After more than eight decades of partnership with Worldwide Advent Missions, Ingathering finds a new host, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

In recent years the projects benefitting from the Ingathering collections have been administered by ADRA. As a result the audit trail of the expenditure on each project can be easily tracked. In the 2001 Ingathering Campaign £0.5 million was realised for worthy projects. Our volunteers again excelled themselves in making the necessary sacrifices to knock on doors and brave the weather to help meet critical human needs. The administration of the collections at the local level will not differ from the way it has been done under WWAM. The Personal Ministries department and the Ingathering agents in the churches will continue to organise the volunteers and promote the collections.

The challenge of growing world poverty, manmade and natural disasters, demand from us a greater participation in the Ingathering programme. Eight Appeal Projects have been selected for 2002. The new ADRA website carries details of each project. ADRA expects every member to be acquainted with the scope of the task we have taken upon ourselves. From Cambodia to Guyana, India to North Wales, Guinea to Madagascar and from the Ivory Coast to Kenya we seek to fulfil the greater part of our humanitarian mission to the world.

True love and true religion demonstrate themselves in our love to our neighbour. What we do this year for Ingathering will meet someone’s need – be it providing water, food, shelter, education or medical help. ADRA enjoys the goodwill of many, both inside and outside the Church, because of its visible, consistent humanitarian work world-wide. Based on this popular support it is my hope that more members will join us this year in collecting for the charity.

What a joy it will be if by your efforts and mine we could exceed last year’s target, knowing that more good causes could benefit from our work of love.

What would Jesus say if we are driven by the right motive? ‘I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.’ Matthew 25:35, NKJV.

2002 Projects

The 2002 ADRA-UK Annual Appeal will fund nine projects helping some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

- Children’s Orphanage – India
- Special Needs Camp – Wales
- Mother and Child Health Centre – Ivory Coast
- HIV Counselling – Kenya
- Teen Sex Education – Cambodia
- Community Development – Madagascar
- Family Planning – Guinea
- Community Health – Guyana
- Emergency Disaster Response

Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ
Tel/fax: 01923 681723
e-mail: director@adra.org.uk
www.adra.org.uk

Ingathering dates:
Provinces: 30 March – 14 April
Metropolitan: 30 March – 21 April

Hang on to it! Be Prepared!
DURING THE UNFOLDING OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN NEW YORK ON 11 SEPTEMBER, SENIOR ADVENTIST RADIO HOSTS WERE TRAVELING IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, NEAR TO THE HEART OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH. IN CONTRAST TO THE DESTRUCTION IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON DC, AWR WAS ABLE TO OFFER HOPE BY SIGNING AN MAJOR AIRTIME CONTRACT WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE WORLD, BASED IN ABU DHABI.

AWR NOW BROADCASTS FROM THIS SITE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD 18 HOURS EVERY DAY TO AFRICA AND ASIA! THIS STATION ALONE ALLOWS THE ISLAMIC WORLD 18 HOURS EVERY DAY TO ACCESS TO THE BIographies, MEDICAL HISTORY, AND OTHER FORMS OF MENTAL ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION, THE ADVENTIST HEALTH STUDY, RECENTLY PUBLISHED THE RESULTS OF A STUDY IN WHICH AFRICAN, ASIAN, AND AMERICAN NUNS WERE FOLLOWED FOR AVERAGE LIVES, WITH THE DATA COLLECTED IN THE ABU DHABI STATION, BUT AWR WAS ABLE TO HAVE THEM INSERTED INTO THE DATABASE AT THE REQUEST OF THEIR DONORS.

A WR: Good news on a bad day

The unique opportunity to track histories, and eventually their donated brains, gave a unique opportunity to track histories, and eventually their donated brains. This station alone allows the Islamic world 18 hours every day to voice their hope and their teaching. Thus, it was a time that, through your teachings, I found faith in Christ. It was the spark that opened a window of light and caught my attention.

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The Nuns' Story

Epidemiologist Dr David Snowden, a collaborator in the Adventist Health Study, recently published the results of a long-term study into Alzheimer’s disease, after following the lives of 678 nuns over a period of 40 years. The nuns were members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame based in the United States. Their ages ranged from 75 to 106. Access to the biographies, medical histories, and eventually their donated brains gave a unique opportunity to track the course of the devastating condition. From his research with the nuns and other data on ageing, the following emerged as factors thought to influence the development of Alzheimer’s disease:

- Genetic predisposition, in particular a substained apolipoprotein in its various forms (E3, E4). Where E4 was inherited from one parent there was three times the normal risk; if inherited from both parents, then eight times the normal risk.
- The level of ‘idea density’ in early life (the ability to use concepts imaginatively) and one’s subsequent level of education (the higher the level the lower the risk). The role of these factors is quite marked. It is thought that building strong neuronal networks early in life helps to strengthen the internal activity of the brain.
- A history or otherwise of head trauma, the former producing residual internal damage.
- A person’s nutritional status, in particular the levels of B12, folate, lycopene, and homocysteine, the latter causing damage at high levels.
- One’s exercise status and whether or not drugs are used (legitimately prescribed or otherwise) that might affect the brain.
- Emotional and faith factors: strong emotions causing changes in brain chemistry; and faith factors to a large extent protecting the brain.

