

Messenger

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YE06: Year of Youth Evangelism

by Des G. Boldeau, BUC Youth director

While visiting the USA recently, I attended the famous Willow Creek church.

The congregation watched a clip from the Whoopie Goldberg movie 'Sister Act', in which Whoopie, running from gangsters, enters a convent and ultimately ends up posing as a nun, and leads the rest of the

nuns into a ministry in which the church becomes revived and resuscitated as it begins to be relevant to the needs of its community. Willow Creek used this clip to inspire and encourage its members to begin a new era of outreach that prevents fossilisation and inbred institutionalisation.

There is increasing disillusion among the present generation of young people toward the church as an institution. Yet there is a greater desire for spirituality. In my travels I meet young people who have a passion to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But this passion for witnessing is too often met with opposition and criticism from the mature church

because their methods are seen as non-traditional and risky.

Our youth need to be empowered to take Jesus to the homes, communities, streets, shopping centres and anywhere young people 'hang out'. Paul the apostle said, 'I have become all things to all people so that I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News.'

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A year after the tsunami: ADRA-UK's response

by Mark Castellino, Acting Executive director, ADRA-UK

On 26 December 2004 South East Asia was rocked by the most devastating natural disaster in recorded history. The tsunami wave that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, among other countries, brought damage to property and loss of life on a scale unprecedented. Thankfully, so too was the humanitarian response. Here in Britain the general population and the government responded by donating a huge amount of money and other resources. ADRA-UK was at the forefront of the efforts. On 28 December the ADRA-UK Tsunami Appeal was launched and by 1 January, five days after disaster struck, we had ADRA-UK personnel on the ground in Sri Lanka to support our existing office and lead the emergency efforts.

What we raised

To date our supporters have donated £278,030, which easily makes this the largest amount recorded for a special appeal. The money was raised in a number of different ways.

Particularly successful have been our credit card donations via our website www.adra.org.uk, which accounted for more than £22,000. Donations can be made very quickly, and using World Pay, they are fully secure. Over £63,000 came from donations made through the Church offering envelopes and special collections made in churches. The bulk of the money, over £170,000 came direct to our office from cheques by post. Gift Aid gained us an additional £22,000 in reimbursed taxes from the Government. There were some innova-

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3,400 Bible studies thanks to the 'Silent Army'!

by Dalbert Elias, VOP/ADC director

It is thrilling and inspiring to report that the 'Connect One Million' project has been outstandingly successful.

Thanks to the magnificent effort of the silent army of members working throughout the UK and Ireland in partnership with the VOP, over 3,400 people have registered for Bible studies resulting from less than one hour's work for most members. Probably over 900,000 Discover (VOP) cards have been distributed by at least three quarters of the church's membership. Seventh-day Adventists throughout the nations of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland walked the streets – the silent army – and in minutes, connected with over 1,000,000 people, inviting them to study the Bible and find answers and direction to their lives. This is stunning!

The success of 'Connect One Million' clearly shows that when God's people are united in vision and endeavour God can and will do great exploits. When the silent army marches, God opens up the way. The Dead Sea of indifference and disinterestedness is parted. God's people, on the march, have reached in hours tens of thousands of people not reached before. Amazingly, the silent army marched thanks to the financial support of just two donations.

The Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) is deeply grateful for the steady stream of gifts and donations received. As director of the VOP UK I do not believe that it was an accident that among the many gifts received in 2005 just two donations covered the cost of operation 'Connect One Million'.

As the dream of distributing 1,000,000 Discover

cards was born the question arose, can we afford it? Is God in this thing? Astonishingly, during this planning and envisioning time, the ADC/VOP received a cheque for £9,000 from one member. When it was realised that this member's generous gift, plus a legacy of £11,000, would cover the complete cost of 'Operation One Million' we felt compelled to believe God was saying, in clear tones, do it! God ensured that the financial support was in place to make the dream a reality. God was endorsing the vision!

The evangelistic mission of the Adventist Discovery Centre continues. Three thousand four hundred new students need nurturing in faith. Many hours of lesson marking lie ahead for our faithful and gifted staff here at the Adventist Discovery Centre.

Lessons need to be revised and updated. Millions yet need contacting for Jesus. This is expensive. Therefore all donations received will continue to be used to advance the kingdom of Jesus throughout the BUC territories. If 5,000 of our members donated just £2 a month the VOP UK could reach up to 6 million people in Britain and Ireland annually. The forms are available on the ADC's website discoveronline.org.uk.

Thanks to our members across Britain and Ireland, operation 'Connect One Million' has been an outstanding success. The staff at the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) has been deeply moved and encouraged by the members' support and prayers. United in vision, who knows what God can yet do as the silent army continues to march with Britain's top evangelist known down through the years as the Voice of Prophecy.

