

## Give Opportunities

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

The slogan for this year's ingathering campaign is 'Give Opportunities'. Our goal is that working together we can end world poverty.

We should not underestimate the potential of people to help themselves when faced with difficult situations. ADRA aims to give people positive opportunities so that they can escape the cycle of poverty. We can give sufficiency. We can give hope.

With your help ADRA gives opportunities to people around the world including food security, better health and education. Help us in 2008 to continue to give opportunities.

What do you give?

### ADRA-UK Launches Food Security Project in Zambia

On 1 February 2008 ADRA-UK began a two-year food security project in Zambia. The project, which is supported by a €539,181 grant from the European Commission, will be implemented by ADRA Zambia in the Senanga District in the Western province of the country. The main objective of the project is to reduce poverty for vulnerable people by improving food security for 1,000 farming households.

Senanga is an extremely impoverished area of the country. 'We developed this project because this part of the country has faced problems for the past few years – droughts or floods, even as we speak, destroying people's livelihood base,' says ADRA Zambia country director, John Kunda. This has resulted in some of the highest malnutrition rates among children under 5 in the whole of Africa. Families in the project region regularly produce less than half the amount of food they need each year. Coping with the hunger period

once the food runs out includes skipping meals and reducing nutritional intake, removing children from school and sending them to work, and marrying off daughters at a young age so as to reduce the household demand for food.

ADRA aims to reduce these food shortages and safeguard the households' nutritional status. To achieve this, staff will train the households in improved farming

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with Jonathan Barrett

## Time out!

I managed to clear my desk at the beginning of this week! That felt good! In theory, the desk should be clear at least once a week, but in practice that often doesn't happen. It's all about busyness. If I have a lot of preparation to do, then it can be hard to take the time to get to the non-pressing issues, such as clearing the desk.

How busy are you? I suspect most of us are very busy; that is just the way this society is. Sometimes people say to me that I am busy, and I take that as a compliment. It is almost a cardinal sin in the West to have time on our hands. And yet,

not all cultures view things that way. If you walk up the Edgware Road in London you will see plenty of men relaxing in the cafés for what seems like hours. The way the majority of them, who seem to be from more Eastern countries, view busy Londoners is interesting. They value relationships and time for reflection. They see us as missing out on life by our constant rushing.

When I see people from different cultures relaxing in such a way, it can appear to me that they are wasting time. And yet, I realise I am missing something important, as this time, to them, is very special.

Biblically, I think they would be closer to the ideal than I would. Certainly, I could come up with some convincing Scriptures, such as this one: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' Proverbs 6:6.

But then, I would have to concede that although God would like me to work for my living and not be lazy, he would also not want me to overdo it. There has to be time, for instance, just to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn, to be quiet:

'As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

Teaching Vacancies  
September 2008



Stanborough School

**Head of ICT**  
We require a full time ICT teacher who will teach Key Stage 3, 4 and Key Stage 5 (LB)

**Head of English**  
Due to the retirement of the present teacher, Stanborough School requires an English teacher. The teacher will teach Key Stage 3, 4 and Key Stage 5 (LB)

Applicants should hold a degree in the subject, a teaching qualification and experience. Salary as per denominational scale.  
Application forms are available from the school and should be sent with a current CV to: Judy McKie, PA to Head Teacher, or emailed to [jmckie@spsch.org](mailto:jmckie@spsch.org) by **14 March 2008**

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She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but

only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42.

I think I need a little more time for reflection. How about you?



## Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHY, MSc,  
Health Ministries director, BUC

If you are a diabetic it is crucial that you keep your blood sugar levels as normal and as tightly controlled as possible. New studies indicate that the better you control your blood sugar levels, the less brain damage you'll sustain. This is

so even for individuals diagnosed with pre-diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance.

**Caution:** the higher the blood sugar levels, the more you harm your brain.

### Advice:

- Markedly reduce carbohydrate intake
- Exercise and lead a more active lifestyle
- Avoid saturated fats.

### Hypertension

- Very high pressure can cause a break in a weakened blood vessel, which then bleeds in the brain. This can cause a stroke.
- A long-term study of 1,500 adults found that individuals with high cholesterol and high blood pressure had six times the risk of dementia.

Dr Louise Chang's article of 28 November 2007 (Chicago) reviewed research reports on hypertension impact on the brain. She identified that high blood

pressure reduces blood flow to the area of the brain that controls memory and learning, perhaps raising the risk of Alzheimer's disease. (WebMD Medical News.)

Research scans showed that in people with Alzheimer's, blood flow to every part of the brain studied was substantially lower in those with hypertension, compared with those who didn't have high blood pressure.

Philip O. Alderson, MD, of Columbia University in New York, offers an explanation for this. He states that, treated or not, high blood pressure makes your blood vessels narrower and less pliable over time. This hinders delivery of nutrients in the blood to the brain. He further explains: 'Since Alzheimer's disease is marked by abnormal metabolism in an area of the brain associated with memory, poor delivery of nutrients to that part of the brain would make you more susceptible to the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.'

### Advice:

- Monitor and control blood pressure
- Reduce salt and saturated fats
- Increase physical activity.

Good health!



### Chronic Illness Impact

This issue examines the impact of two long-term conditions on brain function.

### Diabetes

- Diabetes damages the small blood vessels in the brain. This can eventually lead to these vessels closing off completely. When this occurs, the brain tissue fed by the blood vessel dies, causing a stroke.
- Several new research studies indicate that diabetes, and even pre-diabetes, damages brain cells directly.
- Recent research shows that people with diabetes are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

# What must I know to be saved? (or the Red Star Bible)

David Marshall



When I was a boy, being an Adventist seemed like a complicated business. Learning the catechism to become a confirmed Anglican looked like a doddle by comparison with all the theological hoops they wanted me to jump through into the baptistery of the Adventist Church.

There was a lot to get my head round. 'Time, times and the dividing of time.' Remember? 'That no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark.' Scary! Then there was the Third Angel who cried that 'the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night . . .' – and then, subsequently, the mental gymnastics the pastor put us through to prove that, for all that, there was no 'ever burning hell'. I wondered if the Third Angel scored an 'own goal'!

Complicated, or what?

One practical benefit it all had was that I sailed through my RE exams without effort, whereas mathematics and the rest took blood, toil, tears and sweat.

But, of all the Bible doctrine I knew, how much was necessary to ensure my salvation?

It was important for me to have an answer to that question because I was all too aware that what I knew of some of the time prophecies today might have been forgotten by tomorrow!

There was nothing for it but to undertake the exercise of reading through with a ruler and red pen the King James Bible my mother had given me until I had found the passage that explained precisely what I needed to know for salvation.

I still have that Bible, and it's in a bad way. The red pen was used lots. One big, red star is beside the story of the Philippian jailor. Remember Paul and Silas praying and singing songs in the night? Prayer and praise are powerful weapons. God shook the foundation of the prison until all the doors and the prisoners' bonds came loose! Roles were reversed. The jailor became the prisoner. Paul saved his life and the jailor voiced the plea of lost men and women everywhere: 'What must I do to be saved?' A legalist might have begun his reply with, 'First you'd

better get circumcised. . . .' But Paul and Silas knew the right answer: 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.' (Acts 16:31.) They knew it was not *what* you knew, but *whom*. Faith in Jesus was what carried all before it.

Thomas believed when he saw. Jesus responded that those who believed without seeing were especially blessed. Then John, who recorded the story, added, by way of conclusion, the reason he had written the fourth gospel: 'that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.' (John 20:29-31.)

The four gospels were not written to give information. They were written to give life. It was when I grasped that that I stopped using my red pen quite so much. More important than the book was the Man the book was written to reveal.

I did, however, both underline and red star Matthew 25 because, between verses 31 and 46, it is obvious that Jesus is dealing with the issue on which the judgement turns. 'When the Son of man shall come in his glory. . . .' Remember? The separation of the sheep and the goats? Those on 'the left hand' and those on 'the right hand'?

The issue that separated the two groups had little if anything to do with theology. I have read acres of print and heard hours of ill-humoured debate on character perfection, the nature of Christ, 1844 and All That, Justification, Sanctification, Glorification and Predestination. But none of them is mentioned in this passage.

