During the early part of August, we received an inspiring letter from one of our students, which read:

1 found the prophecy of Daniel extremely interesting, especially what the ram and goat represent. I found the picture illustration very helpful and it made it very simple to understand, to the point that my 10-year-old worked with me on the quiz paper and we had a long conversation about the prophecy of Daniel. This also enabled me to minister to my son, not only concerning Daniel but also about how God is good all the time.

My son lost his father when he was only 7. When he heard his father had passed away, his first question to me was, “Why didn't God help him so that he would still be with us now?” He was very angry with God at the time. Thank you that your Focus on Prophecy lessons have helped me to minister to my son in such a positive way.’ (Croydon.)

A few days later we received this letter from another student:

1 thank you very much for the blessings of the heavenly God that you have made known to me in the Bible lessons. I am happy to tell you that I was baptized at the SEC Camp Meeting in Wales on 7 July 2001. 1 thank God and praise Him for all the staff at the Bible School in Watford.’ (Hounslow.)

We are especially pleased for the positive impact that our newest Bible course is having. Called FOCUS ON PROPHECY, seven lessons study the book of Daniel and thirteen lessons study the book of Revelation - all in a wonderfully open and understandable style. One of the first things we did to promote this course was to write to every student who had graduated from a Bible course during the last five years but who was no longer active with us. This involved sending out about 800 letters of invitation, and we were pleasantly surprised that our 290 enquiries have produced 175 students active in this course. Many of them are so enthralled by the course that they return lessons almost as fast as we send them out. As these are designed for use in small groups as well as for individual study, I want you to know that any member or friend is welcome to send for the course either to learn or to refresh the memory about these important prophecies.

FOCUS ON PROPHECY is a course we have purchased from the VOP in California. At the same time, we are working at introducing our own courses developed within the British Union. One special gift recently received has enabled us to purchase a colour laser printer. This will allow us to print lessons in-house on demand, thus saving the considerable outlay when we purchase sufficient stocks of courses such as DISCOVER or FOCUS ON PROPHECY.

This new printer will be put to use first with the revised NEW START IN LIFE course. Originally imported from Germany and known as Start Into Life, with fourteen lessons, we have enlisted help to translate the full set of twenty-eight lessons. We are currently working at presenting this in plain, jargon-free English, and a graphic designer is standing by to do the layout. Given the resources (both human and financial), we hope to launch this revised course by about the end of the year.

We have had an Adventist artist design new letterbox leaflets to promote these courses. The leaflets have been designed so that we can produce them as economically as possible. One simple rule (having the response portion less than 25% of the whole leaflet) permits us to avoid having to pay VAT. We are delighted to announce these new leaflets at a cost of £12 per thousand.

These new developments show where your offering on VOP RALLY DAY will be used. Will... Continued on page 8
From the BUC

StAMP team begins VBS programme in Albania by Gary Wynne

On Monday 20 August the St Abrams Mission Project (STAMP) team began their first day of activities for the children of Ali Demi, a poor suburb of Tirana, Albania. The St Abrams Church in Tirana has spent considerable time establishing links with local parents and children and has already run some limited Sabbath and family programmes. They have now been able to purchase a small, run-down and neglected church in which to create a local church. This building has been the base for the STAMP programme which includes a ‘Kids’ Club in Vacation Bible School format, arts and crafts, puppet and music workshops, and even English language and employment skills workshops. The STAMP team has also been able to use a nearby school gym to run sports activities such as football coaching.

The STAMP team, consisting of twenty-four people (twelve adults and twelve youth), spent the last few days before the programme began running and setting up all the resources and equipment they needed. The days have been long and hard (Monday saw a 5:30am start and team members were still up at 11pm by Sunday). The hard work, planning, pressure and excitement paid off as at around 5pm children, plus some parents, joined in all the activities. The reception has been tremendous and the local church members have been able to manage an open-air café to encourage members to mix with locals and even dress up in costumes. Local pastor assistant, Steve Wilson, was amazed that just after one day of programmes at least six parents joined a team of nineteen adults to attend church services. The main challenge for the local church members, apart from the heat and to adapt to the Albanian way of life, is that there have been only two planned days to then plan.

The young people did appreciate the thought-provoking seminars as well as the very active and prayer sessions led by Dan Dees and Sean Mitchell.

Sixty girls joined the Pathfinders over the weekend. Pastor Steve Palmer, NIC Youth director, and Kim Burt, Pathfinder co-director for the West Midlands, were among those present. Pastor Elgin Brooks, SEC Pathfinders and Tams director, also welcomed Pastor Casi Perry, the re-elected president of the British Union Conference and his family as specially invited guests to the event.