Newbold's Black History Week

October 15-22 marked the international commemoration of Black History Week. It served as an emotional reminder of how much we have, and do not have, in common. It was a week when many of us grappled with the unavoidable realities of life – sisters and 'brothers all are we' learning to work in 'perfect harmony'.

Amid so many global upheavals, it was comforting to note the civility with which complex issues of race, ethnicity, culture and religion were addressed. Though music, worship, discussions, games, lectures and eating events, we all engaged in meaningful dialogue and reflections. Black History Week is 'one of the Newboldian steps in the march against inequality'.

JOHN SILVERSTON

IN THE NEXT ISSUE . . .

- On Sunday 5 December the London Lay Advisory honoured Pastor Cecil Perry, the BUC president, for 45 years' service.
- In November Mark Grey of Carmel Greystone Production Company launched One Hope Street, a drama to challenge teenagers and youth.
- Newbold students have been doing evangelism in Africa. Newbold's Dr John Baildam has travelled to Korea where, each year, 1,200 baptisms result from the Adventist-run language school system.
- Plus a double spread on Stanborough School.

Is Your Church Struggling?

Alan Hodges, Ldi Co-ordinator



Are people from your community crowding into your church every Sabbath? What is the attendance each week? Is it rising?

More and more people in the British Isles are becoming secular or are claiming to have no religious affiliation. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist, I'm sure you would like to change that situation in your community.

LIFEdvelopment.info is a biblically-based concept and can help you develop a strategy for reaching the secular in your community.

'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me". Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

The 'Discipleship Path' is divided into seven different levels:

Get Connected – making friends with the secular people in the community. This helps new friends to develop a sense of belonging before they are introduced to Christian beliefs.

Evidence – which features Dwight K. Nelson, highlights biblical values and their relevance to the needs of a secular and postmodern society.

Mind the Gap – introduces the basics of authentic Christianity, calling for a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Experiencing the Joy – treats participants to a multi-sensory worship programme, which leads them

to the knowledge of Adventist beliefs.

My Decision – this level emphasises commitment, the making of disciples and the importance of baptism.

Quality Life – Material will be provided to nurture newcomers. This will take the form of a step-by-step guide for leading a Christian from new birth to maturity.

Equip to Serve – Training material will be provided to help newcomers make a unique contribution in using their spiritual gifts and in sharing their newfound faith with others.

Everything that you and your church does can revolve around LIFEdvelopment.info. See chart.

The outreach activities of the local church should be focused on 'Get Connected', or making friends with people through community services, personal witnessing, literature-evangelism, youth initiatives, children's projects, women's projects, family ministries, health promotion, public evangelism or other types of seminars. New friends can be introduced to these various activities from LIFEdvelopment Groups either in house meetings, Youth Café fellowships, public seminars or new church plants.

The local pastors, elders, and church officers can support and provide the spiritual foundation for this outreach by providing the members with

spiritual nurture, training, Bible study, worship, prayer and stewardship.

Support will also be provided by the Union, Conference or Mission with good leadership, training and development. Help for pastors and leaders to implement the strategy through appropriate resources and coaching. Organising programmes to exchange experiences and to gain encouragement from fellowship and worship. Developing a networking system for the exchange of information and ideas, and taking evaluations so that lessons can be learned and the whole strategy can be improved and become more effective.

The production of programmes for the Hope Channel – Europe and the Bible Correspondence School (Adventist Discovery Centre) can also be used to support LIFEdvelopment.info.

Our whole Mission attitude needs to be geared to developing lives prepared for the soon return of Jesus, lives that will reflect the love of Jesus to those in the community and lives grounded in the Word of God.

We need to mix and spend time with people in the community. Those who spend time with secular people are more likely to build their church than those who just mix with their fellow church members. The erstwhile demon-possessed man whom Jesus healed wanted to spend his time with Jesus and the disciples, but Jesus told him, 'Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.' Mark 5:19, NIV.

For more information on LIFEdvelopment.info, or for ordering resources, contact the LIFEdvelopment Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ, Telephone 01923

672251 or email ask@lifedevlopment.info or order resources on line at www.adventistresource.org.uk

Healthwise

Too SAD

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines mental health as 'a state of well-being in which the individual realises his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.' Sadly, this is not the case for a considerable number of people.

A Report from the Commission of European Communities states that over 27% of adult Europeans are estimated to experience at least one form of mental illness during any one year. EU mental ill-health takes the form of anxiety disorders and depression. Globally, by the year

2020 depression is set to be the highest ranking cause of disease in the developed world.