What can we learn from Matthew 25:31-46? First, when the King comes, his coming will be unexpected and decisive. Second, that judgement awaits everyone; and it is possible to be finally lost. Third, that there will be many surprises. Fourth, love is what makes the difference: *and love has to be practical to be real*.

Jesus identifies himself with the poor, the wretched of the Earth, the hungry, the homeless and the oppressed, and he states: 'Whatever you did not do for the least of these my brothers and sisters

you did not do for me.' (Verse 40.)

When the King comes he will be less interested in precisely what I believe, than precisely how my beliefs have impacted my life. That is what exposes, more than anything, the authenticity or otherwise of my relationship with the King.

In his first letter (3:14) John says, 'We know that we have passed from death to life. . . .' When I found that, I knew I had hit it. Here was what I was looking for. John might just as well have said, 'The evidence you are saved is . . .'. The ability to argue convincingly? Recite all twenty-eight fundamentals? Jump through all the theological hoops?

Not even close!

'We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another.' That's it!

So where do all the other teachings of Scripture come in? Are they not important?

They are *very* important. On a need-to-know basis, you and I need to know all that God has said.

Why?

It fuels our faith. It increases our love: the love that is expressed in caring.

But we are not saved by how much we know!

In Hebrews 11 we have a list of people who knew what they believed, loved what they knew – and acted upon it. Each case study is prefaced by the words, 'By faith. . . .'

That reminds us of one of the earliest verses of salvation theology. It was the first of my red stars as I read through the Bible. 'He believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.' (Genesis 15:6.) You don't have to read far into Scripture before you find the bottom line.

'The author and the finisher of our faith' is Jesus. Those who would have faith are encouraged to look to him, and him alone. (Hebrews 12:1, 2.) 'Neither is there salvation in any other.' (Acts 4:12.)

When we come right down to it, it's really quite simple. It really is a case of *whom*, not *what*. Even Paul, the greatest theologian of them all, wrote 'for I know *whom* I have believed'. (2 Timothy 1:12.)

# Transcendence in time

by Clifford Goldstein\*

More than twenty-six years after I was first shown Daniel 2, the prophecy remains for me what I believe it was always meant to be: powerful, rational evidence not only for God's existence but for his foreknowledge as well. Scripture makes no attempt to unravel the paradoxes arising from human free will contrasted with divine omniscience. Instead, whether by revealing intimate details of what someone will say or do in the next few hours (Mark 14:30), or by accurately predicting the rise and fall of empires (Daniel 2) — the Bible proves that God's knowledge of the future is as absolute as it is of the past.

And why shouldn't it be? Transcendence isn't just God hovering above the world and watching everything that happens, like someone looking at a fish tank. Transcendence includes a God outside of time, above time, a God who sees the past, present and future, not only as discrete moments but all at once, just as he sees all the Earth at once. Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity reveals, theoretically at least, how this concept is possible.

'The distinction,' Einstein wrote, 'between past, present and future is an illusion, even if a stubborn one.'

Special relativity showed that an event that occurs for a man on a train will occur at a different time for another man standing on a platform and watching the same event as it passes by him. In other words, the same thing that happens, at one time, for the man on the train happens at another time for the man on the platform. And both men are right!

There's no universal set time, no universal idea of simultaneity. Time is relative, depending on the speed and location of the observer, which means that one person's 'now-list' — all the events in the universe which at that instant are in that person's 'freeze-frame mental image' (what he 'sees' or can imagine occurring at that instant) — happen at a different time from a person

elsewhere in the universe.

'Observers moving relative to each other,' wrote physicist Brian Greene, 'have different concepts of what exists at a given moment, and hence they have different conceptions of reality.'

And again, each is correct. In fact, the farther the distance, the greater the time discrepancy between them. A person ten billion light-years away and moving at a constant speed relative to someone on Earth will have a 'now-list' radically different than the person on Earth. The 'now-list' of the one moving through the cosmos could include events that happened 150 years ago here. Or, if he were moving in another direction, his 'now-list' could include events twenty years in the future of the person he's moving relative to on Earth.

Greene compared the universe, both space and time, to a loaf of bread, with each slice containing a 'now-list' for every possible perspective of space-time. In this loaf (the entire universe) an endless number of potential 'now-lists' exist, which means that all the moments of time — past, present and future — have an independent existence, depending on the location and motion of each observer. In short, events in the past and future are as real as events in the present.

Does this mean that an observer ten billion light-years away, moving in a direction that makes his 'now-list' 100 years in our past, can get to the Earth and change that past? No, because according to relativity nothing can exceed the speed of light. So even if he were able to travel that fast, by the time he reached Earth, ten billion years would have elapsed and so the events he had wanted to change would, from his perspective, be long gone.

Stuck in our narrow slice of space-time, and locked in by the velocity of light (186,000 miles per second), we're restricted to the present. But for God — who can see every perspective at once and who isn't limited by the lumbering speed of light — all space and all time exist before him simultane-

ously. Thus, special relativity gives us, theoretically at least, the physics that show how God knows the future as well as he does the past, and that's because, for him, both are always present.

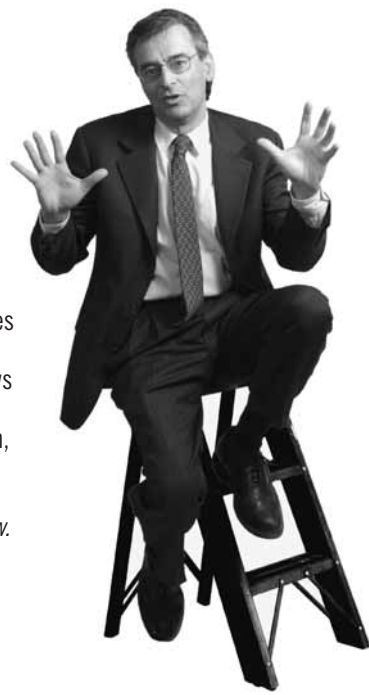
First published in *Adventist Review*. \*Clifford Goldstein is editor of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. He also hosts a television programme on the Hope Channel called *CLIFF!*

## News Digest

### Ruth Sam

Ruth Sam is a loyal and devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and a long-standing member of the Bedford Central church. It would be difficult to find a more committed Christian, with an eye single to the glory of God. If you listened to Ruth speak of God's goodness, you would readily come to the conclusion that she has never had a trial in her life. Ruth is well known in Bedford for her care and concern for her fellow citizens. She was visiting an old lady whose husband had died; then Ruth was hospitalised for a few weeks. Upon resuming her contact and making several visits without success, Ruth decided to tell the police of her friend's absence. They proceeded to investigate and made forced entry into the home, only to find a corpse. A post mortem revealed that she had passed away some four weeks earlier. Ruth was highly commended for her interest in her community.

Although Ruth is a senior citizen, she is the star ingatherer in the Bedford Central church. She is in regular contact with the people of Bedford through the medium of the press. I have read several of her very brief articles commending the public for their generosity and kindness in responding to the church's annual appeals. Her total collection in 2007 was £1,452. If you were to read through Ruth's scrapbook, you would not find stories relating to life. No, it is filled with cuttings from



*MESSENGER*, the local paper and other appeals from various charities, highlighting the plight of the suffering and the needy. It is clear evidence of a heart of compassion that is touched with the feelings of man's infirmities.

Ruth has mastered the art of time management. You can guarantee that she will be first at every duly called service or meeting of the church or any other official function where her presence is required. She makes a positive contribution to all discussions, even when she holds a different point of view. She diligently feasts on the Word of God, and the evidence of its power to transform the character is clearly seen in the life of our beloved saint of God.

Ruth is still the church's elected Conference treasurer and keeps a faithful account of all transactions. She is very confidential and actively urges members to remember their responsibility to the church by joining the Gift Aid programme. Ruth is a living testimony of the transformation and joy that the Gospel of Christ brings to the soul.

*Roy Chisholm, Bedford Central*



# BBC's *Horizon* features Adventist longevity

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health Ministries director, BUC

On Tuesday 19 February, BBC 2's *Horizon* documentary revealed findings from a thirty-year research study by scientists Drs Bradley and Craig Willcox (brothers) who observed three communities where people live the longest in the world.