Appreciation should be given to Pastor Elgin Brooks and Claudette Simon, for much preparation and hard work in the planning of the event and to the local church, Ali Demi, for their kind co-operation in running such a well-ordered and efficient Camporee.

HEALTHCARE

Sick days, sick people

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries Director

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) estimates that 6.5 million sick days are taken each year due to stress. A survey of work-related stressors revealed working conditions of around £10.2 billion. It is ranked second only to job-related stress as the most common cause of long-term illness. The HSE recognises that this is a barrier to efficient and effective working. The HSE recommends that all employers seek to reduce stress at work by identifying the reasons for stress and their impact on the workforce. The HSE advises that stress is a product of the interaction of an individual’s job, his or her personal circumstances and his or her physical and emotional state. The HSE advises that employers should identify the stressors that affect their employees and take action to reduce the impact of stress on the workforce.

Sixty-five per cent of the top 112 UK companies claimed that they had stress management policies in their organization. With statistics for job-related stress running so high, the HSE is urging companies to treat stress as seriously as other health hazards.

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The game was up. Might as well admit it. Achan had robbed God of the first fruits of the land of Canaan. What is it that makes us uncomfortable about Achan? Is it that he profited from his sin, or that the Israelites could expect no blessing until the evil among them was liquidated? What is it that makes us uncomfortable about Achan? Is it that he profited from his sin, or that the Israelites could expect no blessing until the evil among them was liquidated?

The Achan Facio

Achan’s story (Joshua 7) is one of those we would rather pass over. Recently I have been involved with another Adventist publishing house in the production of a series of Bible stories for children. When the authors reached the Achan story they were so embarrassed that they judged it most difficult to put into words. After all, Achan had conferred the command of ‘an accursed thing’ on himself and his family. Whether it is in these conditions, depression or breakdown, leaders in every walk of life, including the Church, get weary and worn out, and are looking for a solution. Leaders get tired of the daily grind, and the strain of leading ministry and mission becomes overwhelming. There is a need for a change of pace in this kind of work, to give leaders and their families a chance to relax and recover. The Achan Facio is a series of tracks, designed to bring relief and renewal to leaders and their families.

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Editorial

David Marshall

Scottish Mission Sports Day
The annual sporting event for the Scottish Mission met on Sunday 24 June at Crieff, Perthshire, this year, and once again proved a great success. Teams from the Crieff, Dundee and Edinburgh churches gathered in lovely blue skies on the town's recreation ground. A great day was had by all as male and female, young and old (as young as 7 and as old as 85) participated in the same events, which included running, three-legged race, rounders, indoor hockey, basketball and football. Edinburgh took first prize this year in a very close-run competition, with only three points separating the teams. Special thanks are due to Pastor Gordon Smith, Scottish Mission’s Youth Pastor; and to Andrew Logan, who organised and refereed all the events and ensured their smooth running. A fun, friendly atmosphere made for a perfect day.

Newsbreak

Brixton: Baptism and farewell
On 26 May Sister Ursula Sharpe was given the Brixton pulpit to deliver her final message before returning to her homeland, Jamaica. Her admonition was direct: ‘Always exhibit a spirit of unity and love within the church.’ Sister Sharpe has been Brixton’s Bible worker for six years. She delivered a baptismal sermon on her last Sabbath. There were three baptismal ships and a pleasant atmosphere made for a perfect day.

Greenwich Youth Day
They came from the east, south, north and west. The theme for the day - ‘The time is now’. On 16 June the Sabbath school consisted of songs and sketches illustrating the times in which we live. Then started divine service when a powerful message was given by the visiting speaker, Alvin Whitehead, based on 1 Peter. ‘Have you been called?’ was the question asked. As we go, let us be more committed to our Christian journey. The day ended with a vibrant and interesting AYS programme arranged by the leader Shirley Grant.

Visitors’ Day
Visitors and friends joined together for a day of fellowship at the Aylesbury church. The day began with a well-attended Sabbath school, with items rendered by our singing group and our children. The lesson as always in Aylesbury was interesting and thought provoking. Divine service was conducted by our pastor, David Spearing. By this time one could have decided that Spearing’s sermon was delivered to an attentive congregation. After lunch, provided by the ladies of the church, we enjoyed a varied social programme. After the programme was asked to comment on the events that had unfolded in the peace process in Ireland and if there were any lessons that we could gain from these.

Field Day at Portsmouth
Sabbath 21 July in Portsmouth was a lively experience as the Adventurers and Pathfinder groups showed just how much young people are capable of doing in the service of their Lord. They ran the whole programme from start to finish with the theme, ‘I will be a servant of the Lord.’ The young people used their talents to the best of their abilities, whether in music (such as Kessia’s violin solo), song or leading out. The programme was arranged by the leader Martin Waite. The theme for the day was ‘The Jonah Experience’ by the Hounslow Cornethylene youth group.