For some of the depressed, suicide appears to them to be the only available option. Around 58,000 EU citizens commit suicide per annum, more than deaths from road traffic accidents, murder, or HIV/AIDS combined. Lithuania leads the national and international statistics with 44 per 100,000 deaths. Greece shows the lowest rate at 3.6 per 100,000, with the UK having 6.8 suicides per 100K.

WHO's response is a four-point strategy to: promote good mental health; address mental ill-health through preventive action; improve the quality of life of people with existing mental ill-health or disability through

social inclusion and the protection of their rights and dignity; and, develop a mental health information, research and knowledge system for the EU.

With regard to reducing the suicide figures, WHO's plans are for prevention strategies to be developed across Member States, preventing social conditions supportive of suicide, restricting access to methods for committing suicide, and the training of health care providers with collaboration between secondary care and follow-up after suicide attempts. A Pilot Project by the European Alliance against Depression, using WHO guidelines, has shown a 25% decrease in youth suicides and suicide attempts.

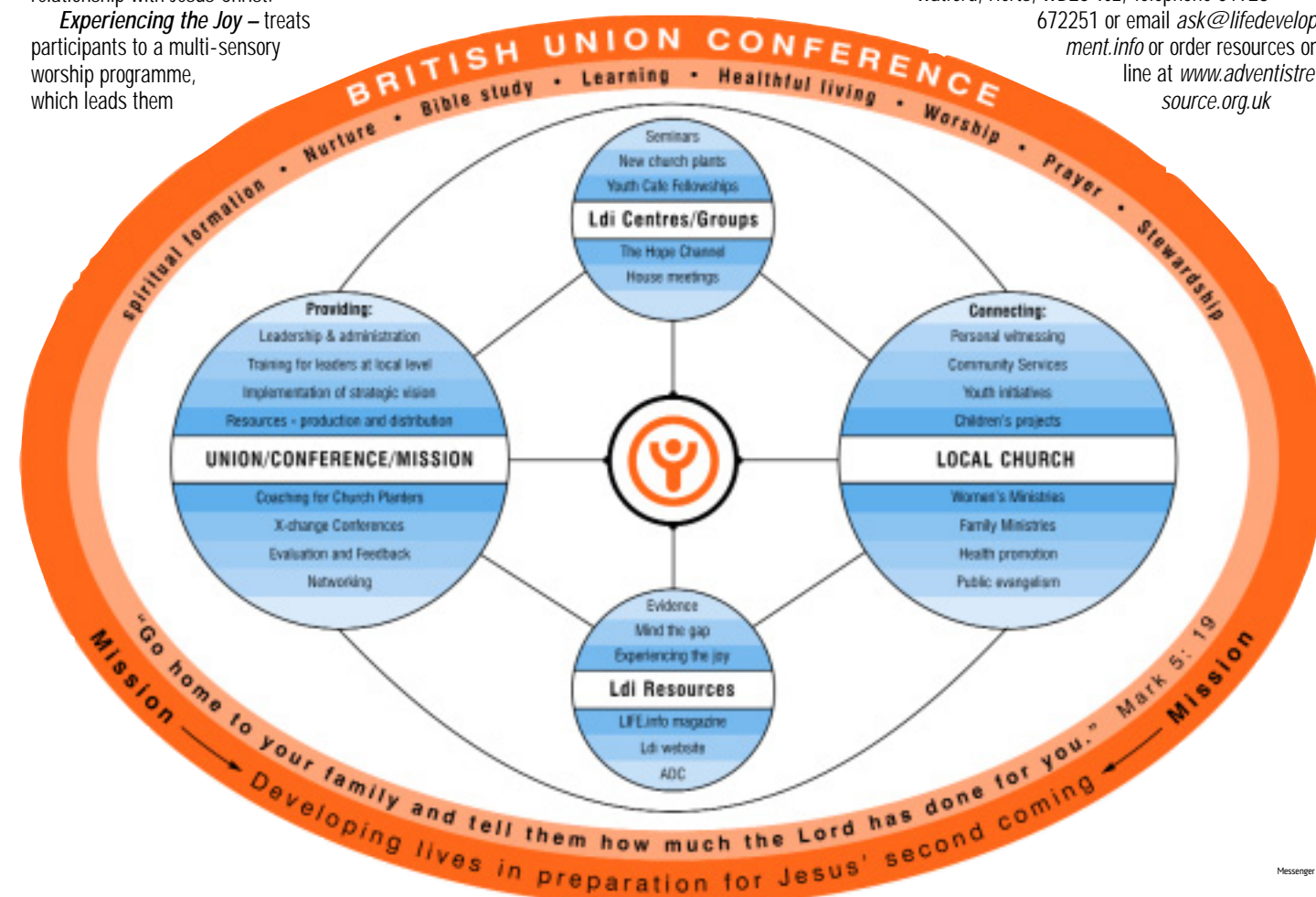
One recognised cause of depression is Seasonal Affective

Disorder (SAD). SAD appears to be a condition in which the body clock is maladjusted by the rise and fall of *melatonin*, a secretion of the pineal gland in the brain (often referred to as the 'sleep hormone'). Persons affected become depressed, listless, chronically fatigued, and deeply moody.