The report from Loma Linda indicated that Seventh-day Adventists are a faith group whose members live five to ten years longer than their average American counterparts. The positive impact of a vegetarian diet, disciplined lifestyle, stress-reduced living and faith were indicated as the key factors accounting for their longevity. Dr Elsworth Wareham was filmed undertaking open-heart surgery at the age of 92!

In a population of one million people, the Okinawans have over 900 centenarians. This is a percentage over four times higher than the UK and USA. Research now indicates that the Okinawans age more slowly than any other people group in the world. Their lifestyle features diet and exercise.

The absence of the G6PD enzyme due to a faulty X Chromosome gene was responsible for the longevity of the Ovodda community in Sardinia. It appeared that the inbreeding prevalent in this close community (although scientifically found to cause a high level of genetic abnormality) made for longevity.

### Dietary impact

Adventists' dietary habits were stressed as contributing towards their longevity. The reporter stated: 'Many Adventists stick to the vegetarian diet encouraged by the Church.' Marge Jetton (aged 103) attested to the fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains which kept her healthy.

The report advocated the benefits of a 'rainbow diet', one high in antioxidants which protect against cell damage. These are the rich, colourful foods like orange, deep yellow, red and green fruits and vegetables which are key to enhancing health as we age.

Together with a diet rich in these colourful fruits and vegetables, tofu and unprocessed soya were also found to be responsible for the

Okinawans' having levels of prostate and breast cancer and chronic illness lower than those prevalent in the West.

Dr Bradley Willcox stated: 'If we in the West lived more like the Okinawans, we could probably close 80% of our cardiovascular units, one third of our cancer wards, and nursing homes would go out of business.'

Equally important to longevity was *caloric restriction* where the body signals (or tricks itself into believing) that there is going to be a famine. The body restricts itself to a smaller amount of food and goes into a self-preservation mode even when food becomes more plentiful. The Okinawans eat approximately 1,200 calories a day. They live by the belief that you should eat until you are only 80% full and then move away from the table.

That was in stark contrast to cultural habits that drive food consumption in the West. We seem to focus on getting more for our money when we visit food outlets which advertise: 'Eat as much as you like'. We might get our money's worth but how good is it for our health to overeat to the point of feeling bloated, putting our organs under pressure to deal with the excess? Research indicates that a smaller dietary intake may be linked to longevity.

### Exercise

It was amazing to see Adventist Marge Jetton at 103 cycling six miles daily before breakfast and walking with the agility of a healthy 70-year-old. She exercises regularly by lifting weights.

Okinawans exercise well into old age. That enables them to retain their mobility and agility. They also grow their own food and engage in a lot of outdoor activities.

### Genetic impact

Gwen Foster, Adventist Health and Fitness 'Tsar' from Philadelphia, was quoted as saying: 'Faulty genes load the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger.' Indeed genetics only account for approximately 20% of longevity; so even if an individual does not come from a long line of centenarians they could still make

lifestyle choices that would positively affect their longevity.

Equally interesting was the suggested reason for the reduced longevity in Glaswegians (particularly males), whose life expectancy is around 57, unchanged from fifty years ago. These statistics cannot be explained by dietary habits alone. Genetic factors relating to the immune system were examined by Professor Chris Packard. The rapid industrialisation of the early twentieth century resulted in the construction of tenement blocks to house the thousands of workers. The cramped and primitive living conditions meant constant exposure to various prevalent diseases. In order to preserve life, the body heightened its immune defences, (this came to be known as heightened inflammatory response), and one of the negative effects of this was a reduced life span. This increased inflammatory response is still evident in a large percentage of the population in Glasgow where high levels of inflammatory diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease and arthritis are prevalent.

### Faith impact

It was observed that people who go to church regularly lived longer, and the spiritual impact of the Adventist faith was closely examined. Their strong beliefs and positive response to stress was looked at. Researcher Dr Kelly Morton says: 'There are many stressors in life that we cannot control. . . . Connection to something higher than oneself, connection to the sacred, connection to a tight-knit religious community, allows you to modulate your reactions, your emotions, to believe that there is a broader purpose, and therefore your body can stay in balance and not be destroyed by those stressors and traumas over time.'

Dr Kelly Morton is currently doing research on Adventists to ascertain the impact of their religion on life expectancy. Blood and saliva samples are being analysed for stress hormones. Scientific evidence exists to prove that lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol lead to a longer life. The lower levels of stress indicated in previous Adventist lifestyle studies were linked to their strong faith in God, active religious lifestyle and close community spirit.

This *Horizon* report reinforces the benefits of the Adventist health message which has given us an advantage for over 100 years and is now the object of worldwide interest. At the autumn council in August last year, the General Conference world Church voted to reaffirm its health guidelines. Let us live up to our Church's health principles which, as research has shown, enhance longevity, and thereby continue to bring a positive witness to the world.

# Help for the Home Front

by Colin Stewart, SEC Youth director

## Donations and gifts

The South England Conference Youth department is excited at the prospects and opportunities for its young people to serve those in its communities. The Youth department plans to develop programmes and encourage youth to reach out to local communities from a grassroots level up in a way that is new and Spirit-led.

While we are in favour of overseas mission, we also feel it's time to focus our youthful zeal and talents much closer to home. We plan to develop programmes to challenge youth culture with alternatives that lead in a different pathway. So we plan to provide as much help as we can to make this happen and we know that we cannot do this vast work by ourselves; we need your help in the form of monetary gifts and donations. We seek to make our AY societies much more useful in our local areas.

As the Youth director, I appeal to your kindness and generosity as people of God, and people who seek to see the work of God go forward among all cultures and classes of people in the SEC. Your financial assistance will be greatly appreciated and will open the door for us to do even more locally at this time.

You may want to help with a general donation for the youth work or you may want to be specific in the help you give. The list of projects we are actively seeking assistance with is:

Newquay Evangelism Project  
London Evangelism Project  
LIVE Community Project  
AY Community Development

All enquires are to be directed to Colin Stewart, SEC Youth director. All contacts will be treated with the strictest confidence.

# Newbold College Choir UK tour

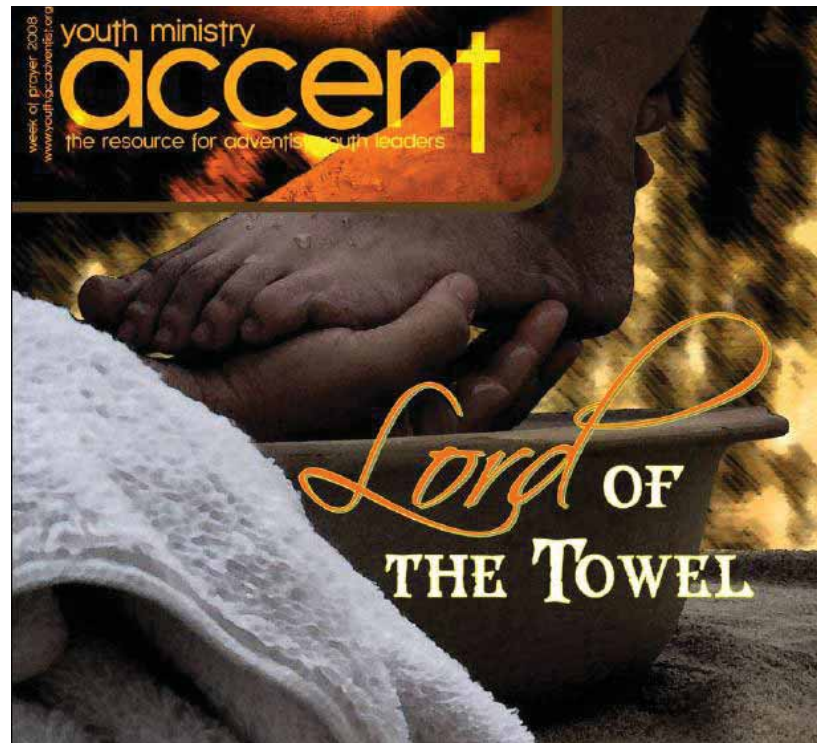
March 13-23 2008

For the first time in fifteen years, the Newbold College Choir has chosen the UK as the location for its 2008 Spring tour. During their vacation, the choir of student singers, under the direction of Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett, will present performances of their Easter musical, *The Witness*, at Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout

the UK. Adventist churches in Bristol and the West Country, Wales, the Midlands, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, Scotland and East Anglia, will host the choir on its ten-day whistle-stop tour. For details of times and venues go to [www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk).