Radio Ireland
For those of you who regularly tune in to Gospel 846 on the medium wave band each Sabbath at noon here is a short email that I received: ‘...I just thought you would like to know that I got a letter today from a gentleman in Harrogate, North Yorks, who listened to Network 7 News on Gospel 846 from a holiday location in Troon on the west coast of Scotland. He said the signal was strong and clear, and that he can also hear it in Harrogate although the signal is quite poor there (not surprisingly). He closes his letter by saying, ‘I look forward to hearing you and to hearing the very professional Network 7 News via 846kHz in the future.’ I guess if folks can hear it on this side of the Irish Sea there must be a goodly number of people capable of hearing it on the other side as well.’

Telford: Be-Attitudes
At Telford in the Welsh Mission the AY programme occurs in the morning and Sabbath school and divine service in the afternoon. On 11 August AY lasted all day - and began with a visitation of the elderly members by the youth. Ruby Hughes, 11,superintendent of the AY and the Telford Youth Group, did a thoughtprovoking meditation on the parable of the Prodigal Son. Brother Thompson who was delighted to make contact with this wonderful lady and, since then, has M Mills regularly has donated to our church some hundreds of teddy bears which we, through ADR, have been able to send out to children of 754. It was a great day for the children who received these bears, and for the church which has been able to benefit from the sale of these bears.

The Teddy Lady Bear
Did you know that one of our elders at Erdington has for some years been regularly visiting the Teddy Bear Lady of Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield? Senior elder Bernard Thompson first met contact with Dorothy Mills of Hart Drive, when she telephoned him after seeing a local newspaper report that our church in Erdington regularly dispensed consignments of toys, food, clothing, medical supplies and other essential items to distressed areas around the world through the work of the AY programme. A quick call with Dorothy Mills informed Bernard Thompson that she had already made a staggering 2,500 teddy bears in the past for children in need. The project is, therefore, an activity that Bernard had decided to make contact with this wonderful lady and, since then, M Mills regularly has donated to our church some hundreds of teddy bears which we, through ADR, have been able to send out to children of various ages. On an aeroplane headed for Telford was sent a box of 500 teddy bears, and a week later a box of 500 teddy bears was sent to children in Eastern Europe.

A Chance meeting?
Two men set off one day in 1998 on an aeroplane headed for England. The plane was flying from Botsall. Neither of the men met each other, but both were heading for the same university, one to study to drugstore pharmacy, the other to study to network information management.

To Bradford, West Yorkshire, and frequently publishes articles in The Adventist Review. One of the men was a young man from Bartley Green, Birmingham, who had his book published. In time for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee in 2002, Basil had his book published.
Mike Logan's father was a member of the Church of Ireland. He was evangelized by Pastor Gary Adams among his relations.

Mike was as much as a twinkle in his father's eye. His father came to be involved in what the Irish call a "midnight flit" – from Belfast, to Sligo, from Sligo, to Middlesbrough. Mike's mother, who was Catholic, came to be involved in what the Irish call a "midnight flit" – from Belfast, to Sligo, from Sligo, to Middlesbrough.

On Sabbath 2 June in Middlesbrough church was the venue for a service of remembrance and celebration. Roy Roberts was baptized by Pastor Don Vollmer. Seventh-day Adventists. The couple report to the church of the joy needed assistance.

Adventist Frontier Missions will arrive in Ireland's second city, Cork, when he came to Cork; but he married Janet for the many hours of hard work they put into making the greeting cards, Welsh cakes (very popular) and their 'white elephant auction'.

This was good, but the greatest benefit was in the fellowship we had together.

The Mike Logan Story
by David Marshall

The mike logan story
Mike and Evelyn Logan, centre. Left, Bird Harrigan and Gerry Bramley. Right, Roy Roberts and Mary Lynch.

If you would like to meet fellow Adventists who are HIV+ and the movie) Angela's Ashes.

If you would like someone to come and talk to your member or friend who is interested. If you would like to receive confidential, caring, Christian teaching you ways of living positively with the disease.

If you would like to be part of a team of people who will For a picture of his upbringing in the woods, gardens, food and games? You get a Pathfinder Fun day!

If you would like to learn about people who have HIV/AIDS in the world.

AIDS and are infected.

If you have been found to be HIV positive or are at risk of HIV (e.g. through injecting drug use); If you would like to learn about the disease and its impact and ways to prevent it. If you would like to provide support and friendship;

The British government and a cheque for a further £1,000 arrived from a member who felt impressed.