Getting plenty of light in the outdoors is the principal remedy. The condition is virtually unknown in people living below the 30th parallel. We may not be able to get all the sunlight that we would like, but we can all do something to reduce the SADness in the world around us.



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



Moor Close Nights

Reaching a Contemporary Audience

by John Surridge

The Adventist contemporary worship and music scene in the United Kingdom and Ireland is not extensive. Of the more than 300 churches and groups that make up the territory of the British Union Conference, only a handful actively seek to craft their worship services in such a fashion as to make them particularly targeted to the surrounding contemporary culture.

There are many reasons for this reluctance, of course. Growing diversity in the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, though welcomed for the increase in numbers and vibrancy that it has brought, has resulted in an increasing gulf between our churches and the majority culture. Furthermore, the local church's democratic governance usually results in worship services being

conducted in a style that the congregation, rather than the public, is comfortable with.

There is also a great deal of misunderstanding and misrepresentation of what contemporary worship music is. Throughout history those seeking to make Christianity more relevant to its target audience

have been criticised for bringing the world into the Church and watering down Christianity. Today contemporary worship music is often dismissed as 'rock' and the use of drums is seen by some as irrefutable corroborative evidence.

Over the last few years the Adventist Church in the BUC territories has focused its evangelistic efforts on a long-term strategy for reaching the secular, postmodern people that make up the majority in our society. This strategy is known as LIFEdevelopment and, through it, the Church has relentlessly promoted a number of core values designed to create a change in the way that we think about evangelism. Genuine friendships, acceptance, openness, and the creating of non-threatening spaces where Adventists can fellowship with their non-Christian friends, are key components of the strategy.

The Moor Close Nights programme, which has been running for over a year and is based at the Newbold church near Bracknell, embodies much of what LIFEdevelopment seeks to promote.

praise, exposition, contemplation, prayer, and the inevitable offering. However, it is the way that these components are put together that makes Moor Close Nights different. True, there is more music than in your average Adventist service, and some of it is more lively and interactive than that experienced by most Adventists on a Sabbath morning. It is also true to say that the music is of the very highest quality. Hundreds of 'person-hours' are spent in rehearsals and preparation, and the result is a well co-ordinated experience where the music perfectly complements the different phases of the service. Exuberant praise and thankfulness for what God has done in the lives of those taking part is followed by more contemplative music leading to confession and intercession.

On Saturday 5 November Moor Close Nights was held in the Newbold Church Centre and attracted an audience of around 300, mostly young people, some of whom had travelled more than a hundred miles to be there. Christ-centred from the start the service was led, as usual, by Geert Tap, who is largely responsible for the running of the programmes. Geert was supported by numerous musicians, a veritable army of volunteers – wearing matching T-shirts – and all the members of Newbold's pastoral team. The speaker for the evening was Newbold's senior pastor, Patrick Johnson. With a little humour, and considerable sensitivity to the particular needs of this unique

congregation, Patrick talked about the importance of names. People are finding fellowship, lasting friendships, and a genuine relationship with Jesus through the Moor Close Nights worship services. Others are experiencing renewal in their Christian experience, and many are picking up ideas they can use in their home churches. The hard work and perseverance of the dedicated Moor Close Nights team is paying dividends and is setting a standard for Adventist witness in the twenty-first century. More information is available on the website: www.moorclose.info.

Growing out of the regular Moor Close Sabbath service, which has been operating at Newbold for more than nine years, Moor Close Nights is an alternative worship service, usually held on the first Saturday evening of each month. This timing is designed not to clash with other services so that the worshippers, and those taking part, can remain fully involved with their usual church activities.

Moor Close Nights includes all of the elements familiar to those who attend regular Adventist services –



Community Services communicate

'Retreat 2005 was the best I have attended.' That was a comment from one of the Community Ministries leaders. The venue was Hebron Hall, Wales, where ninety-five members and friends fellowshiped for the weekend. The attendance of friends who are not Adventists is increasing every year.