Newbold College Choir with its director, Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett



## Keeping it real

by Maria Dunchie

Many of us know about Jesus. We can name his birthplace, list the miracles he performed, tell his life-story, but can we call him our close personal friend? The pages of this year's *Youth Week of Prayer* issue are filled with stories about Jesus, Lord of the Towel, which we hope and pray will help to draw each person into a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus. God did not include these events in the Bible just for us to have a good story to read; these experiences reveal Jesus' character to us.

It's God's nature always to want to do what is best for us, that's why during this special week of spiritual emphasis we will see Jesus becoming human in the first Sabbath's lesson, 'Glory to Glory'. On Sunday we will see him turning the water into wine in 'Always the Best'. Then, on Monday in 'Tried and True', we learn about relational challenges, and that continued spiritual growth rests on putting aside personal pride and ideals, and engaging with God in ways that are real, like helping the needy and leading others to Jesus.

Tuesday, Day 4, through the shocking, unconventional and even embarrassing encounter with a Samaritan woman who came to draw water from the well, Joanna Poddar's 'Walking the Walk' gives us a glimpse of how God relates to people with problems. Then in Wednesday's lesson, Becky De Oliveira reminds us that we are all different and that it's OK to be different as long as we can embrace those differences. In this lesson we see Jesus casting out demons and challenging cultural traditions.

Trevor Young's 'No Favourites Here' on Thursday reminds us that with Jesus everyone is treated equally; with him there is no regard for status. Jesus is no respecter of persons; he heals every class.

When Jesus came, he created a new relationship between God and us; a behavioural change. As Christians we are part of that new relationship and are expected to live it. One of these events in the life of Jesus was the foot-washing service he had with his disciples. Many of us participate in the foot-washing ordinance, but do we really understand the meaning of foot-washing? Beth Holford helps us re-examine the real meaning of foot-washing in Friday's lesson, 'Scandalous!'

Calvary is the ultimate price simply because of the Man of Calvary – Jesus, Lord of the Towel. 'In Calvary', the final lesson (2nd Sabbath), Gifford Rhamie takes us back to where Jesus paid the ultimate price on our behalf.

It is our hope that this youth week of prayer and spiritual emphasis will push you in areas you have never gone before, cause you to ask more questions than you have answers for, and be the beginning of a life-changing experience for you and those who will attend your meetings. God bless you.

Please plan to make this an exciting and powerful week in the life of your church.

# Youth Week of Prayer

15-22 March

## Lord of the Towel

The readings this year have all been written by youth and ministers in the UK, so look out for some familiar faces!

## Contributors

**Gifford Rhamie** lectures in the Department of Theological Studies, Newbold College, in Pastoral and Biblical Studies with research interest in the book of Acts and the birth of Christianity. He is passionate about young people and their development, whether in well-being, music, education or spirituality. He is married to Jasmine and has two children, Serena and Jonathan.

**Trevor Young** is a Christian saved by God's grace and fighting the good fight of faith. Married with one child, Trevor is an avid supporter of youth work and one of the pioneers of the London Adventist Football League. He also works in Prison Ministries and is passionate about writing and poetry. He is currently writing a book about overcoming life's struggles, entitled *Conquerors of Mountains*.

**Victor Hulbert** currently serves as Communication director for the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He has twenty-five years experience in both church ministry and working with Christian media. His involvement with youth includes dragging them on long weekend camp-outs and hikes. His understanding of current youth culture comes via his three children who are all active in their local churches and whose music plays at about the right level from two rooms away. He is married to Luisa whose creative skills have influenced the lives of many children and who has kept him sane through his ministry.

**Beth Holford** is at Cambridge University, reading Social and Political Sciences. Among other things, she enjoys singing, reading, cooking for friends, writing and photography.

**Becky De Oliveira** is a native of Seattle who lived twelve years in the UK and now resides in South-western Michigan. She is a graduate of the creative writing MA programme at Lancaster University in Lancashire, England, and works as a writer, editor and graphic designer.

**Joanna Poddar**, a Cambridge graduate, is a high school science teacher. She likes reading books, Gary Larson cartoons and being right. She is also a big fan of praying and feels we should all do it more.

Having completed his degree in Economics from the School of University College, London, **Graham Pilmoor** is currently serving ADRA SUDAN as a project manager. Graham firmly believes that there's more to honesty than meets the eye and welcomes heartfelt dialogue with all.

**Remona St John** is involved in youth work by occupation, working with young offenders, and as part of her ministry. She has worked in youth ministry for several years, writing drama productions and pushing creative ministries for young people. A regular writer for SEC's *HUB* journal, Remona's passion extends to all the creative arts.

The readings for the Youth Week of Prayer were distributed to all churches in February. If you need further copies of the readings for your church youth group, please email your local conference or mission youth department for an electronic copy.

## The Genesis seminars

A series of interactive workshops for young people will be available from early spring this year. These workshops promise to stimulate thinking and to assist young people in investigating how 'black' culture, history and individualism inform the quality of their lives.

The workshops have a strong practical element where attendees will embark on a 'contract to change' process that is aimed at facilitating practically informed and effective steps towards relationships, studies, exams, career planning, health and spirituality.

Participants will also investigate myths and truths surrounding urban youth, while being challenged to frustrate the power of limited perceptions in the march towards living the 'abundant life'.

Workshop one – Sunday 30 March: *'The caged bird sings'*

Workshop two – Sunday 13 April: *'Who do they say that you are?'*

Workshop three – Sunday 27 April: *'And God said'*

Workshop four – Sunday 18 May: *'I can fly'*

- All workshops will take place at the London Advent Centre from 10.30am -1.30pm.
- These workshops are for youth and young adults only.
- Costs are a subsidised rate of £10 per session.

For further details and to book your place at the seminars, please email: [bucyouth@adventist.org.uk](mailto:bucyouth@adventist.org.uk) or check out the events section at [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

These workshops are a collaborative venture between the BUC (Youth and Health departments) and Newbold College and have been developed by Val Bernard, Christian sociologist and educationalist.

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AVE featured on 'Songs of Praise', Desmond Tutu Special, 17 February

## Prayer for JLS

MESSENGER staff along with BUC and SEC officers have been deeply impressed by the level of prayerful concern with regard to the rumours circulating about the John Loughborough School. The reality behind the rumours is that, for the next twelve months, the Haringey Local Authority, through an Interim Executive Education Board, will be in control of the school. Four of the ten people who make up the Interim Executive Education Board are Seventh-day Adventists.

The director of Children's Services for Haringey, Sharon Shoesmith, has undertaken to oversee a return of the school to the control of the regular Board of Governors in twelve months' time.

It is encouraging that groups have been formed in a number of Adventist congregations in the London area to pray for our secondary school. It would be good if, further afield, this approach could be taken. We need to pray for the head teacher, staff and every student at the school.

May the current situation be a means used by God for the ultimate betterment of the school.



## Bournville in Thailand Southeast Asia Pathfinder Camporee

It is time by Tracy Edinburgh

This was the theme of the 8th Southeast Asia Union International Pathfinder Camporee held in Thailand in December 2007, where 37 countries representing every continent of the world participated in the biggest camporee in Southeast Asia to date. Accepting a special invitation given by Pastor Simon Siew, Pathfinder director of the Southeast Asia Union Mission and Camporee director, twelve members of the Bournville Pathfinder club were proud to represent the North England Conference along with four Master Guides from South England Conference.

The opening ceremony was an auspicious occasion with over 1,000 Pathfinders and Master Guides in full uniform, all marching under their country's flag, standing in temperatures which soared to over 40°C. An excellent drill display was performed by the Adventist University of the Philippines which ended a fantastic

and memorable ceremony.

Day two marked the beginning of skills classes. Thirty-nine classes were on offer for all to enjoy, including fire-lighting (without matches), sompotong, semaphore, weave art, sign language, textile painting and many others. The highlight of each evening was the campfire performances where young people from all countries showed the delights of their homeland through music and dance. Clad in traditional dress, each performance had a story to tell of the life and customs of the people.

