Grace is as much about God as life is about family. You had no say as to which family you ‘joined’ but, ever since your birth, you have had no choice but to interact, for better or worse, with your biological or adoptive family. Relationships, especially within the family unit, greatly influence the success or failure of an individual in coping with life. The breakdown of family relationships as a result of divorce is known to be a major cause of nervous breakdown and can onset depression. When we look at the biblical history of families, especially in the book of Genesis, we see how births, infertility, and marriages and their breakdowns give us insight into finding solutions to cope with family relationships. It was because of God’s grace, His loving kindness to His earthly family, that He called out to Adam and Eve, ‘Where are you?’ (Gen. 3:9). Because His earthly family had broken their relationship with Him He yearned for reconciliation. The rest of the Bible centres on reconciling this family breakdown through the birth of Jesus (Rom. 5:10). Perhaps, then, it is no coincidence that the first biblical record of men calling out to God is at the birth of Seth (Gen. 4:26), from whose family line Jesus was to be born. In fact, the first place in the Bible in which praying to God is mentioned comes during the midst of a marriage upset (Gen. 20:7-17) between Abraham, Abimelech and Sarah. God’s...
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is addressing the humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees on the borders of Pakistan and Tajikistan. ADRA responded to recent disaster with the following:

- provided 4,000 families with blankets, kitchen sets, kerosene lamps and stoves, and other household items.
- distributed 2,000 sets of clothing.
- ADRA and UNHCR have been given sole responsibility by the Japanese government to distribute food items such as flour, oil and sugar. Over the past two weeks ADRA has provided food aid to 10,000 refugees on the Afghan-Tajik border.
- ADRA is in the process of implementing a Mobile Dental Clinic project for refugees living in camps on the Pakistan-Afghan border.
- ADRA has established an office in Kabul to meet the needs of the Afghan people from a central location.
- ADRA offices are in the process of applying to their respective governments for grants to help in the rehabilitation of internally-displaced persons and repair of the infrastructure inside Afghanistan.

Roundelwood Health Spa
Church Members' Week - 24-31 March

Prices start at £350 (a discount of £300 on regular programme).

Enjoy the leisure pool with underwater massage, foaming spa pool, sauna and steam room, the Powerpoint gymnasium, walks in the picturesque countryside, health talks on subjects such as nutrition, exercise, weight control, stress management, rest and relaxation, etc., and treatments including physiotherapy, massage and hydrotherapy to relax and refresh you.

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Drummond Terrace, Gifford, Perthshire, PH1 4AN.

Let's learn to say Yes!

David Marshall

W hat percentage of the population has heard of Seventh-day Adventists? What do the people who make up that percentage actually know about us? Two questions for the price of one!

In answer to the first: You might be shocked how small the percentage.

In answer to the second: Some of the indicators are a little depressing.

Some years ago a BUC Communication director engaged in an experiment. He was the sort of chap who knew what he was doing. So, by the time he retired he was GC Communication director! He went out with a clipboard and asked everyone who passed by if they had heard of Seventh-day Adventists. Almost everyone said, ‘No.’ That was a little surprising in view of where he was asking the question: On the pavement outside the BUC offices!

Negative events in Australia and the US in the 80s and early 90s dragged the name of the Church into the headlines. More positively, it has impinged on the public consciousness in connection with John Loughborough School, the Adventist Chorale, the Crystal Adventist Gospel Choir and the work of ADRA.

But if you sat J. and J. ollene Public square and said, ‘What do you know about Seventh-day Adventists?’ what do you suppose they would say?

I do hope their response would be more positive than the one I had a few days ago. ‘Seventh-day Adventists? Oh, they’re the people who don’t drink, don’t smoke, don’t eat pork…’ The litany of things we didn’t do was seemingly endless. We used to get that response a lot before we got hold of a more positive take on the Gospel. Was I naive in thinking we’d heard the last of it? Of course, I followed up my answer, and a few days later I made you say that’ and discovered that the speaker had had a bad experience with some of the less winsome members of our communion.

Wouldn’t it be great to be known for positive things? For good things we do, rather than bad things we don’t do?

True enough, eight of the Ten Commandments are expressed in the negative, but Jesus identified the impulse behind obedience to them in the positive: Love (Mark 12:29-31). When Paul discussed this motif he made it clear that obedience springs from a resurrection to new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15). That’s positive!

If only we could be known as risen-life Christians! Christians who not only talk the talk, but walk the walk! By all means let’s say ‘No!’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, but let’s say ‘Yes!’ to the in-Christ, in-the-Spirit life (Titus 2:12; 13; Romans 8:1-9). You know what that adds up to?