The focus of the retreat was to improve communication within the department. As community workers we need to communicate. How we communicate will affect the response we receive. Cathy Boldeau, SEC Communication director, facilitated the workshops, which generated lively discussion. And many can

testify that communication occurred on the Sabbath when Pastor Des Boldeau, the Youth director of the British Union, officiated at the mid-day service. Pastor Boldeau did not present a message but encouraged us to listen to what God had to say to us individually about our lifestyle, about our ministry, about who he is.

It was an experience many will never forget.

On the Sabbath evening, at midnight, we were all in the garden attending a barbecue. Thank God for the warm weather. We fellowshiped, laughed and had fun together. It was a blessed and relaxing weekend, which culminated with the Community Ministries leader challenging us to return to our churches and practise what we had learned.

E. STAPLE

Million-Pound Question

Samantha Wiggins reports on the Parent-Teen Conference

What is our role in the lives of teens today?

How do we successfully connect with them?

How do we keep them informed and engaged in the 'right things'?

Ok, there we have *three* million-pound questions, but these were just a small proportion of the questions we gathered to ask ourselves at the 2005 Parent and Teen Conference in Daventry, Northamptonshire.

With keynote speakers Val Bernard, Paul Boldeau, Lynthia Grant; and workshops facilitators WPC Rebecca Morgan, Pastor Paul Tompkins, Mike Smith and Errol Roman, the weekend was to be an inspiring one.

The topics included bullying, gang culture, parenting, drugs, anti-social behaviour, sexual health and young offending. When were we going to fit it all in?

The event kicked off on Sabbath morning with a brief registration, refreshments and then worship at 10.30. I heard some delegates comment on the unconventional way in which we were to worship that Sabbath, but was intrigued to see

how their thinking changed throughout the day. After all, we were there to think 'outside of the box'. If having an unconventional Sabbath did not challenge our thinking, what would?

The agenda had been set from the off. We were to leave there with a plan. A plan of how to implement all we had learnt from the weekend and make a difference to our teens and, in turn, our community.

Valerie Bernard gave the first presentation, speaking about 'Sins of the Father'; what had we passed on to our children and how much of that was a direct result of what had been passed on to us? It was most definitely food for thought and set the tone for the rest of the conference.

Of the forty or so people who attended, I can honestly say that I observed full participation from all, and although many had travelled from afar to attend, there was no sign of tiredness or boredom.

The venue was an added bonus, with helpful staff and comfy rooms. What more could a potentially stressed group of parents, youth workers, church and community leaders ask for?

There were three workshops that ran simultaneously: Drugs, Anti-social behaviour & street crime and Sexual Health. With the best foresight in the world, the organisers arranged for all delegates to attend each workshop on a rotation basis.

Paper and pens were provided so there was no excuse not to take notes, and when the 'no paper and pen' excuse was used, flip charts were introduced.

Leaders were direct, precise and open to questions, which made for fantastic workshops. The feedback was that 'it was great to be able to share experiences with others giving insight and ideas for handling certain situations'.

On Sunday, the final day, we had visits from Pastor C. R. Perry and Pastor E. Lowe, both of whom became very interactive within the workshops and full sessions, and I can safely say that the favourite interactive exercise (apart from the season of prayer) was the 'Signs of the Times', where delegates had to seat themselves according to the decade in which they spent most of their teen years. We found that there was an almost equal divide between those who had grown up in the 70s and those who had spent the 80s in leg-warmers.

We were asked to list things such as dress sense, language, attitudes and TV programmes of 'our' time. Then the fun part, as we were asked to identify the same for the teens of the 'now generation', the postmoderns. *Were we so different?*

The whole weekend gave us so much to think about that when home time came the organisers nearly had to call security to evict us! All in all, a great event. Plans were made, friendships forged, and North Wembley church was well and truly on the map. We had an overwhelming number of participants from that area, and also from Manchester.

The conference was superbly managed and, with its success, many delegates are looking forward to the next. It can only get bigger and better, and, with God behind us all the way, who know what can be accomplished. Thanks to Pastor Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director, and his team for all their hard work.



Meetings in Thetford

by Pastor M. I. Walker

Responding to the South England Conference's *Lights Across the Provinces*, Area 8 is seeking, with God's help, to plant a church in the unentered town of Thetford in south Norfolk. Thetford is strategically placed on the main A11 trunk road between London and Norwich and was felt an ideal locality to plant a church. Many hours of prayer and brain power have gone into the planning document which has undergone consultation with various key church planting personnel at Conference, Union and Division level. Now the show has hit the road!