The final day saw a militant and organised investiture service. During the ceremony Bournville were proud to witness the investiture of five club members as PLAs and one Junior Counsellor invested as a Master Guide. The service was attended by the Thailand Chief of Police who encouraged the newly invested to keep on the path of courage and

morality. A hike of around five miles to the Waterfalls in order to witness the baptism of fifteen Pathfinders followed. Lunch by the cool waters was the order of the day and the baptismal service was very moving. On return to the campsite, each country sold goods in their own booths to raise money for the bamboo schools.

This was called 'Market Day' and UK representatives sold traditional English wares including models of a London bus, Big Ben, postcards, pictures and badges of the Queen. A total amount of 6,000 bhat was raised which included a donation from the NEC. The last night was particularly special with the release of 152 komloys into the night sky. Beautiful balloons made of rice paper went into the air by way of heat provided by a lighted candle, in order to raise money again for the

bamboo schools of Thailand. These are schools made entirely out of bamboo for underprivileged Thai children. Each conference or club represented bought a komloy for 100 bhat (approx £2) as their own donation to the bamboo school.

Thailand is a wonderful country, and the experience of a lifetime was had by all. Friends from different parts of the world were made, new skills and languages were learnt, and lives were brought closer to Christ by way of baptism. We now wait in anticipation for the 9th Southeast Asia Pathfinder Camporee in Malaysia in 2011.

If any young person reading this article is thinking of joining their Pathfinder club, three words come to mind.

IT IS TIME!



## Newbold principal announces resignation

Dr David Penner announced his resignation on 6 February after completing a six-year contract as principal of Newbold College. He submitted his resignation at this stage in the year in order to facilitate the College's search for a successor and he will continue to serve until the summer. The principal's decision was announced to the Newbold Staff Forum on 6 February by the Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr Bertil Wiklander.

Dr Penner said: 'There is never a perfect time for administrative change but this seems the most propitious moment. Good things are happening at Newbold. New programmes are being developed and the excellence in theology teaching for which the College has a long tradition is drawing ever-increasing numbers of students. We have resolved some of the funding issues and the finances are on a better footing. The search committee will have time to do its work before the next academic year. I am honoured to have been principal of the College. I have enjoyed the years here with family, friends and colleagues. Working together with the staff and students at the College has been a rewarding experience.'

Dr Wiklander said: 'Dr Penner has served the College faithfully and well during a challenging period in its history. Many changes in our world are affecting the College, especially in its student recruitment. With love and a particular eye for the human resource and aesthetic aspects of college operations, Dr Penner has provided vision and care for the College. His keen historical insights and his connections in

North America, as well as his splendid abilities as a teacher and great expertise in leadership training, have been particularly valuable. I have personally appreciated working with David in a close and warm relationship. I wish him and his wife rich blessings in the future.'

A search committee chaired by Dr Wiklander will begin its work immediately and aims to appoint a new principal within three months. The committee will consist of one representative of the Newbold staff and four members of the College Board: Dr Wiklander, Dr Daniel Duda, Education director for the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists (TED), Pastor Raafat Kamal, TED Field secretary, and Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the British Union of Seventh-day Adventists. The Newbold staff representative will be the bursar, Ms Berit Lisle.

Dr Wiklander appealed to those who care about the future of Newbold to contact the committee with suggestions. He said: 'As we seek a successor, our search committee will be glad to hear from those who would like their names to be considered and from others who would like to suggest names for our consideration. Newbold's principal makes a significant contribution to the work and leadership of the Church in Europe, and we want to make a thorough survey of the possibilities.'

Please feel free to email or phone me or Dr Daniel Duda with your suggestions.  
[dduda@ted-adventist.org](mailto:dduda@ted-adventist.org) and  
[bwiklander@ted-adventist.org](mailto:bwiklander@ted-adventist.org)  
 HELEN PEARSON

## Merseyside baptism

Sabbath 8 December will linger long in the memories of all those who witnessed the baptism of four young people. This was truly a district baptism as we had candidates from Liverpool, Stoneycroft and Wallasey churches.

Pastor Acquoi Karbah set a high spiritual tone for the baptism with his warnings not to touch the things of the world.

Three of the candidates were Pathfinders. We were delighted to have with us to immerse these young people Pastor Trevor Thomas, the NEC Pathfinder director. The fourth candidate was immersed by resident minister, Pastor Barry Stokes.

Camille Boyce was the first to be immersed. She comes from a family with a strong Pathfinder tradition, both her mother and grandmother being Pathfinder directors. Camille was the first girl to play the bass



drum for the NEC Pathfinders.

Amanda Ndlovu was next to be baptised. Amanda is also part of the Drum Corps of the Pathfinders and plays the cymbals.

The third candidate was Michael Kiragu. Michael's father is Pastor John Kiragu, who is currently serving the Lord in Kenya. Michael's mother and sister sang 'Amazing Grace'.

Lydia Seelan was the last to be baptised. Lydia is active in the Wallasey church where she has preached, does talks, sings and operates the audio-visual equipment. Special thanks go to the Stockport church for kindly lending us their portable baptistery, and to Stan Walters of the Manchester Central church for transporting the tank in his van.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES

## Mother's Day project at Newbold

Newbold staff, students and alumni have created a new scheme which will benefit Ethiopian mothers and their children *and at the same time* offer valuable mission experience to Newbold Gap Year students.

In 2005, Newbold began to offer its new Gap Year programme under the direction of Pastor Henrik Jorgensen, head of Student Services. The Gap Year offers volunteers three months' training followed by an assignment for a not-for-profit organisation.

One of the organisations which has given placements to students is the Tropical Health Alliance Foundation (THAF) – an American charity founded by Newbold alumnus, Dr Larry Thomas, an Emergency Medicine specialist with training in Tropical Medicine. The Foundation's

mission is to provide funding for primary medical care, maternity services and health education. It sponsors healthcare workers and support staff in organisations that treat women who have trouble in pregnancy and childbirth, and also those who care for their surviving children. This year, THAF is sponsoring two Newbold students, Esther Kok and Daniel Surrudge, to teach orphans in a school called 'The Learning Village' just outside Addis Ababa.

In November 2007, Dr Larry Thomas, Pastor Henrik Jorgensen and Mrs Josee-Marie Penner, Newbold's Admissions officer, visited some of the projects funded by THAF in Ethiopia and discovered that in the area of Gimbe, one in seven female deaths is caused by needless complications in pregnancy or child-



## Wednesfield: Bittersweet farewell

The Turks and Caicos Islands Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will soon be reaping the benefits of leadership from a much-loved pastor and his family.

Pastor Richard Jackson left England on 6 February for the Turks and Caicos Islands and this was a bittersweet occasion for the members of the Wolverhampton churches which, with the surrounding churches, he has pastored for the last seven years.

On 26 January a farewell service was held at the Wednesfield church for Pastor Jackson and his family. With the building full to capacity, humorous but very emotional presentations were made by church members and friends. There were tears all round as members bid farewell to this well-loved family.

Pastor Jackson began his ministry in Wolverhampton on 1 September 2001 and, in the words of Pastor Fray, was 'Everything to everybody'. This sentiment was echoed in the tearful presentations, heart-rending songs and the caricatures of one slide presentation. Angela Jackson was also commended for her work and support and we were reminded that whenever Pastor Jackson was unable to reach a member, Angela would make it her duty to go in his place.

Among those giving presentations was Alisa Gordon (Leesy) of Adassa's Catering who, along with others, bore testament to the bargaining skills of Pastor Jackson who was always able to 'get something for nothing'. Alisa also addressed Pastor Jackson's young children Talitha and Samuel, reminding them of the strong role models they had in their parents and encouraging them to follow closely in their footsteps.

JOANNE FISHER

birth. 'As a mother and grandmother myself,' says Mrs Penner, 'I could not help thinking about my own daughters and granddaughters and how much joy they bring to our family. In contrast, so few Ethiopian mothers and babies will have the privilege of knowing each other.'

