Azerbaijan: Ingathering makes the difference
by Mark Castellino, Programmes Officer, ADRA-Azerbaijan

Ganja is a town in the north-west of Azerbaijan. Driving through Ganja you get an idea of the difference between Azerbaijan and, say, Birmingham, my home town. In Birmingham you would go to the butcher or supermarket to buy your meat. It would come in carefully wrapped and sealed packages, and you would charge it to your credit card. In Ganja sheep are slaughtered in the mornings on street corners and hung from hooks where, as the day rolls on, their blood drains and customers choose which cut they want to contribute to their meagre daily diet. By the evening flies swarm round the depleted carcasses, and the price drops to only a few pennies a kilo.

What has Ganja got to do with anything? I wondered that until I got the chance to participate in a summer internship with ADRA. Arriving in Azerbaijan I was struck by the vastness of the gap between our standard of living and life expectations, and those of the inhabitants of one of the poorest countries in the world. By the time I left Azerbaijan at the end of the summer of ’99, I had decided what career path I would follow after finishing my degree. I would work in development with ADRA. Now I am back in Azerbaijan working through ADRA International’s internship programme.

During my first stay in Azerbaijan I wrote a proposal for a vocational training centre in Ganja. This would provide valuable skill-building classes in welding, computer skills, English language, cosmetology, needlework, knitting and dressmaking. It also included classes in business training and accounting, providing students with skills that could help secure them a small enterprise loan from another development agency working in Ganja. The proposal was aimed towards internally displaced people who had located in Ganja to escape the war between Azerbaijan and neighbouring Armenia over Nagorno Kharkabakh. These people had fled their homes, jobs and old lives and resettled to living in camps and government...

Continued on page 8, column 4

Adventist musicians organise
by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

On 26 January an invited audience of over three hundred attended the launch of the Adventist Musicians’ Association at Newbold College. Those invited were chosen for their interest and involvement in Adventist music and many present were either professional or semi-professional musicians.

The programme itself was held in Salisbury Hall from 6-8pm and included introductions, explanations, performances and audience participation.

The AMA launch began with a keynote address from TED president Bertil Wiklander. An accomplished musician himself, Dr Wiklander revealed to the audience that he also had an interest in composing and, were it not for the fact that God had led him to serve in an administrative capacity in the Church, he might well have found himself involved in music ministry of some kind.

BUC president Cecil Perry attended the AMA launch, together with his wife, and afterwards commented on the breadth of talent which the artists represented.

“We have much to be proud of in the Adventist Church in the British Isles,” he said. “The British Union is happy to join the TED in sponsoring an event like this and we hope that it will lead to even more musical excellence in the future.” TED Communication director Pastor Miroslav Pujic was the main driving force behind the launch, and has been holding preliminary committee and organisational meetings for over a year in preparation for the event.

“We are hoping that AMA will become a successful organisation right across the Trans-European Division,” he said. Hosts for the evening were Joann Kristensen and David McQueen, and together they introduced a wide range of music to the audience as well as a number of speakers who presented the
ADRA-UK Goma Volcano Appeal

by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

On Monday 21 January, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provided emergency relief items in response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano near Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lava flows caused widespread damage in Goma, destroying the homes of 12,000 families. Among the thousands of buildings that were destroyed were three Adventist churches, Adventist Mission offices and many homes belonging to our church members. The ADRA office in Rwanda dispatched trucks with emergency supplies to the border area, providing food and cooking utensils to 13,000 homeless people. The food supplies included beans, maize meal, salt and oil.

UNICEF has asked ADRA to assist with the immediate needs for continued education of the students of Goma. According to UNICEF and ADRA sources, forty-two schools were completely destroyed, leaving 23,000 students without the possibility of continuing their education. ADRA would like to give high priority to helping the children of Goma by providing fourteen temporary schools, complete with furniture and school materials. Water and sanitation needs for these schools will be provided in cooperation with OXFAM and the International Red Cross. This project will enable thousands of students to continue their studies, the total cost of which will be £80,000. We in ADRA-UK would like to make a significant contribution towards the work. We have, therefore, launched the ADRA-UK ‘Goma Volcano Appeal’ and would ask our churches and individual members to send their donations to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. If possible, GVA your donation. Please make your cheque payable to ADRA-UK.

Alternatively, you can make a credit card donation on our ADRA-UK website: www.adra.org.uk, or send your gift through the regular church tithe. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the ‘Goma Volcano Appeal’.

