ADRA RESPONDS TO BRAZIL FLOODS

[Christina Zaiback, ADRA International/BUC News]

Following extensive flooding that has so far left more than 700 people dead in Brazil's mountainous state of Rio de Janeiro, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is delivering relief aid to survivors in some of the worst hit areas.

To meet the immediate needs of survivors, ADRA is providing essential hygiene kits to benefit 400 households, or approximately 2,000 people, who were left homeless by mudslides. This assistance, which includes toothbrushes, bathing soap, infant soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, combs, sanitary pads, and washing soap, is expected to meet the hygiene needs of a family of five for up to a month.

In addition, a $100,000 donation from the United States Embassy in Brasilia will also help ADRA deliver additional assistance to affected families in the region.

ADRA is working closely with local government authorities, the Civil Defence, and trained volunteers to ensure efficient distribution of relief materials. Priority is being given to women-headed families, families with disabled children or elderly dependents, and families whose members were directly impacted.

In early January, heavy rainfall saturated mountainsides causing a series of mudslides that affected several towns in the state, including Teresópolis, Nova Friburgo, Petrópolis, Sumidouro and São José do Vale do Rio Preto.

The inundation of the region's Santo Antonio River resulted in extensive flooding and mudslides, which levelled homes, swept away cars, toppled electrical lines and caused extensive road damage. Throughout the state, large urban areas were buried under tons of rocks, sand and debris. In some neighbourhoods, it is feared that hundreds of residents may still be buried under the sludge. According to the United Nations, the recent mudslides rank among the 10 worst in the world.
For more information on the work of ADRA or to donate to their emergency fund visit their website, <www.adra.org.uk>.

WHEN JESUS COMES

Did you know Jesus was going to return on 21 May? No? Neither did I until news stories kept appearing in my inbox informing me of the fact. American radio evangelist, Harold Camping, states that 21 May is Judgment Day, when "this world will be a horror story beyond anything we can imagine." He expects to escape the horror due to being raptured – but it will be a miserable five months for the rest of us. His story has been repeated across Camping's Family Radio network of 66 stations in North America and on shortwave radio worldwide. It has been plastered on billboards in cities such as Nashville, Atlanta and Detroit, and missionaries have even headed to this side of the Atlantic to warn the people of Ireland and Scotland that 21 May was the day. One wonders why there was no concern for the English or Welsh!

As a good Bible student you will be very aware of Jesus' statement to His disciples, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." [Matthew 25:13] Adventists know all about date setting and would reject Camping's reasoning – as would most of Christendom. Nevertheless, we do believe that Jesus is coming again – a fact emphasised by including 'Adventist' in our name. We preach it. We believe it. We do not set dates.

Or do we? Within our ranks, and from numerous emails I have received over the last couple of weeks there are those who believe that the Pope and US President, Barack Obama, are conspiring together to institute a National Sunday Law by next month in the United States. The underlying thought is that once this is achieved the promised return must be very soon. They even quote Adventist World Church President, Elder Ted Wilson as appealing to Adventists to pray morning and night for seven days for God to intervene in this event.

Time to sort out the myths from the reality. There is no statement anywhere in the media, Adventist, non-Adventist, Papal, American, or anywhere else that any such law is planned. There is a minor reference by a blogger on an Obama related website that a Sunday law might be a good idea. The blog is from 2008. That is it! Even if it was Obama's real plan, it is doubtful that in the real world of American politics in 2011 that such a bill would stand a chance? The emails that are circulating are a myth.

There is a little edge of truth in the statement. Pastor Ted Wilson is calling for church members worldwide to spend time in prayer. As part of the 'Revival and Reformation' initiative it is something that church leadership in the UK and Ireland have endorsed. But what does he actually encourage? In a document voted by the World Church Annual Council in October 2010, the statement is made, "We appeal to each church member to unite with church leaders and millions of other Seventh-day Adventists seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at 7:00 each morning or evening, seven days a week. This is an urgent call to circle the globe with earnest intercession. This is a call to total commitment to Jesus and to experience the life changing power of the Holy Spirit that our Lord is longing to give now."