Now a new project to benefit both Ethiopian mothers and Newbold students is being launched at the College in time for Mother's Day. Newbold staff and students are raising funds for Ethiopian mothers and children. THAF will continue to offer placements and sponsorships for Newbold Gap Year students to work as support staff in various learning and healthcare institutions.

The Mothers' Day Card Project seeks donations of £15 (or £30 or £45 or £60, etc.). For each gift of £15, donors will be sent a Mother's

Day card to send to their own mother or mother-figure, outlining the work of the Foundation but also giving room for a personal note from the sender.

'We are offering friends of Newbold the opportunity to give a Mother's Day gift that will reach around the globe to help struggling mothers and their children in Ethiopia *and also* give young people the chance to make a difference early in their careers. It's a winning combination,' says Newbold's principal, Dr David Penner.

Contributors should send donations to: Tropical Health Alliance Foundation, F.A.O. Josee-Marie Penner, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 4AN. Contact: [jpenner@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:jpenner@newbold.ac.uk) Tel: 01344-407419.

HELEN PEARSON



# Ireland's leadership weekend

On Friday evening, 1 February, forty pastors, elders and leaders of the Adventist Church in Ireland gathered together for supper at the Emmaus Conference Centre. Emmaus is a Christian Retreat Centre on the outskirts of Dublin City. As part of the continued training of Mission leaders this is was the second annual Leadership summit to be held. Pastor David Neal, the Irish Mission president, has committed the mission to have a continuing training programme for church officers at all levels and said that 'it was the purpose of this weekend to ensure that leaders felt prepared and able to fulfil their role as an elder in their own congregation.'

Pastor Don McFarlane, BUC president, and Victor Pilmoor, Union treasurer, were the keynote speakers for the weekend. Pastor McFarlane began the Sabbath, sharing his vision for leadership in the British Union. He pointed out how the Church and society had changed in his many years of ministry. He spoke

of the tension of remaining true to the distinctive values that make us Adventists and sharing those values in a world that is continually changing.

The weekend was not just for sitting in lectures but, more importantly, it was a time when testimonies were shared, problems resolved and friends were made. A core theme for the weekend was prayer and praying for the challenges and needs of the districts from which the leaders had come.

Pastor Weiers Coetser, Men's Dean from Helderberg, closed the Sabbath with a reflection upon his running days and how positive thinking helped him and his running partners complete the race despite the fact they were in the last third.

Over the course of the weekend Pastor McFarlane and Victor Pilmoor shared their take on what it meant to be a leader in the Adventist Church and took time to deal with some of the challenges that face the Church in Ireland. We examined the role of elder, the various styles of

leadership and learned about conflict resolution.

As the weekend came to a close, we said farewell not only to each other but also to Pastor Jim Fitzsimmons who has served in the Cork/Newmarket district for the past two years. Pastor Jim is returning to his adopted home in Australia and will be missed by all who knew him.

The weekend

ended as it had begun – with a meal together. But it was for Pastor David Neal to have the last word, praying that God would do powerful things through each person who had attended and that through God's grace and strength the Adventist Church in Ireland would continue to preach a message of hope and salvation to all peoples on the island.

DOUGLAS MCCORMAC, IM COMMUNICATION SPONSOR



## Giving back to those who helped me

We have all lost friends and family to cancer and we all know someone who is currently battling with the disease. Brother Douglas, a member of Oxford Street, Wolverhampton, church was diagnosed with cancer in 2004 and then, as now, he 'leaves it all to God'.

Over the last three years Brother Douglas has raised £1,440 for Cancer Research UK. On 9 February Leonie Hudson, the area volunteer manager for Cancer Research, informed the church about cancer and the work of Cancer Research. Following a very informative talk and DVD, Brother Douglas presented Leonie with a cheque for £450.

Under the banner of Douglas Promotions, the Amazing Grace concerts have featured talented musicians from the UK and as far abroad as Trinidad and Jamaica. These fundraising concerts enable him to raise money for the charity.

'I decided to give back to the charity that supported me during my illness. Having lived with cancer I know how heartbreaking it can be for family and friends. Supporting Cancer Research is the least that I could do.'

DONNA M. PALMER



## Bournemouth mothers and toddlers

Leigh and Alison Sleeman, who have been part of the pastoral team at Bournemouth for eighteen months, are leaving for California. They have particularly distinguished themselves by their support for the

Mothers and Toddlers group, an outreach endeavour which the Bournemouth church has been providing for some years. That was why the mothers asked Leigh and Alison to attend a special farewell presen-

tation. 'The mums had put together a beautiful photo album – a scrapbook with pictures of the special toddler events, with little notes from them all,' says Joy Elliott, the group organiser. 'One mum is very artistic,'

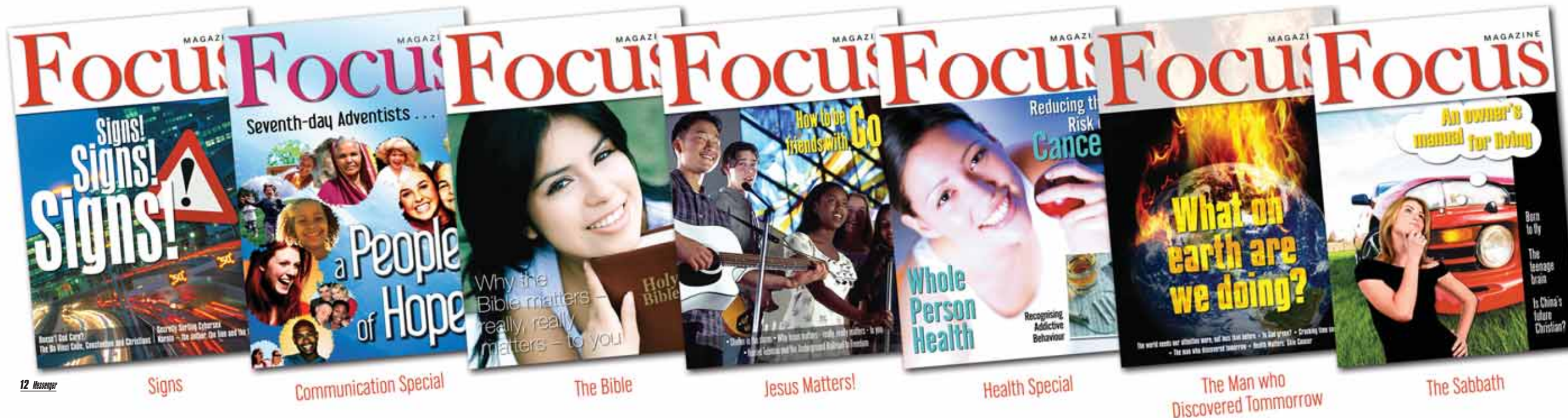
says Joy. 'It was her idea. We also bought the Sleemans a framed picture of Corfe Castle,' she continues. 'There's nothing like that in California!'

Twenty-two children were present on the day.

JOY ELLIOTT

# Finding your Focus

FOCUS is one of two outreach magazines published by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The other is LIFE.info.



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Jesus said, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' Matthew 10:9.

# Conflict Resolution\*

Dr Roy Adams, a senior editor on the *ADVENTIST REVIEW* staff, gives his perspective

Should Christians take fellow Christians to court? Should the Church appeal to secular magistrates against its members or former members for the redress of grievances? Should members take the Church to court?

The Scripture that comes to mind whenever such questions surface is 1 Corinthians 6:1-8. 'If any of you has a dispute with another,' it says in part, 'dare he take it before the ungodly for judgement instead of before the saints? . . . Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?'

Paul's strong counsel here must have come as a shock to the cantankerous Corinthians, much as it does to some of us today, with our litigious mindset. His words are so emphatic that the questions I raise above seem pointless. The case is closed.

But is it? Here are three factors to consider:

1. The Corinthian judges mentioned in the text were unbelievers, pagans. Which judges today — say in Western society — might we compare to them? Are judges belonging to other Christian denominations 'unbelievers' — let alone pagans? And if they cannot be classified as pagans, or even unbelievers, how do we apply Paul's counsel in the modern setting?

2. Are the courts in Britain and Ireland pagan — in the sense that the Corinthian courts were? Is it not the Judeo-Christian Bible over which we swear to tell 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?'