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Dear Editor,

When out on a Sunday, I visited the historic Waltham Abbey. As I wandered through the sanctuary my attention was drawn to a notice board. On display were the various activities they are involved in as a church. I sensed a real spiritual community within this church and there, standing at me, was a section of home groups (Call groups) immediately, I felt impressed to go home with what was a letter about my involvement with the new ministry of cell groups.

As an Adventist, I have been involved in the church plant in Ruskin and Northolt (Middlesex) for the last two years. I am an active member of the cell group and during this time my view on Christianity and evangelism has completely changed. I have come to know God better and my relationship with Him has deepened. I have learnt that being part of a cell group, meeting in a home once a week and in many other settings outside the weekly cell meeting, allows you to develop a close spiritual relationship with church members to whom you would only politely say hello on a Sabbath. As a student living in London, it was very easy to visit many churches and even go to the same church and not be noticed. I had attended one church for over a year but I never met anyone from my age group and when I attended church, the minister would only politely say hello on a Sunday. I visited the church a few times before moving to the church where I was attending and then extend this to the wider community.

Once our cell group was established, the next step was community outreach. This involves us in delivering talks and literature. Our approach is to try to meet the needs of the people in the community. This has involved programmes such as Kidz Zone where unchurched children can learn about Jesus in a fun and active environment. Another ministry is the Heart Cafe, where we can socialise with non-believers in a pleasant atmosphere. We have also used an edited version of the Alpha course to introduce unbelievers to Christianity. When topics such as the Holy Spirit are addressed, Pastor A. Vontzalidis uses a combination of Alpha videos and live Bible studies, making sure that the biblical truth is fully presented and understood. As a result three individuals (non-Christian backgrounds) have completed the course and are now attending follow-up Bible studies. I am sure they would never have come so far if we had begun in the traditional way, presenting doctrines. Years later, this decision to follow Christ was probably an emotional event, today it is a slow and continual process.

Sometimes Adventists do not realise that for some individuals, sitting in a church can be quite threatening. I have learnt that, when approaching non-believers, it is important for me to find out what we have in common. It may be a work colleague, a neighbour or passer-by on the train. A common interest shared is the best way to develop a relationship and it does not have to be spiritually based. You can offer basic things like time, help, ears for listening, without compromising your principles. As the friendship progresses and the Spirit leads, you can then bring up about your relationship with God allowing them to determine their level of spiritual interest. You should always be aware and respectful of their spirituality and never be insinuating or forbidding. I have learnt that the real secret of a long, lasting, soul winning is to develop a close community spirit within our churches and extend this to the wider community.

Out here? How can this deep community spirit develop if we meet only on Sabbath mornings? Our first priority should be to share with others the fun, love and friendship we have with Jesus - and then the specifics of our faith. Sadly, the people of today are not moved by mere doctrines, but maybe they will be moved by the sacrificial love and friendship they experience from members of a cell group. We are still in the process of developing and learning about life as Christians in a cell group, so we welcome your prayers. Finally, the basis of cell groups is friendship. Ask yourself how many of your friends are non-believers.

Paul Lister, Finchley church plant

THE FORGOTTEN SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see the photograph and the article by Mrs K. (Gilion) Williams and Pastor Ray Burgess in Messenger, 4 May.

Yes, I am the little titch on the front right of the photo. Others were correctly identified. However, my sister Lois was not identified. She is on the back row but one, the second from the left, and two from Myrtle Richer, now Crocker. Lois eventually married Louis Narring (assistant editor to Pastor W. L. Emmerson), now Dr Louis Narring, retired after many years of teaching at Pacific Union College. Lois died in 1996. One correction – I was the fourth head of the Secondary School, following E. E. White, A. J. Woodfield and R. K. Syme. Regarding the dating of the school and the picture, one of the teachers suggested that the school moved from the hut to Sheepcote Villa in about 1922. It had to be later than that. My sister, I, and parents moved from Southampton to Stanborough Park (Sheepcote Drive) on 2 December 1920, two days before my sixth birthday. My older brothers had been at Barkingborough for some time before. I was in the school in the old army building, in the shadow of the College, for the rest of that school year. I lost all the old school items and the sheepcote Villa in the autumn of 1928, though it could have been a year later.

I hope that the photograph was taken at the army hut school. I know we had a photograph taken in that hut to find the Sheepcote Villa school, where the gymnasium is now pleasant thoughts.

However, there were some items near the army hut school, so the picture in the article could well have been taken there.

Yours faithfully,

Willie R.L.D (ex RLCU) Silver Springs, FL

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