That is a positive statement. It is one that has potential to change lives – the lives of those praying – and the lives of those they come in contact with who will see the difference that a vibrant relationship with God makes in their lives.
One minister in northern England commented on these emails by saying, "I thought the Bible taught us to look up rather than down." [Luke 21:28] My plea is one for discernment. Just because a good friend forwards you an email or points you towards a video link you do not have to accept it as gospel truth. The apostle Paul commended the Christians in Berea because they didn't just accept his teaching. They tested it again the written Word. As a result he called them 'noble'. [Acts 17:11]

The IVP New Testament Commentary states on this passage, "This noble character manifests itself in two ways. There is great eagerness (literally, "all eagerness") to receive the message. Yet the people's enthusiasm is not gullibility, for they subject Paul's message, the word of God, to thorough scrutiny. Daily they meet to examine the Old Testament Scriptures to see if the gospel declarations square with them (compare 17:2-3). Their examination parallels the best in human jurisprudence, unbiased investigation to get at the truth (anakrino Luke 23:14; Acts 24:8). The result is that a large number of Jews and Greeks, prominent women as well as men, probably both God-fearers and pagans, believe the message and are saved (compare Acts 20:4; Romans 16:21)."

There is enough in the Sacred Writings that Christians hold so dear that we do not need to roam into the world of speculation. Rather, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." [Hebrews 12:2]

ADRA CONTINUES AID TO QUEENSLAND FLOOD VICTIMS  [Christina Zaiback, ADRA International/BUC News]

Following last week's report on ADRA Australia's immediate efforts to provide help to the flood victims in Queensland where almost three quarters of the state has become a disaster zone, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia has committed AUD$100,000 towards relief efforts.

In response to the devastating flooding, which has already left more than 30 people dead and caused upwards of US$20 billion in damages, ADRA Australia has already assisted hundreds of people with emergency accommodation in three separate shelters in the northern New South Wales state, one of the areas closest to the devastation. Additionally, ADRA has provided food, clothing and blankets to those affected through the assistance of ADRA Op Shops, a community service programme.

ADRA Australia continues to work with state and local governments to develop programmes that will address the immediate needs of flood-affected communities and post-flood cleanup efforts.

For more information on the work of ADRA or to donate to their emergency fund visit their website, <www.adra.org.uk>.

CHECK YOUR CHURCH

Since the beginning of the year several of our Adventist churches have moved location. While congregations that own their own building are fairly secure, growing congregations in rented halls occasionally have to move home – sometimes by choice, sometimes by necessity. If you are travelling to visit such a congregation it is always better to check the Churches page of the BUC website, or better yet, to download the churches iPhone app or the POI for your satnav. These are continually

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28 KJV
updated to give you the latest information. You may equally want to check and ensure that your church details are correct, including map location, worship times and contact details.

**BUC SESSION WEBSITE**

This week sees the launch of the 'BUC Session 2011' website. This year sees the seventh Quinquennial Session of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists which will commence with a Day of Fellowship followed by a day of business the weekend of 2 July.

Currently the website provides a time line in the lead up to this year's session along with some relevant documentation. In addition there is historical information from previous sessions. The intention of this website is to keep delegates and members updated with relevant information about the Session, as well as to report on actions as they are taken. On the actual day of the session the BUC News Facebook and Twitter feeds will also supply up-to-the-minute information.

The session website is just one of a bouquet of websites run under the umbrella of the BUC Communication department to keep church members and the public informed about the church, its beliefs and activities. Between them, these websites attract over 130,000 unique visits each month.

**DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF E-BULK CRB APPLICATION PROCESS** [Eric C Lowe]

Unfortunately, the launch of the paperless e-bulk CRB disclosure application process which was trailed in last week's BUC News has had to be postponed due to some technical matters. Atlantic Data are working on these and we will issue a revised date for the use of the new system as soon as this is available. In the meanwhile the local church Child Safety Representatives should continue to use the online paper system until further notice.

**LIVE STREAMING CHURCH SERVICES**

During the December snow a good many church members benefited from churches that live stream their services on the internet. Others are the elderly or housebound who cannot make it to church. Non-members are curious and would like to see what happens inside an Adventist church before committing themselves to walking through the door on a Sabbath morning. The BUC Communication department has received a number of requests for a list of churches the either live stream their service or place recordings (podcasts) of their service either in audio or video on their website.

Can you help us to compile an accurate listing? If your church podcasts or live streams and is based in the UK or Ireland, please send Victor Hulbert a brief email at <mailto:buc@adventist.org.uk> with your church name and a link to the service you provide.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING EMPHASIS IN LATEST MESSENGER

The 21 January edition of Messenger, the Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, leads with an initiative by the British Union Conference to increase the amount of Leadership Training available for ministers and church elders. A two-page spread looks at Street Pastors and their operation in one town – Grantham, the issues page values single parents, 'Because you're worth it!', and in the news pages you will rejoice with the abundance of outreach activities, baptisms and worship experiences. This edition is now available as a pdf online or as a print version in your local Adventist church this Sabbath.

THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL

Kidney transplant coordinator, Sonia Clarke-Swaby was awarded one of five Mary Seacole Awards for her project to examine the attitudes of black and minority ethnic people towards organ donation. But Sonia's motivation for her life's work stems from an unhappy and lonely childhood and the untimely death of her father at a young age. In this week's In Conversation she shares her very personal story of past sadness turned into a future of hope.

Friday 21 January: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Reinder Bruinsma
Sabbath 22 January: 3:00 pm: Reinder Bruinsma
Monday 24 January: 3:00 am and 9:00 pm: Sonia Clarke-Swaby
Wednesday 26 January: 8:00 am and 8:30 pm: Sonia Clarke-Swaby
Friday 28 January: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Sonia Clarke-Swaby
Sabbath 29 January: 3:00 pm: Sonia Clarke-Swaby

If you are watching on satellite please be sure to retune your set-top box as the frequency has changed. Visit the Hope TV website for details. Currently some viewers are experiencing poor reception with the new frequency. We are working with the Hope Channel Europe and Hope Channel head office in America to try and resolve these difficulties.

COMING EVENTS

For a full listing of coming events visit <www.adventistevents.org.uk>. New events are added on a daily basis.

THE BIBLE AND SPIRIT OF PROPHECY. Friday, 21 January to Friday 4, February. Oxford Adventist church Youth department are hosting a new Quarterly Bible study series 'The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy' at the Oxford church, 1a Chester Street, Oxford, off Iffley Road from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This quarter there will be three topics: 1. How to study the Bible, 21 January; 2. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy: Apart or together, 28 January; 3. Spirit of Prophecy in relation to Adventists, 4 February. Guest speaker: Andrew Fuller. Light refreshments provided. For more information contact Valentine Dzingaia by email <dzingaia@aol.com>.

LOVE WITHOUT END. Sabbath, 22 January. We are pleased to announce that Croydon Adventist Gospel Choir will be appearing at Hampstead Church, 66 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 2BE, during Divine Service, as well as at 5:00 pm, Saturday 22 January. During the afternoon session, they will be performing their highly acclaimed musical/dramatic programme, Love Without End. Special guest preacher: Pastor David Klinedinst, from the Iowa-Missouri Conference, USA. Pastor Klinedinst will
also be delivering further presentations, 10:30 am Sunday, and 7:30 pm Wednesday. All welcome.
Contact: Humphrey Walters <hgwalters7@aol.com>. Phone: 07956 922121.

MEN'S MINISTRIES DAY - CHATHAM. Sabbath, 22 January. Men's Ministries Day hosted by the
School for Girls Technology College, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0BX. Guest
speaker: Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC President. Sabbath School will be led by the Chatham Youth
department with special music throughout the day by Inspired Redemption, Higher Ground and other
distinguished artistes. Lunch provided. For further information, contact lead coordinators - Bro
Raymond Mutumhe 07868417005 <raymondmutumhe@yahoo.co.uk>; Kotikeni Charles
07775722163 <kotikenic2002@yahoo.com>; Ian Gundah 07411886500; Dominic Gysai
07956881566. Pastoral lead pastor Israel Williams 07885975829.

HACKNEY 30TH CELEBRATION CONCERT. Saturday, 22 January. Hackney's Back to the
Future Concert Part II takes place 22 January. Venue: The Advent Centre, 37-39 Brendon Street, off
Edgware Road, London, W1H 5HD. Starts: 7:00 pm. Admission: £5.00 Adults; £3.00 children under
16. Part of the proceeds will go towards our church building fund. Nearest tube is either Edgware
Road or Marble Arch. Enjoy a fusion of artists from "back in the day" and the present. Food and
drink will also be on sale. Contact: Patsy Reid <patsyre29@gmail.com>. Phone: 07947158537.

HOUSE OF PRAISE. Saturday, 22 January. Venue: Newbold Church, St Marks Rd, Binfield, RG42
4AN. Time: 1900hrs. House of Praise is a time to praise, celebrate, share testimonies and begin the
year in song. Performances from: Reading Community Gospel Choir, Whitley Youth Choir, 4 Christ,
Mark Bunney, Reading/Slough Ghana Youth Choir and many more! Contact: Theo Charles
<charlie.tac@gmail.com>. Phone: 07772566367.