Sabbath 24 September began as a day of fellowship for the churches in Area 8 when we were privileged to have Dr Radisa Antic from the E. G. White Research Centre at Newbold

College as our guest speaker. His sermon was entitled *Transformed through the promise of His coming*, in which he reassured the congregation that the Second Coming of Jesus is definitely going to take place. The assurance of Christ's promise to return was reverberated in the singing of that resounding hymn: *We have this hope!*

The afternoon launched our public debut in the form of a sacred charity concert at which the Mayor, Councillor and Mrs Pat Pearson attended. Four hundred pounds was collected for the local *Keystone Children & Youth Foundation*, and the Mayor was delighted as he was presented with a cheque by Pastor Mike Toy, Area 7 co-ordinator.

The concert had an international

flavour of various musical talent, including Tina Brooks who has connections with the London Adventist Chorale; Chris Rogers, violinist; a Russian group from Newbold College; Portuguese singer Daniel Ferreira; the budding Ipswich choir known as the Advent Singers, and others. The star attraction was the winner of Granada TV's *Stars in Their Eyes*, Charles Ngandwe, the bass singer. As a special request from the Mayor, he sang *Ol' Man River* which, as viewers will remember, won Charles the accolade which has made him so well known.

Pastor Paul Smith acted as compere for the programme and, with his customary humour, led the audience along and used the opportunity of introducing the Bible Land Seminars which were due to take place at the Bell Hotel in the town on 6 October.

Sydenham: Youth 'Stand Alone'

There will come a time when you will have to stand alone, we have often

been told. 'Will you be able to stand?' was the theme of Sydenham church's youth day on 13 August. The programme began with a lively song service by New Addington Praise Team, followed by a realistic courtroom scene in which five youth and five adults were taken to court as a test of their faith. Only the jury could decide whether to find them guilty or not guilty of neglecting to study the Bible and not knowing the Ten Commandments.

Special items included songs from Angela and Co and a group from Norbury and New Addington. The main speaker, Elder C. Fuller, father to the past LYF president, spoke on the importance of knowing what we believe and standing up for our faith.

Along with this appeal, Abbey sang 'I want Jesus to walk with me', touching the hearts of the members and visitors in the congregation who wanted Jesus to walk with them in their lives. After the service, visitors and members fellowshiped with us for lunch.

LEONIE JOHNSON



Stanborough School
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JUNE COOMBS

Lifelong members of Stanborough Park church, Llew and Margaret Meredith, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 28 October. As children, Llew and Margaret were neighbours in Sheepcot Lane, were students at Stanborough Park school and attended Stanborough Park church. Not surprisingly they established a close friendship, with one contemporary describing them as 'inseparable'. Over the years their friendship turned to love and they were married in Stanborough Park church on 28 October 1955.

They continued to live in the Watford area where they brought up their two daughters, Corinne and Sharon. They are now proud grandparents of four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Now retired, after completing 62 years of denominational service between them, they are keen caravanners and enjoy travelling, walking and reading.

Anniversary celebrations were restricted to a local holiday in view of the deteriorating state of health of Margaret's mother, Barbara Bone, who sadly passed away, aged 93, just eleven days after the anniversary.

Stop *paying* your Tithe

By Catherine Anthony Boldeau

Director of Communication & Stewardship, South England Conference

Recently, I spoke to someone who told me that they have stopped *paying* tithe to the church. 'I'm not getting anything back from the church, you know. I was sick and the pastoral staff didn't bother to visit me. No one cares . . . and then I have to pay for a Sabbath School quarterly and its nearly a "five" per time. Apart from that, I don't know what the church is doing with my money.'

I agree with him. If you pay for a service, then you *must* expect something in return and if you don't get it, you have every right to complain and discontinue further payments. This is right and just and fair and no self-respecting Christian should do anything else.

However, nowhere in the Bible does it state that we are to *pay our tithes to the church*. In Malachi 3:7, the Lord states, 'Return unto me . . .'

not pay the church. Over the years, it appears that some members in our church believe that they can simply refrain from giving tithe because they have relationship issues or church management challenges.

Refraining from giving or returning your tithe to the Lord is an act of robbery. Yes, robbery. 'When the tithe is withheld, money is not the real issue, but the refusal to recognise God's ownership. It symbolises rebellion, anarchy. The "robbery" is the withholding of the honour and reverence due to him.'

In addition to this, if you do not faithfully return your tithe, this is seen by God as an act of 'open defiance' (Ibid). In reality, the withholding of our tithes is symptomatic of a deeper problem that we have with God. If we see God as the owner of everything in the world, then we will

have no problem in *returning* to him what is rightfully his anyway. We will choose to acknowledge his supremacy and do what he asks of us.