Investigation of the ‘nuns’ brain tissue showed that even where Alzheimer-like changes had already occurred the behaviours associated with Alzheimer’s were not necessarily marked in the lives of the women. However, the condition was seen at its worst in women who had read even minor stroke.

There is a hope that a test will soon be developed which will accurately predict this condition years in advance so that appropriate preventative action can be taken. It would appear that a balanced healthy lifestyle remains the best protection along with an interest in reading and other forms of mental activity.

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Ismail: A religion of peace?

THERE WAS A TIME when the world was not as divided as it is today. This realization was made apparent by the message of hope we bring as a church by radio. All of AWR’s airtime is purchased by the generous donations of church members. To continue this important ministry AWR is once again seeking your help. Please remember the AWR offering in your church on 9 March.

For further information please visit our website at www.awr.org. AWR staff are also available to visit your church. Please contact us at: AWR, Whiteside St, Mansfield Road, Birkenhead, RUG 442.

* To protect the identity of the individuals mentioned above we have changed their names.

By Borge Schantz

T he only living heart donor: That was the tableau taken on Osama bin Laden in the early, heady days of the Afghan war. The video clip out into the news in which bin Laden rejected at the Trade Towers event may have affirmed the tableau’s tale. Exhustively, however, his expressed outrage at the US bases in Saudi Arabia, in the human consequences of Western sanctions against Iran, and at the American support for the Israelis, may have suggested a more considered spurning.

Did you catch the contrast between the video images on the news and the pronouncements of our politicians about Islam? Islam is a religion of peace, said Tony Blair. Did we want to believe him because we were freaked out by the newspaper assertion that the al-Qaeda destroyers – like the suicide bombers in Israel – were driven by the promise of death as a doorway to paradise that would involve ‘seven-hundred virgins’? Perhaps, too, our historical consciences were sensitised by the fact that the Christian West of the Middle Ages conducted ethnic cleansing against the Islamic world, called them ‘crusaders’, and used the cross as their symbol. We certainly understood and approved the desire of the politicians to deter expeditions against Muslim communities in Britain.

But is Islam a religion of peace (and bin Laden a notoriously bad son of Islam)? The majority of Muslims who have written to newspapers and been interviewed on television have distanced themselves from al-Qaeda and identified their recruitment agents as ‘extremists’ in whose hands their sons have been victims. A distinction is made between the beliefs of Islam and the beliefs of ‘folk Islam’. When they discuss ‘fundamentalist’ Islam, however, it becomes clear that what they are talking about is a form of Islam heavily weighted with excessive baggage, not necessarily a particular interpretation of Islamic belief. The excess baggage would include a pathological hatred of all things Western which stems from the issues bin Laden has raised – bases in Saudi Arabia, sanctions against Iran, and – behind those issues, a deep-seated grievance resulting from the contrast to the wealth and comfort of the privileged classes of the middle to lower classes and the conspicuous consumption of the West.

One thing that has become obvious among Adventists since the ‘War against Terrorism’ began is the extent of our ignorance about Islam. Since 11 September the Prime Minister is said to have made a serious attempt to understand the Islamic mind by a serious study of the Koran. Though that study is unlikely to lead him to any insights into the mind of bin Laden, it is not such a bad example.

‘Why should we know what the Muslims believe?’ snarled a man in the back of the Sabbacth school class. Perhaps because there are more than a billion Muslims in the world, that 750 million of them live in the ten-40 window (almost untouched by this ‘peoples of the kingdom’) and, further, that more than 200 million Muslims live in lands (like these) in which Christians are free to witness to others (in very recent times) it has come to mean any struggle against under-development and injustice. Historically it has meant a holy war instigated by the Caliph, the Allah-appointed leader of the Muslim world. The aim of the jihad was the subjection of non-Muslims to the law of Islam (though not necessarily their conversion).

Discussions about whether Islam is peaceful or not tend to turn on the interpretation of the word ‘jihad’. Over the centuries jihad has meant more than proselytising among non-Muslims. To some it has meant a personal struggle for faith incumbent upon all Muslims. To others (in very recent times) it has come to mean any struggle against under-development and injustice. Historically it has meant a holy war instigated by the Caliph, the Allah-appointed leader of the Muslim world. The aim of the jihad was the subjection of non-Muslims to the law of Islam (though not necessarily their conversion).

The Christ-given imperative to ‘make disciples of all nations’ was never meant to be carried out by warlike means. Indeed, the means by which we choose to carry out that imperative may, as in the past, determine how peaceful a religion Islam is. We shall not, of course, expect to enjoy any degree of success in winning Muslims as long as we call our outreach endeavours ‘crusades’ (a term that strikes terror into the Muslim community). Any success with Muslims has got to begin with the search for common ground, and any such search should start with finding out something of the history and beliefs of Muslims. Meanwhile we appear to be at the mercy of our politicians who, although keen to claim the moral high ground, do not appear to be all that good at occupying it.