THE HEAVENS DECLARE. Thursday, 27 January to Thursday, 31 March. Popular talks about the
universe with lessons about God's character and dealings with mankind drawn from planets, stars, and
galaxies. Every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm until 31 March at the Coleraine Seventh-day Adventist
Church, Ratheane Avenue, Mountsandel, Coleraine. Speaker: Pastor Dr Mart de Groot, a former
director of the Armagh Observatory. 27 January: "The Powerful Universe". Contact: Mart de Groot
<mart.degroot@gmail.com>. Phone: 02838 871252.

LIVING THE EVANGELISTIC LIFE. Friday, 28 January to Sunday, 30 January. A retreat for all
Personal Ministries personnel and anyone else who is interested. Pastor David Klinedinst,
evangelist/trainer from the Iowa Conference in the USA will demonstrate how to live an effective
evangelistic lifestyle. This is a must to attend if your church is serious about evangelism! Cost is
heavily subsidized at £100 each. Deadline for application is 14 January 2011. Venue: Kings Park
Conference Centre, Northampton. Contact: Terry Messenger <tmessenger@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

MEN'S DAY IN BEDFORD. Sabbath, 29 January. This is going to be a fantastic day for men of all
ages... Lunch provided so please bring a friend. This event is for the men who are serious! – who
want to be more effective in their Christian walk with God, family and friends. Venue: Bedford
(Central) Adventist church, 73 Bromham Road, Bedford, Beds, MK40 2AQ. Contact: Edward
<delle29@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07958 923339.

LET'S BUILD TOGETHER. Saturday, 29 January. Fundraising Concert hosted by Chiswick Gospel
Choir. Featuring Chiswick Junior Gospel Choir, 3IHN, Tessera, Paul Lee, Louanne Sampson and
Leon Barclay. Doors open 6:30 pm for a 7:00 pm start. Venue: Chiswick Adventist Church, Stamford
Brook Road, London, W6 0XW. Contact: Jose Morgan <choir@chiswicksda.org.uk>. Phone: 07946
200491.

LOOKING FORWARD AND UPWARD. Friday, 11 February to Sunday, 13 February. A retreat for
all Sabbath School personnel and others who are interested. Faith Crumbly, editor of the LEAD
Sabbath School magazine, is leading out on how to boost the Sabbath School experience with
innovative teaching ideas. Dr Mike Hamilton from the TED will also be with us. The cost has been
heavily subsidized at £100. This event is a must if you want to revitalize the Sabbath School in your church. Contact: Terry Messenger <tmessenger@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

----------------------------------------

SMALL ADS

BUC YOUTH CONGRESS – EARLY BIRD CLOSING DATE IMMINENT! The final date to register for the BUC Youth Congress at the early bird rate of £35 is 31 January 2011. After that time, registration fees will increase to £45. Don't miss out – visit <www.adventistyouth.org.uk/congress> for full details and registration forms.

JOHN JAMES HINCHLEY AND HUGO KENNEDY. The British Union Conference Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan is seeking to make contact with John James Hinchley and Hugo Kennedy. If anyone knows their whereabouts we would appreciate you contacting us by email on secretariat@adventist.org.uk. Thank you.

SNAP – CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS. Mike and Vicky Beamish would draw to your attention that the 'Support Network for Adventist Parents' has a new contact telephone number due to a house move: 01242 890566. The email address remains the same: snap.sda@tesco.net.

JOB VACANCIES. The Adventist Discovery Centre based in Watford is looking for a part-time Clerical Assistant to provide Maternity Cover for six months. The British Union Conference is seeking a part-time secretary (24 hours per week) to provide Maternity Cover. Newbold School is looking for a Headteacher. For full details visit: <http://www.adventistnews.org.uk/vacancies.php>.

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk> and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk>. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk>.

You can manually unsubscribe from this mailing list by clicking on reply and including the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. You can subscribe to ANN (Adventist News Network), the email news bulletin of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, on the GC website at: <http://news.adventist.org>. You can subscribe to TED News, the email news bulletin of the Trans-European Division, by sending your name and email address to: <tednews@ted-adventist.org>.

The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepts no liability to any party for any error, omission or mis-statement by any contributor in any material published in this newsletter.