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The New-Adam

I have been annonced anecdotally for some time that there is a link between alcohol and drug use and crime, but until recently there was no established data by which this could be verified and monitored. The Home Office has introduced the NEW-ADAM project to remedy the situation and set a baseline by which reduction targets can be set and measured.

NEW-ADAM (New English and Welsh Arrester Drug Abuse Monitoring) personnel interviewed 1,551 arrestees during 1999-2000, in eight police custody centres on a rolling basis, and will continue to collect material for a number of years. The data showed that, of those interviewed:

- 51% were aged 17-24 (range 17-59 yrs)
- 87% were male, and of these 82% were white
- 95% provided urine samples for drug testing

The results of the urine analysis showed:

- 65% tested positive for one or more illegal drugs
- 30% had a positive for two or more substances

A target has now been set to reduce drug using in arrests to 2.6%.

A type of drug used seemed to be linked to criminal activity, with heroin and cocaine/crack users being responsible for more than 60% of the reported illegal income. The income averaged around £15,000 for the heroin and cocaine/crack users, which was approximately the amount spent on their habit. Most admitted to having spent £290 in the seven days prior to arrest compared with the other drug users’ spending of £169 a week for their drugs.

Although drug-taking consumed so much money, only 40% of the arrestees acknowledged a link between their drug taking and their crime. Yet in personal interviews 53% of the arrestees reported having committed

Healthwise

Tim LaHaye is US fundamentalism’s answer to J. K. Rowling, creator of Harry Potter. LaHaye’s novels have sold millions of copies and spawned a series of movies. Central to LaHaye’s plots is the idea of a ‘secret rapture.’ There are great dangers implicit in this teaching . . .

Editorial

David Marshall

The tragic thing is that for believers in the rapture concept of Left Behind, the very deceptive events portrayed in Matthew 24:23-26 will seem to be evidence that their reading of the Bible was correct. . . . Many sincere people will be convinced by events that Jesus has somehow already returned to Earth. But that return will be a deception. How will you know? Matthew 24:25-“Behold, I have told you ahead of time”- is it, therefore, my fear that these movies could be part of the greatest setup in human history (totally contrary to the conscious and sincere intention of their producers)?

How do we tackle those who, perhaps influenced by the movies, argue the case for a ‘secret rapture’? We study carefully the key passages of Scripture, we pray day by day for the Spirit’s guidance, and, when the opportunity arises, we explain calmly what the biblical position is.

On the day He comes ‘every eye shall see Him.’ (Revelation 1:7).

* Three videos in the series were for five last week even in the small-loan video store near my home.
**Newsbreak**

**A returning prodigal tells his story** by Bronwen Atkinson

On 24 November three young men were baptized at Stanborough Park church. They were Daniel Thompson, 22, Jason Poddar, 16, and Patrick Sheehy, 14. Daniel tells his story:

‘I was brought up as a Seventh-day Adventist. My mum always said I was a very selfish one. I attended Stanborough School, dad’s and my brother’s lifestyles were like, I realised what they were doing and was more than pleased to carry it.

The well-known hymns, “When I survey the wondrous Cross,” “Nailed to the Cross,” and “The Old Rugged Cross” were sung in clear unison. The entire tableau and programme were written and presented by the writer.

**Northampton baptism**

The Kettering church made their building and baptistery available for a Northampton baptism. Pastors Malcolm Watson, John Ferguson and Ron Edwards participated in the service and the four candidates were Giles Fuller, Jane Fielder, Stacey Leslie and Tijky Mickey, in the period leading up to baptism and all had studies with Ingrid Sharpe and the writer.

**Camp Hill baptism**

The last baptism of 2003 for Camp Hill church took place on Sabbath 1 December, when Sabrina Smith, one of Camp Hill’s youth, gave her life to Jesus. Sabrina is known as a quiet, loving and supporting teenager. Already active in the church and the Camps, she now longs to finish her Master Guide course. She was already having Bible studies but on Youth Day finally decided to take her stand for Jesus. Sabrina is currently studying to be a nursery nurse.

Sabrina was baptised by Pastor Alan Hush, and Pastor Cyril Sweeney spoke the words of encouragement.

**Cancer & Leukaemia in Children**

On Sabbath 22 December people accepted Christ: eight women and four men, including two teenagers from the Pathfinder department.