The return and giving of your tithe has nothing to do with your church, it is all about your relationship with Jesus Christ.

During the 80s there was a saying that was on the lips of everyone in churches, especially with regard to tithe. It stated, 'God said it, I believe it and that settles it.' But twenty years later there seems to be an alternative point of view. Maybe as a body of people we need to go back to basics with our Christianity and our faith. Instead of basing the practise of our beliefs on how we feel about the other people in the church, or how the finances of the church are administered, we should develop an individual and personal



relationship with Jesus Christ that permeates every part of our life.

Hugh Martin states, 'If a man's religion does not affect his use of money, that man's religion is in vain.'² As we begin 2006, may I urge you to take time to develop a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship will enable you to stop paying your tithe to the church and instead faithfully return your tithe to the Lord with a heart full of gratitude and love.

¹Mel Rees, *Biblical Principles for Giving and Living*, p. 36, Review & Herald, 1995. ²Lila Empson, *Simple Living for Busy People*, p. 138, Zondervan, 2004.

Christian Stewardship as worship

by Jude Jeanville, Stewardship sponsor, North England Conference

Our life is a gift *from* God. What we do with it is our gift *to* God. This is our reasonable service. Our existence depends on a series of relationships, some finite and others infinite. We depend on God for life, 'Viva, for it is in him we live and move and have our being.' Our daily existence is only possible because God gives us life and sustains it through his mighty power at work in a series of interdependent relationships. God wants to permeate every sphere of our lives with his will. When our will is absorbed in his, God takes the throne of our lives and, in essence, we give him worship and glorify his name. This is what Christian stewardship is all about. John the Revelator calls the inhabitants of the earth to ' "Fear God, and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. *Worship him.*" ' Rev. 14:7, NIV (italics supplied).

Stewardship is the call of the Father who is seeking to restore a broken relationship with his children. We hunger for renewal in many of our relationships. We often wish we could have a new start. Rest assured, the application of biblical stewardship principles to our lives will do just

that. Inherent in God's instructions are blessings sufficient for those who lovingly submit and put him first.

The implications are far reaching for individuals, families, for the environment and for the church, the body of Christ. Stewardship as worship impacts upon the following core areas of our lives:

- **Right relationship with Jesus**, as Creator, Saviour and Lord of our lives.
- **Right use of time**: Dedicated time for personal and or family worship, Sabbath keeping, balance, right priorities and punctuality at church services and meetings.
- **Right use of Christian influence and talents**: An ordered life, speech, conduct, deportment, personal witness, working as part of the church, and use of spiritual gifts.
- **Right use of finances**: Personal or family budgeting, faithfulness in tithing and sacrificial offerings, self-control, and trusting God to bless.
- **Right care of our bodies**: Commitment to a healthier lifestyle, right choice of food, sleep,

exercise, temperance and management of stress.

- **Right care of the environment**: Green issues, creating and disposing of waste, and personal and corporate levels of consumption.
- **Right discharge of the Gospel commission**: Christ-like lifestyle, personal testimony, friendship, sharing Adventist materials and inviting family and friends to church.

The apostle Paul admonishes us, 'Whether therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.' 1 Cor. 10:31, KJV. True biblical worship is not just saying, 'Lord, Lord,' with our lips. Genuine disciples make Jesus Lord and Master in every sphere of their lives.

As we make our ascent to the borders of the heavenly Canaan singing, 'We are nearing home', 'We are marching to Zion', let us not be found guilty of squandering or misappropriating the Master's resources, whether they be time, talents, treasure, influence, God's temple – our bodies, or failing to give a Christ-like witness and testimony. Let us not short-change the kingdom we belong to. Then we will hear the words the Lord uttered to his servant (steward), 'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' Matt. 25:23, KJV.

The South England Conference acknowledge with thanks tithe received from Anon for £120.

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Year of Youth Evangelism

(1 Corinthians 9:22, NCV.)

Against this background, the BUC Youth Ministries department, together with its regional counterparts, has voted 2006 as a Year of Youth Evangelism – YE06.

The need for our young people to become involved in the proclamation of the Gospel is imperative as we look to the future. We live in a world steeped in postmodernism, secularism, individualism, neo-paganism, relativism, with the absence of dogma and a 'One God' culture. This world is often foreign to many traditional Adventists because we avoid the world and its culture. However, our young people are more influenced and affected by the 'information age' and are therefore able to meet the spiritual needs of their own generation.

During 2006, please allow them to utilise their creative skills to do church and minister differently. Allow them to try something new. You may not be comfortable with their methods and neither

should you necessarily be, but empower them to try and if it does not work out, allow and encourage them to try something else.