3. Is it wrong for an Adventist to take a fellow Adventist to court, but perfectly proper for him to bring a suit against an Anglican, a Methodist, or a Baptist? Are they not Christians, too?

These are not easy questions, and we certainly cannot deal with them at any length here. But supposing we grant that the situation in contemporary society is considerably more complex than in the first century when Paul wrote, does that mean, therefore, that we discard the principles he set forth before those early Christians in the secular city of Corinth? I

think not. But we would need to apply them within the context of the complexities and realities of the modern world.

## Applying the principle

Within contemporary Christendom, Paul's admonition can be followed only where the various denominations and their respective communicants mutually agree on a common process of arbitration. Without such agreements, there is no other recourse but to settle disputes in the secular courts of law, unless we are prepared to 'suffer loss' or 'be defrauded'.

As regards the voluntary decision to suffer loss, however, one important ingredient usually escapes us. We need to remember that Paul's counsel was to the individual Christian, and not to the Church as a corporate body. (As a corporate body, the Church had no legal standing in the Roman Empire.)

This is not, of course, to excuse the Church from maintaining as high a standard as that expected of the individual Christian, but it is to recognise that there is a different kind of accountability once we move from the individual to the corporate body.

It is one thing for me, as an individual, to agree to suffer loss or be defrauded. But it's quite another matter when, as a leader, I hold in trust the property, influence, and standing of the Church. As an individual, I need answer only to myself. As a leader in the Church, I must give an account to others. I might be called to explain why I permitted 'vandals' in Christian dress to pillage the interests of the Church with impunity.

Even so, we 'should not go to law if it can be possibly avoided.'<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to this, the Church in recent years has taken positive steps to forestall the need for litigation within its ranks. Elaborate guidelines for arbitration and conciliation have been developed. They are in place for the

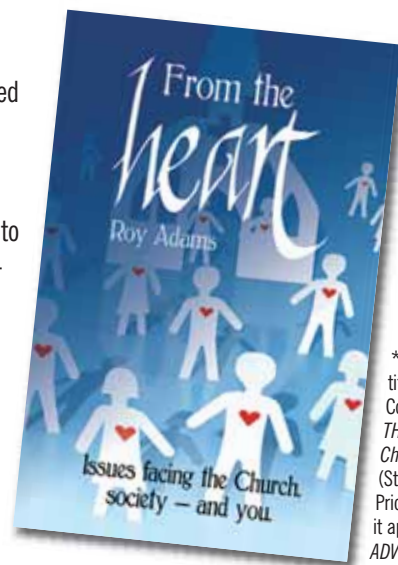
use of members and church entities. If these arrangements would be respected, there would almost never be a need for the Church or its members — or even its former members — to go to court against one another.

But, however elaborate, the arbitration process would fail, unless administered by men and women of integrity — competent, trustworthy, fearless, impartial, not siding blindly with either administration or laity, Black or White, Red or Brown, male or female, liberal or conservative, rich or poor, educated or ignorant — men and women who cannot be bribed, blackmailed, or intimidated. Do we have such people in sufficient numbers? I would hope so.

At the same time, we have a responsibility, as a corporate body, to lessen the causes of friction. There should be a way to fire leaders of the church who manifest injustice, arrogance, or wilfulness, pushing people to bring suit against the Church out of sheer frustration.

On the other hand, let us all remember that when we take the Church to court, we are not primarily hurting leaders who might be the focus of our rage, but rather the great multitude of poor, hardworking people who sacrifice to support this cause we love and who grieve when their gifts, meant for other purposes, end up lining the pockets of lawyers. Loving the Church as we do, may we all, leaders and laity, be prepared to go to the limit — and beyond — to avoid embarrassing it before a scandal-hungry media.

<sup>1</sup>Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 201.



\* This article appears under the title 'Taking Fellow Christians to Court' on pages 163-165 of *FROM THE HEART: Issues facing the Church, society — and you* (Stanborough Press) by Roy Adams. Prior to that, under the same title, it appeared as an editorial in *ADVENTIST REVIEW*.

## IRENE OSBORNE née HIMSWORTH (1903-2008) d. 16 January.

Irene Himsworth ('Himmy') was born into a world innocent of world war, broadcasting and totalitarian regimes, in which the Prime Minister was a marquis and a quarter of the planet was administered from Whitehall. The Seventh-day Adventist presence in the British Isles was in its early decades. A photograph of Irene at 16 shows her reading S. H. Lane's *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy*. She had already begun attending a tent campaign in Manchester conducted by J. D. Gillatt. She was baptised on 31 July 1918. Irene was privately educated and, following her baptism, went to train for ministry at Stanborough College. Attitudes hostile to the role of women were absent in the all-hands-on-deck atmosphere of those days and Himmy, with an excellent education and gifted with people skills, could look forward to a career in the Church. A photograph taken at the time of her graduation shows Irene as a stylish 1920s young lady. Irene's first posting was as assistant to William Maudsley in an evangelistic campaign in Glasgow. Two years later she became *de facto* pastor in Dundee where she developed preaching skills and became known for the sturdy bicycle with which she travelled across the city among the many homes in which she gave Bible studies. A decade later she was *de facto* pastor in Derby, using the same bicycle and exerting a formative influence in the spiritual nurture of Donald Lowe and his siblings. After working with evangelist Robert

Madgwick in Edinburgh, Irene was sent to assist the same evangelist in Blackburn. There the decline of the British cotton industry and the impact of the Great Depression had created a situation in which more were unemployed than in work. The arrival of 'the charming, warm-voiced Irene Himsworth' had a strong influence on Kathleen, Ethel and Jack Mahon, their mother, and Tony Welch, among others, who were subsequently baptised and visioned for service. 'Irene had neither chick nor child,' recalls Pastor Mahon, 'but was more educated than most to say, "Children? I've had hundreds of them." ' World War II found Irene working as a Bible worker with A. F. Bird and Victor Cooper in Burton-on-Trent. Subsequently she worked in Rochdale. It became a pattern that Irene's landladies were baptised. Still working with the same sturdy bicycle, Irene laboured in Huddersfield, Nottingham, Sheffield and Manchester. While labouring in her native city, Irene did a second bout with rheumatic fever. NEC president O. M. Dorland believed that Irene's illness was, at least in part, brought on by over-exertion. Consequently, in 1948, she was moved to the VOP Bible School where, for sixteen years, she was instructor for the Great Teachings course and began a fifty-year friendship with Valerie Pearce. At Stanborough Park church she taught youth Sabbath School classes. Helen, daughter of Victor and Rhona Cooper, recalls 'long talks [with Irene] about boyfriends and about God' and states, 'She was the sort of person

who didn't believe that being a Christian was the end of having fun.' The day after Irene's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday she married widower John Osborne. The couple lived in Tunbridge Wells and at Bourne mouth before settling in Lowestoft where John died at the age of 99. Irene had many friends in the Oulton Broad-Lowestoft area, as well as elsewhere. She enjoyed her years in the Dell View apartments. Just prior to her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Irene fell and broke her femur and the Queen's telegram found her in hospital, as did Sylvia Bruce, Irene's loved niece, Valerie Pearce, Pastor Perry, Pastor Martin Bell and others of her friends. That, and her next five birthdays, were media events used by Irene as a witness to her faith. Prior to her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday she had been tired and unwell for some time but 'On the day, she shone!' said Delphine and Philip Wright who had travelled from Leeds to help celebrate. In the late afternoon MC Pastor Bell said, 'You're looking tired, Irene. We'll leave you to have a little sleep.' The day had been long but, for everyone, very wonderful. Irene went to sleep for the final time two days later. The funeral service was conducted, as Irene had requested it should be, by her close friend Pastor Martin Bell. He was assisted by the undersigned. It took place on 5 February. Irene believed and, more importantly, lived the core tenets of the Christian Gospel. Most importantly, she knew Christianity's Founder intimately. She was a people person who influenced many for Christ more by who she was than by what she said.