**Sydenham organised**

Nine years the Sydenham church began as a branch Sabbath school of the Lewisham church. On Sabbath 1 December SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane organised the company into a church. What began as a group of sixteen members had grown to a church of forty-nine members.

‘The barometer by which the people of the world measure the Church,’ said Pastor McFarlane, “is her kindness and love evident among the membership.”

Paul Day was appointed leader of the newly-organised church. Pastor Clark was head deacon (1) and Sister Loma Crooks was church clerk. Pastor Ellis Gadhe lifted the congregation to God in his prayer of dedication.

**Campbell Hill baptism**

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**Balham: Learning & Growth seminar**

Where were you on 18 November? The Learning & Growth seminar, sponsored by Body Mind & Spirit Co., in collaboration with Balham church, gave a passionate call for action. Session one was led by Valerie Bernard, head of Behavioural Science Department, Newbold, under the theme ‘Keeping it real with God’s Will’. The strand of ‘To Mate or Not to Mate’ was led by Pastor Eddie Hyland who provided his coaching with a difference. A follow-up seminar will be occurring in April 2002, with dynamic speakers exploring relevant issues. If, however, you would also like the Learning & Growth seminar to be available at your church, please contact Shanda (07960 506938) or Susanne (07773 325654).

**Canterbury: The Three Crosses**

On the third Sabbath of November, a tableau called ‘The Three Crosses’ was presented at the church which was well attended.

Sarah Wilson played a leading role by depicting a young girl having a beau-

**East Ham: Marathon man baptized**

Families, friends, visitors, and church members from East Ham church witnessed the baptism of twelve people. It was a glorious ending to the campaign conducted by Pastor Greg St Ange from Toronto. Among those baptised was Jayde De Oliveira, 12. Jayde went on to take part in the wheelchair section of the 2003 Marathon, where he completed 3.5 miles, alongside other children who were trained by his dad, Larry Campbell.

**Our gift for CLIC**

(Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

December 19 found the Plumstead church packed with parents, friends and church members for the Fletewood School Carol Service. The children put on a delightful programme with music, songs, a story and the nativity scene. A collection was taken in aid of CLIC.

On Sabbath 22nd the church had their carol service, and all the members took part, contributing musical items, stories, poems and readings which made a very interesting programme.

Pimlico School kindly left their Christmas tree in the church, on which the members and children could hang ‘Helping Hands’ (given to them a few weeks before, to fill with their gifts of money for the children of Plymouth who suffer with cancer and leukemia). Added to what was collected at the school’s carol service, it made a total of £220.

**Plumstead baptism**

Sabbath 22 December marked a special occasion in the Plumstead church. Members and friends gathered to witness the baptism of Gary Hildall. No stranger to Adventism, Gary had been walking with the Lord for almost three years, but felt it necessary to recommit his life. Pastor Brighton Kavaloh was the minister who officiated in the pool, and Thuray-Ari Campbell and Hope Goodwin sang ‘Amazing Grace’ as a special request.

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Bristol baptism
On Sabbath 11 August, Bristol Central witnessed the baptism of Alexander Ross and his wife Sylvia from Totnes. Pastor Michael Richards had received a call from a colleague to visit them. When he arrived, he discovered it was a small hall as a relative had been sending them books and papers on Adventism for several months. After spending time in further study, Alexander, although disabled as a result of a stroke, was determined to join Sylvia as they gave their lives to the Lord.

“Baptism will be the field; one will be taken and the other left.” Two women were being grinned with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left (Matt. 24:31, 34).

Grantham baptism
Baptisms are always happy occasions for us. On our last service of commitment and re-commitment took place on Friday evening 9th November. Two candidates were immersed by Pastor C. R. Bonney, assisted by Eunice Sundquist, at the Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Grantham. Both candidates had travelled with him from Skegness, Grantham, and Stephen Pain from Trowbridge. Pastor Michael Mannix had over £370 for Bury Hospice.

While we are writing this, the concert raised over £300 for Bury Hospice.

Fellowship in Area 1
September 29 was a day to remember for the Adventist church. Their Day of Fellowship was once again held in the stately Oddney Mansion set in the beautiful grounds that are a favourite for wedding photographs. Pastor Paul Cane was the speaker for the day and he kept us all enthralled with his morning message of the living touch of Jesus, and the afternoon message of how we all need to use our spiritual gifts to help Church growth, was presented in his usual interesting and informative manner. We were also blessed with the musical gifts of members of all ages from Devon and Cornwall, and Dr. English orchestra that filled the room with delightful music.