Saying ‘Yes’ to the Gospel.

Three things can make you an ‘up’ person in a ‘down’ world.

1. The secret of a positive, affirming, victorious life is abiding in the love of Christ. Let’s learn to say ‘Yes’ to love!

2. First, your picture of God. If your god is too small, too distant, you don’t know, and a reflector of His love and warmth, Second, your picture of Satan. Oh, yes: don’t underestimate him. But don’t forget, too, that he’s the oldest loser in the universe. There is fire in his future. God has established parameters beyond which he cannot operate. Calvary gives the Christian power over Satan. So use it! Third, the Gospel means that you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour. Hence, when God looks at you He sees the character of His sinless Son, your Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The secret of a positive, affirming, victorious life is abiding in the love of Christ. Let’s learn to say ‘Yes’ to love!

3. Another letter arrived, in which the writer said that he had no friends with whom he could share his joy in knowing Christ as his Saviour. ‘You mean there’s no one in your community to whom you can demonstrate Christ’s love’, I wrote back. He never replied.

Be an ‘up’ person in this decidedly ‘down’ world. Stop complaining, and do something.

A friend of mine has been having a very bad experience with her employers. Do you know what she has done about it? She’s decided to raise money to build an orphanage in India. She’s hit a negative with a positive, and it’s doing her a power of good.

Get involved in your community! You won’t have to compromise your principles. In fact, you’ll be fulfilling the law of Christ. Get to know people by getting alongside them. Help to shoulder their burdens. Learn to say ‘Yes’ to opportunity. It will not only be the reputation of the Church that will benefit!
Sixty years at the organ

Colin Robson has been playing the organ at Newcastle church for sixty years. His first job was as organist on his 13th birthday in September 1953. He started an evangelistic campaign in Newcastle by Pastor Bernard Kinman. Colin has accompanied the congregation since then, not only for the weekly services, but for the church’s annual Festival of Praise. Colin has played the organ for Newcastle church was fulfilled.

World Crisis Campaign

The six souls who made it through their own personal crises to join Christ were: Robert Anthony Allen and Owen Wolfe, after much prayer and Bible study they decided to retrace their steps and walk with Christ again. Winifred Obege Rowe grew up in the Adventist faith, but it took a powerful demonstration to bring her to commitment. George Gia came from Moldova and had never heard of Adventists until he visited the Greencourt. Although he cannot speak English, he understands a little. Through his interpreter he asked to be baptised. Paula Pincock was introduced to the message three months previously through a friend, had Bible studies, and decided to follow Christ. Lauren Kupfer has been attending the Nottingham church for a long time, heard the call, and decided to accept Christ.


Making a difference to Newbold by Velda Cox

After many years of dreaming, praying and planning, Newbold College’s long-awaited new church is well on the way to completion. Work on the building was started in June 2000, and has since progressed at a rapid rate, with the main structure of the building already in place at the time this article goes to print. The completion date of the project is expected to be as early as July, and the official opening will take place on Sabbath 14 September.

The new church complex comprises a worship hall seating approximately 530 people, and a large outreach and community centre that has the capacity to seat between 60 and 70 people around small tables. There is also a pastoral centre, bookshop, kitchen and mothers’ room, and the foundations of the building have been laid in such a way that classrooms can be added in the future. The building is strategically placed to ensure an unrestricted view of the College’s neo-Jacobean manor house Moor Close from Popwood Road, and its environmentally friendly design ensures that it blends in with the natural surroundings and links in with the beautiful gardens attached to Moor Close. This innovative design by architects Scott Talon & Walker recently appeared in the magazine Church Building: The Magazine of Ecclesiastical Design.

It must be all of twenty years since the College and church community first discussed the idea of having a church building which would provide a suitable venue for an ongoing, vibrant spiritual programme for both college and community. Individuals and groups of people at different times over the years have caught the vision to become committed to making that dream a reality. Plans have been developed, costs determined and processes set in place to provide every opportunity for success. Support and encouragement have been generously given in a variety of ways from the sharing of expertise and the giving of time, to lending a hand where needed, through providing much-needed funds, and by praying for a successful outcome. The College community would like to thank everyone who has provided such generous support for this project and the many other projects that have been completed at Newbold in recent years.

We invite you all to join with us on our day of celebration, 14 September, when the church will be formally opened.”
The formative years

A year of hard work by the children at Stanborough Park church culminated in a celebration at an Investiture service held on Sabbath 8 December.

