Llandoverly, Carmarthenshire, for the first eleven years of her life. It was out of necessity that she became bilingual; in order to sit the 11+ exam to gain entrance to the grammar school. This precocious young lady, with an intense interest in botany, which never left her, sailed through the equivalent of O and A levels, and was ready for the next challenge at university. Fewer girls than boys entered university nearly a century ago, and to choose a science subject was even more rare. However, Morfydd chose Exeter University and graduated with a BSc degree. Her first professional appointment took her to a boarding school on the Isle of Man and, being quite versatile, she taught geography. From there she continued to use her skills at the Northleach Grammar School, Oxfordshire, winding up at Canton High School, Cardiff, where she specialised in the subject so dear to her heart. Morfydd's mother must have been one of the early Adventists in Wales, and taught her daughter to begin each day with God. This practice continued throughout the rest of her life. One of her devotional books was *Morning Praise* by Bob and Marie Spangler. In this volume the authors invited readers to express their responses at the end of each daily reading. One of Morfydd's entries left no doubt regarding her personal commitment to Christ, her profound interest in God's creation, and her gratitude for the responsibility given to her to help mould young people's lives. She helped others through the many church offices she held over the years. At the foot of one page of the Spanglers' book she wrote, 'Blessed and guided in my teaching career to end as Deputy Head of a school with 1,760 pupils and 94 teachers.' She was referring to Canton High School in Cardiff. It was at that time she met the late Pastor William Lennox's daughter, Janet, and formed a friendship that continued for half a century. Morfydd's Welsh blood expressed itself in her ability to play the piano and harp. She chose the delightful seaside town of Sidmouth for her retirement. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor B. de Nysschen and the writer, followed by the interment in Honiton cemetery.

PASTOR KENNETH CLOTHIER

## Bradford evangelism

Evangelistic series Sunday 14th May to Saturday 27th May. Speaker: Pastor Jeff Couzins. Venue: Bradford Adventist Church. Theme: Forward in Faith – 'Is Biblical Faith Relevant Today?' Meetings take place Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm. The two Sabbath programmes will be at 11.30 am, with fellowship meals and dynamic afternoon programmes. Why not attend and find out the answers to some difficult questions such as, 'Where is God when the Terrorists Strike?' 'Do the Dead Speak from Beyond the Grave?' 'Is There a Faith We Can Live By?' 'Is Seeing Really Believing?' 'What is God's Infertility Treatment?' And other equally significant questions.

# Making faces smile

by Bert R. Smit, Executive-director, ADRA-UK



One of the things I do when I travel is visit the local markets. That way I usually get a good impression of what people's lives are like. I see what they buy, what vegetables they have, what produce they can choose from; how they interact, how they joke and smile, how they trade. The market I visited in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, was not very different from many I had visited before. I took pictures as I walked, and later, as I was browsing through the digital files, it struck me that hardly any of the people smiled. No happiness appeared on their faces. Just a sadness; a gloom. This was strange because the general disposition of the people of Madagascar is very friendly and outgoing. So why so few smiles? As I reflected on this I thought that perhaps it was due to the fact that here, at the market, the people were confronted with their own economic challenges.

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2003, it ranked 149th on the UNDP's Human Development Index. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line was estimated at 69.9% in 2001 and the rural population accounted for 85% of the poor. Poverty is most likely to affect agricultural households: depending on the surface area cultivated, 85.9 to 90% of farmers are poor. Perhaps here was the reason for the sadness I saw at the market. Poverty is clearly evident in every street and on every corner.

With financial assistance from the European Commission, ADRA-UK started a new project in Madagascar on 1 May 2006. The project managed by ADRA-Madagascar is aimed at helping to alleviate poverty among the poorest households in five communes in the Fandriana region through improved opportunities for income-generating activities, improved agricultural practices, and improved health practices. It will work with 10 craftswomen and 65 farmers' associations to improve their productive, technical and



marketing capacities and to ensure better availability of community-based health services. Three fields of activities aimed at improving the standard of living will be carried out: (i) promotion of improved rice farming and kitchen garden (ii) promotion of income-generating activities in agriculture or crafts (iii) establishment or reinforcement of community-based health services. In order to restore the communities' ability for self-development and build their resilience, the project will put a strong emphasis on a fourth cost-cutting activity: (iv) capacity building for the associations.

What the project will do is this:

- **Meet their basic needs:** the project will work to increase staple food production and income, to integrate a population living at survival level into the market economy, and to reinforce health services that directly impact their health and economic situation.
- **Improve the quality of their lives:** the project will result in tangible improvements in the target groups' standards of living, especially as regards their nutritional and health status and economic conditions in general.
- **Reinforce their own development capacities:** Its strong capacity building component is aimed at rebuilding the rural communities' ability to take charge of their own development.

Later, I did come across three friendly, smiling children. What a contrast to the gloomy faces we witnessed at the market. Smiling children show the hope they have for the future. Their faces display the trust they have in the adults providing for them. Their smiles are the expectations of good things to come. ADRA-UK is helping to make the future for some families to be a little brighter.

Changing lives one at a time.

## ABC BOOK SALES

### May

14 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
21 Newbold Graduation From 10am

### June

12-18 SEC Camp Meeting Prestatyn  
NEC Camp Meeting Southport

### July

9 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
16 West Midlands 10am-2pm

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 12	8.41	8.53	8.51	9.13	9.17
19	8.52	9.04	9.02	9.26	9.30
26	9.01	9.13	9.13	9.38	9.40
Jun 2	9.09	9.22	9.21	9.48	9.50

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## Stanborough Primary School

Appletree Walk, Garston, Watford, WD25 0DQ  
Tel 01923 673291 Fax 01923 671436  
Independent school for children aged 3-11

### Required for September 2006: Three posts for Key Stage 2.

The Governors are looking to appoint enthusiastic, caring teachers who have high expectations and a passion for teaching and learning. Successful candidates should be prepared to lead a curriculum area; teach across the primary age range; be fully involved in the life of the school.

We can offer a school with a strong Christian ethos; a family atmosphere; with small classes and supportive, hard-working colleagues.

For an application pack, please telephone the school secretary, **Laura Harris**, on **01923 673291**.

Closing date: **19 May 2006**. Interviews: **24 May 2006**.

### ASNA 'share an idea' online

forum: New for 2006 has been developed in response to the needs highlighted by carers during the first ASNA Carers' training weekend 2005. Log on to the ASNA website and register your interests and comments. We look forward to hearing from people living with disabilities or working with families with disabilities, mental illness or special needs. We would also like to hear from anyone interested in ASNA activities. This link will take you to the forum so please get posting!

<http://www.asna.info/forum/>  
<[asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk)>