Crisis in 4:17
In Colossians 4:17 it is used of a Christian minister’s receiving the Gospel commission. In John 14:15 parable master Jesus used of Jesus’ receiving to Himself the waiting disciples. By contrast, “take” in Matthew 24:31 means “be taken” or “to remove.” The “one of verse 40” is “taken” by the angels “as they gather the elect” (Matt. 24:31).

What Jesus meant by being “taken” and by “left” is made clear by the context. Those who are left are the evil servants, who instead of continuing in their normal duties after a supposed second secret rapture, are cut out and assigned their part with the hypocrites in eternal fire. (Matt. 24:31) The Secret Rapture issue, Vol. 5, page 504.

Issues

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The Secret Rapture
Some taken, others left - What does it mean?
by Jon Paulien*

I would add the following in Matthew 24:40, 41: “Left” (heparistai) must mean one of two things: those Left are either abandoned to their fate or are raised up to the New Age, the first being a natural one! The New Age is already in existence. The second meaning is an inerrant one in the New Testament and even the称了 a man in the Good Samaritan story is abandoned half a day (Luke 10:33), apoplectic (Jesus) refuses to abandon His disciples as orphans (John 14:18 – 19).

In the nearby context of Matthew 23:13 Jesus is accusing to the Temple of its future destruction (Matthew 23:16-18). Although there is much to dispute about these texts, two things are absolutely clear: (a) The texts about “left” and “taken” are always used not only for either two opposite destinies for humanity, one positive and one negative, but (b) The secret rapture group does not regard their end in a naturalistic way on Earth, but is destroyed. On these two points the texts are clear. The secret rapture theory is not biblical.

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- Essential training for student missionaries.
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For further information, apply for an application form to: 6

Adventist teacher:

- Theological training.

For booking or further information: Administrative Office, Newbold College, 360 Western Road, Airo, Middlesex, TW9 1AL.

Gracious God, we are thankful for your love, mercy and grace. May we always strive to reflect your love to others, wherever we go. Amen.
On Sabbath 2 March, women young and old will come to the Lord in prayer. Churches around the world will reverberate with the joy of knowing ‘our God is a great God.

Many Adventist women can testify to the miraculous way God works. Women’s Ministries in Manila, Philippines, held a 24-hour prayer marathon twice a year. Recently they praised God for the twenty-two souls baptised as a result of their evangelistic meetings, while in the Atlantic Union, USA, Prayer Partners online is run by Women’s Ministries and has a worldwide link-up. In India two hundred women met in Sankaranalil to pray for their children who would be taking exams. Closer to home, in Milton Keynes, for a year Maureen Sankarankoil has led out in Sunday morning prayer ministry. She has started up a local newsletter ‘Women of Faith’, visited and prayed with families, and inspired the men to start up a Sabbath afternoon prayer group.

On church in the British Isles. ‘He concluded, ‘I challenge you to commit yourself to excellence before the King of kings.’

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Ashton Leisure Centre, 39 Brendon Street, W1 (Information centre) 7.45pm

Big Day 24 February

Tennis Day 9 March

West Midlands 10am-2pm

London Adventist Chorale; and Aleta Chorale like an instrument were awe-inspiring.

Chris Rogers, vice-president of AMA, brought hope to those ‘aspiring musicians’ who were not yet up to the standard of those who performed during the evening. Encouraging those who may feel that they are just ‘learning’ to play an instrument he said, ‘a musician is someone who plays music. If you play an instrument, whatever stage you are at, then you are a musician.’

The full AMA management team includes Miroslav Pujic, Paul Lee, Chris Rogers, Alleta King, Fred Shore, Ken Burton, Trevor Johnson and Lilla Skopek. If you would like to receive an application form please write to: Music Co-ordinator, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD2 3FZ.

All advertisers for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MENDELSON – 2 March

by Heather Haworth, Women’s Ministries director

Burton. Ken Burton’s sensitivity and his sense of the evening was a song entitled ‘Moore Close’ band. The final performance of the evening was sung by Tina Brookes, who sang ‘Two Brothers’, who performed two trumpet pieces; Tina Brookes, who sang ‘Two Brothers’, who performed two trumpet

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