Pathfinder leader Mr Barry Bussue welcomed Paul Tompkins, TED youth director, who officiated at the service and presented the awards to the youngest.

In his brief remarks before the awards ceremony, Mr Bussue explained that the past year had been a challenging time for all the leaders since they had to have the job for a full year at the same time as they were teaching the children. There had been a great deal of enthusiasm for the club, with an overall attendance of twenty-five children aged between 5 and 11 every week.

Mr Bussue concluded his remarks by saying, ‘I constantly remind myself that the early years are the most important of a child’s life. Our children are God’s gift to us and they are both present and our future. We all need to develop, value and nurture our relationships with them.’

There have been times during the year when I have asked myself, why did I agree to this? The reward is the children. At times, while walking along , I have felt a little hand in mine or a child has come up to me and said, “Can I give you a hug”? things like that, for me, make it worth the effort.’

Mr Bussue summarised the achievements of the year in one of the four categories in the club – Bible, Sun, Sabbath and Handy, with a visit to the children at this time.

ROWE, Leonard William – 5 October 1931 in Gosport, Hampshire, to Elizabeth Jean, née George. Leonard lived at Reeds Avenue, Gosport, then served as a warrant officer in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He married Betty Horler in 1954, and they lived at Salt Close, Gosport, until their retirement in 1977, as well as for his many years of service as a director in the Stanton Park church, head of his family. He was a faithful man, who sought to give glory to God and to his family as much as it was possible. He died at the age of 80, on 3 November 1988.

The funeral service of Leonard Rowe was held at the Gosport United Reformed Church on 10 November, the family and the mourners.

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SABBATH

PREVIOUS PAGE

The oatmeal that sustained them was sufficient for Val and Len, and they were far more than just a couple. They had a deep love for God and their fellow human beings. As they became Bible students they recognised that any errors in their interpretations of God's Word were not the fault of God, but were a result of their own misunderstandings. They gave their lives to Christ and were united in their faith. Len was born into a loving environment, where he found Christ. Len was born into a loving environment, where he found Christ.

His lay-preaching was much appreciated by his congregation. He served as Personal Ministries leader and treasurer at the church over the years. Among his ministries, Len also served as secretary of the church.

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answer to their prayer brought a resolution to the family problem.

Family members, single or married, all need God’s grace to bring reconciliation into their families. Today, more than ever, we need God’s grace because we are seeing Paul’s prophecy fulfilled, of disobedience to parents and ungodliness (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Your Conference and Mission Family Ministries directors seriously take up the challenge of enabling the ‘ungodlies and married’ to experience God’s grace of reconciliation:

Pastor Bernie Hollord, SEC;
Pastor C. Sweeney, NEC;
Pastor Bernie Vine, WM. The Irish and Scottish Mission presidents and their respective Executive committees plan and organise Family Ministries events for their missions. At the BUC Mrs Heather Haworth, Children’s and Women’s Ministries director, acts as the Family Ministries department co-ordinator. She chairs the BUC Family Ministries council and supports the Union-wide Family Ministries programme.

Adventist music on ‘Songs of Praise’ by Trevor Johnson

Once again the celebrated and extraordinary talents of Ken Burton, conductor and composer, have been employed by the BBC Songs of Praise production team for two programmes scheduled for Valentine’s Day and Easter this year. Amid his busy schedule of conducting workshops and directing the Croydon Adventist Gospel Choir and the London Adventist Chorale, Ken has launched into a series of musical expressions under the umbrella of the Adventist Voice Ensemble. The aim is to provide good quality music at the highest professional level to agencies wishing to introduce good Christian music through the media.

Do you need help or counselling? Regardless of where you live in the British Isles, please feel free to phone either of the following: SEC 0845 741 3602, NEC 0161 740 3602.

Family Ministries Calendar of Main Events 2002

continued from page 1

Family Ministry Programmes to be run in 2002

Look out for posters advertising other Conference/Mission programmes

- SEC Camp Meeting – Australian Dr Brian Craig, one of the foremost experts on family life in our Church, will be the speaker.
- SEC Marriage retreats – special weekends for couples who want to enhance their marriage, enjoy special treats and return home inspired. These are open to anyone in the NEC and Missions.
- Union-wide summer family camps – each Mission and Conference runs a holiday-style activity programme for the enjoyment of all the family.
- SEC Lone Parent Camp – building on the success of 2001’s camp, this will become an integral part of the summer camp programme.
- NEC Roadshow – This began in 2001. Seminars and workshops take place throughout the Conference on marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and divorce care, parenting, singles, grandparenting, being a teenager, etc.

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