Pastors, elders and members of local church boards, I appeal to you to encourage your youth and teens to use the church facilities for their social and spiritual activities. Make it a priority to allocate some of the evangelistic funds of the church and from the allocations made to the areas by the Conference to youth-led activities.

Young people, you must be prepared to get out of your comfort zone and allow God to use you to influence others. Be assertive and bold in Jesus' name.

God's memorable words to the young man Joshua were that he should '**be strong and brave**', (Jos. 1:6, 7, 9). You see, the aged Moses had died and now the leadership of the church was firmly upon Joshua's shoulders. I can almost see him with quivering lips as consternation fell upon him. How could he fill the shoes of a giant of a man like Moses? Nevertheless, he did because that was God's plan and desire for his life.

What is God's plan and desire for your life as a young Christian living in today's 'postmodern society'? Can you see his plans? Has he placed a passion on your heart for the spreading of the Gospel and the saving of others? Has he blessed you with creativity that can be used to further the spreading of the message?

If so, then be the men and women whom God is looking for and waiting to engage in his work. Make a difference in the lives of the homeless, the abused, the broken-hearted, the grieving, the bewildered, the confused, the apathetic, the fearful.

We cannot imagine what the joy will be like when, in God's Kingdom, we see those whom we 'hang out with' for Jesus – present and saved by the mercies and sacrifice of our Lord and his work accomplished in and through each of us and especially you the youth!

May God empower you with confidence and boldness, bless you with enough success to keep you rejoicing and yet humble to learn and experiment with new ways of to advance his work through other young people.

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A year after the tsunami

tive ways of raising money, including concerts and fundraising events, and family collections over the Christmas period. ADRA-UK's appeal reached outside of our normal circles as well, with a donation of £5,000 from the Binfield Parish Church via its contacts with Newbold College. Through the plethora of innovative methods, driven by the commitment of our individual supporters, we have been able to meet the needs of thousands of people affected by the tsunami.

In addition to the private donations, ADRA-UK's rapid response in Sri Lanka led to our securing £930,000 in two grants from the British Government Department for International Development (DFID). The size of these grants is evidence of the professionalism of our operation, and the regard that DFID has for the work that we do.

What we did with the money

ADRA-UK supported the immediate emergency needs of those affected, including the distribution of medical supplies, water rations, and clothing, and the work of medical teams. This rapid response helped to sustain the lives of those who had been immediately affected: the injured, homeless and particularly vulnerable such as children and the elderly.

The emergency aid was followed up with two projects co-funded by DFID. One supported alternative livelihoods in the South coast region of Tangalle, where people who had traditionally made a living from the fishing industry were given alternative economic opportunities, including dairy production, goat rearing and poultry production. These new entrepreneurs now have a livelihood to support their families into the future, which will help them to recover. Over 5,000 people benefited from this project.

The second project provided clean drinking water to people who were made homeless by the tsunami in the Ampara district. Through a system of water purification and distribution, ADRA-UK provided drinking

water to 25,000 people who had been displaced from their homes, or whose water wells had been contaminated by sea water and debris.

What we will do in 2006

The affects of the tsunami are evident all around the coastal regions of Sri Lanka, even a year later. There remains great human suffering still, and in 2006 ADRA-UK plans to continue to meet the challenge of drinking water needs. The need for sustainable sources of clean water is apparent in many of the new housing developments established to house the displaced population. ADRA-UK is a key player in the rehabilitation process, working to drill new wells, install hand pumps, train people in good water and sanitation practices, and helping to develop stronger, more resilient communities.

ADRA-UK has been able to do all of this work through the support you have given. It works on your behalf, bringing hope in hopeless circumstances, showing love to people who have been victims of devastating events, or who are trapped in chronic poverty. The New Year will bring more challenges, but with your ongoing support ADRA-UK will continue to be at the forefront of the efforts to help the hurting. Thank you for all you have done for ADRA-UK over the past year, and for what you will do in the year to come. The work that ADRA-UK is able to do, with your support, shows the loving face

of our Church, and the God we serve, to those who need it most of all. Jesus' command to love one another (John 13:34) is never more poignant than when it is offered through personal sacrifice for the sake of those less fortunate than ourselves.

ABC BOOK SALES

January		
29 West Midlands	10am-2pm	
February		
5 John Loughborough	10am-2pm	
26 West Midlands	10am-2pm	
Wishing you all a blessed New Year		

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jan 6	4.08	4.20	4.05	3.56	4.15
13	4.18	4.30	4.15	4.07	4.26
20	4.29	4.41	4.27	4.21	4.38
27	4.41	4.53	4.39	4.35	4.52

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