DAVID MARSHALL

## Martha Alcorn (1920–2007) d. 3 November.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to report the death of my dear mom. My mom died after a long and painful illness that lasted for almost five years. Despite the loving care of her family, the skill of the doctors and specialists who did everything to relieve her suffering, and many hours of prayer to God for his will to be done, my mom fell asleep with all her family around her bed on Sabbath 3 November 2007 at 6.30pm. My mom was born in County Donegal in Eire on 1 February 1920 into a Christian family. She attended the local Presbyterian church each Sunday along with all her sisters and brothers, and at a very early age she became a Sunday School teacher. At the age of eighteen she began her nursing training in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. At the age of thirty she came to work in England, and although she did not attend church at this stage of her life, she always had a personal relationship with Jesus. She eventually started to attend the local Salvation Army church and once again she became an active member. In 1956 my mom saw a billboard in Birmingham that attracted her attention. It was advertising an evangelist campaign in the Theatre Royal in Birmingham, conducted by the late Pastor Kenneth Lacey. The title being advertised that week was about the 'real' Sabbath day. My mom was inquisitive and could not get the subject out of her mind. She attended the meeting advertised, and after that initial meeting, she was 'hooked'. She attended every night and heard things about what the Bible said that she had never known before. She was eager to learn more, and always reviewed for herself each subject

Pastor Lacey had spoken about when she returned home. She started to attend the Camp Hill SDA church soon after the campaign had finished, but was under the impression that you could only attend the divine service if you were a member of the church. So each Saturday she would take me along to the young people's programme. It was not long before someone told her that everybody was welcome to attend both the Sabbath School and the divine service each Sabbath. In 1958 my mom was baptised by the late Pastor Bernard Walton at Camp Hill and so began her 'real' Christian walk with God. She served in many offices of the church and unless she was on holiday or unwell, never missed attending church each Sabbath over many years. She guided me along each step of my life until I was baptised in 1966 by the late Pastor Victor Benefield, again in the Camp Hill Church. My mom continued working as a nurse at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham until her retirement. She came to live nearer her family and so she became a member of the Oxford Street church. Again she was an active member and she never missed attending church unless she was unwell. On her birthday, Sabbath 1 February 2003, my mom had a bad fall on her way to church. Unfortunately she never really recovered, and so began an illness that prevented her from leading an ordinary life. She carried her illness with dignity and patience and never complained. She continued to hold fast to God's promises and encouraged me when I felt down. She loved her grandchildren, Andrew and Anna, and was thrilled to see them both baptised on the same day into the

Leamington SDA Mission. She was delighted when they both found Christian life partners and was overjoyed when her great-grandchildren, Jack and Harrison Simmons were born. Although she was very ill, she hoped and prayed that she would live to see the birth of Andrew's baby, but, unfortunately, she died twenty-three days before Olivia was born. She would have been overjoyed to have a great-granddaughter. The last few days before she died, she did not speak or open her eyes. On the actual day of her death my daughter, Anna Simmons, took her two small boys to see her for the last time. Jack wanted to say goodbye to his great nanny. He touched her hand and said, 'Goodbye, Nanny.' Just then, she opened her eyes and lifted her head off the pillow and looked at him. We all stood there amazed, and this was her last conscious movement. She adored her great-grandchildren, and this just showed how much. Her funeral took place at the Wednesfield SDA church (where she attended before her illness) on 12 November and was conducted by Pastors Alan Conroy and Milan Gugeleta. Special thanks go to Pastor Egerton Francis who travelled by train after his car broke down to give the eulogy. Both Andrew and Anna spoke at the funeral service, about their 'nanny' with love and affection and how she had always talked to them about Jesus and read the Bible with them, which shaped their lives and encouraged them both to follow God. They both spoke of how she would set herself a project that she would try and read the Bible through as many times as she could, and each time she had completed it she would mark her Bible. There were seventeen marks in

her old, used Bible. My lifelong friend, Patricia Lanham, spoke of how my mom used to talk to her about God when she used to come to my house, and encouraged her to go to the Aberdaron Camps with me when we were young, by way of an introduction for her to witness the God my mom knew. Pat eventually gave her life to God and was baptised in the Camp Hill church. She is now an active member along with my family at the Leamington SDA Mission. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported my mom throughout her illness. It is hard facing death; sometimes you feel alone, but the support of my own family, church friends at the Leamington SDA Mission and the members of the Wednesfield church, together with Max and Joanne, Andy and Sonia, Clive and Maxine, Pastor Richard Jackson, Mrs Marriott and Noah Naylor, who constantly visited my mom, encouraged us both. I cannot thank everyone enough for their time, commitment and prayers. I want to say a special thank you to the members of the Wednesfield church who provided the church and flowers for the funeral service; the commitment of work by the membership to their building is a credit to them. Also, a huge thank you to the many people who travelled far to attend the funeral service, and also for the kindness, love and concern shown to me after my mom's death. After a beautiful service, my mom was buried in the Lawn Cemetery near my home, sleeping until Jesus comes. My mom walked all the way with her hand in God's hand, she held fast to God's promises. I know we will see her again one day in God's Kingdom.

HAZEL LAYLAND, DAUGHTER



**ADRA-UK Launches Food Security Project in Zambia**

techniques aimed at increasing their production of maize, the main staple food in the district. The project will also introduce new crops to the household food basket such as sorghum and cassava. These are drought-resistant and so are suitable for a district like Senanga. ADRA will provide agricultural inputs to these households and supply basic farming equipment so that farmers can put into practice their newly acquired knowledge. In addition, working through community

volunteers, ADRA will train people in basic nutrition topics such as child feeding practices, food preservation and storage methods. Mr Kunda explains: 'This project means a lot to the people of the region, helping them to recover from natural disasters and build stronger livelihoods.'

ADRA-UK will contribute 10% of the cost of this project through the 2008 Annual Appeal. Help ADRA to give opportunities to people in need. We help to lift people in need and give opportunities to escape the cycle of poverty. Help us in 2008 to continue to give opportunities.

What do you give?



**Welsh Mission Project Romania 2008**

*Short-term project  
27 July-8 August*

Join twenty-five other volunteers in Romania this summer in order to bring a home, a family and a future to orphaned and abandoned children. To request an application form or to find out more details, contact: Jeremy Tremear, 14 Cenydd Terrace, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4HL; tel: 02920 832559 or 07956 627233; email: [jtremear@adventistwales.org](mailto:jtremear@adventistwales.org).

**Lone Parent Family Camp**

*24-31 August*

*Chapel Porth, Cornwall*

An opportunity for single parents to have a great holiday, build relationships, and enjoy spiritual and social activities with their children. For more information go to [www.secadventist.org.uk](http://www.secadventist.org.uk) and click on Events, call Anna on 01923 656530 or email [fm@adventist.org.uk](mailto:fm@adventist.org.uk). Organised by the SEC Women's & Family Ministries departments.

JOTSAM

**ON A ROCK**

**'Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'** *Matthew 16:18, KJV.*

The partnership with God of those 'in Christ' is the most powerful partnership on Earth. It is built 'on the Rock, Christ Jesus' and is proof against the worst that Satan can throw at it.

On one level, the partnership is one believer and God.

On another level, it involves the Kingdom partnership of every believer on the planet. On both levels, prayer is its most meaningful and potent system of communication. Against it Satan is impotent.

*From Pointers to Powerful Prayer by David Marshall*

Letters

Dear Editor

**HOPE 08**

There is a new buzzword: HOPE 08.

It represents a new approach to evangelism by the evangelical Christian community: practical evangelism of the sort Jesus did.

Ellen White recommends: 'The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired to do them good. He showed his sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence . . .'

Do we, as a Church, know about HOPE 08? Are we getting involved? I recently purchased the *HOPE 08 RESOURCE MANUAL* and did not find LIFEdevelopment listed. Are we an exclusive Church?

ANNETTE KOWARIN, WILMSLOW

**SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT  
North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

Notice is hereby given that the Sixtieth Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 26 June to Sunday 29 June 2008 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.

*PASTOR PAUL A. HAWORTH  
NEC Executive Secretary*

**ABC BOOK SALES**

**March**

9 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm  
16 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

**April**

13 Retired Workers' Meeting,  
Stanborough Press 12.30 start  
27 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

**Messenger**

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**Sunset**

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	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Mar 7	5.52	6.04	5.55	6.00	6.13
14	6.04	6.16	6.08	6.15	6.26
21	6.16	6.28	6.20	6.29	6.40
28	6.28	6.40	6.33	6.44	6.53

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