Let us leave you with the first of a number of suggestions made by Borge Schantz on how to approach Muslims: ‘One factor in gaining respect is your acquaintance with Islamic history, creeds and practices. Ignorance of Islamic themes on your part will not encourage a Muslim to take your own convictions seriously. Your Muslim Neighbour and You, page 38.'

Your Muslim Neighbour and You is a 44-page booklet which delves the topic information you need to know about Muslims. AWR is now making an on-line version for use among Muslims.
**Adventist to chair interchurch family committee**

Karen Holbrook, who resides alongside her husband in the SEC Family Ministries department, has been elected to chair Families Together for Families. This is an interchurch group that explores ways in which church leaders, workers from other churches. Many of the people I work with have never met an Adventist before, and they have been very impressed with the work the Adventist Church has been doing for families. We are now recognized and respected by many of the different church and family organizations, and we’ve been able to network and learn from each other,” said Karen. The plans for this year include a special day exploring the role of grandparents in today’s society and church, and a residential conference exploring how churches can support refugee and immigrant families in their communities.

**‘Christians Together’ hosted by Redruth church**

Our church in Redruth was packed with at least a thousand people for the Sunday evening service on Saturday, 20 January. The service celebrated the ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’. Two years ago, the writer was invited to give the evening message on the theme of ‘The Millennium Resolution’ during a similar event at the Igors Highway Methodist Church. During one of the events for ‘Christians Together in Igors’ we were asked if we could use our church for this year’s event. We were delighted to be chosen as the host church.

Although the service was scheduled to begin at 6pm, people began to come in just before 5.30. Even though the weather was slightly cloudy, they found a warm welcome from our small membership. Those who have visited our Redruth church will know that the sanctuary is beautifully set on the first floor. As one gentleman completed his ascent of the stairs and sat down on the sofa, the first comment from his sanctuary, our first comment was one of delight and appreciation. The service lasted about an hour and included songs, readings and Bible study by individuals from the respective churches, including our own, ably presented by David Cleomen. The hymn new choice was ‘I will sing the wondrous story’. Prayers and the Scripture lesson were shared among our local pastor, the writer compiled the service and was able to present a white fungus, making it obvious that Adventists believe in the holiness of the Christian faith, so that no one should have that evening without knowing that we believe in salvation through faith alone, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Invited by the pastor, everyone joined hands around the church for the benediction, and then extended to the wall for a delightful spread of eats and refreshments prepared by our dedicated sisters of the church.

**Wales: Floods hamper small groups**

The opportunity to host the first ever small groups training weekend in Wales, from all over Wales and the Border counties trained their faith through high winds, high water and around fallen trees and landslides to Abergevenny. Both the rivers Usk and Wye burst their banks, forcing road closures and lengthy delays. One couple from north Wales found themselves on the wrong side of a road closure due to flooding. The only way to ensure they got there was to send a car out over the mountains along single track roads – with no signposts to show them the way!

The small group concept or (cell) group is God’s way of ensuring the nurture and growth of His children and the most effective way of sharing Him with others. The cell is God’s way of organizing, sustaining, protecting and reproducing life. Therefore, we should not be surprised that God used this cell principle when he created His spiritual body. The Church, B. Beckham, is the method the early believers, as described in Acts, used to achieve such dramatic increases in their numbers.

Twenty-five trainees gathered in Abergevenny from 1-3 February for a packed weekend of lectures, prayer sessions, practical workshops and praise that left us mentally stimulated, physically exhausted but spiritually alive. The weekend started from the point that we are all disciples and that being a disciple means taking the message of the Gospel to all people. It is not an optional extra. Small group-ministry is one of the most effective ways of doing this while at the same time providing the environment for caring and nurturing.

**Newsbreak**

**www.Websites Work in Witness.com**

What would you do if a representative from TV Cadenza phoned you and asked you to present the Adventist Church in the filming of a new programme about different religious groups? Would you accept the invitation like those of Moses when God asked him to speak to Pharaoh? ‘I am not a public speaker, please find someone else!’

The area seminar in the church, Helma Chalcraft says, ‘These gifts will minister so much to many children who otherwise won’t get a gift.’ Many of the boxes were collected by Linda Lay who works at the Pharmacy department in the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds. She put all items in the internal newsletter and was amazed by the result as boxes kept coming in.

**1-Accord launch of Area Seven Youth Federation**

Area Seven is a unique and diverse area of the country, with church members from all over the region. Some of the members of the federation (left to right: Andrew Rock (photocell), Kemi Rashford (public relations), Soma Tew (treasurer), Emmanuel Yeboah (sports and social), Paulin Crab (sportswoman) (sponsor). Other members in not pictured: Darren Christopher (secretary), Philip Francis (evangelist), Susan Miller (treasurer), Daniel Thompson (evangelist), Chiwa Tsazuma (steward), Paschal Williams (sports and social), and Greg Wilson (evangelist).

The Area Seven Youth Federation was an accord of the churches of Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds joined together to fill over a hundred shoe boxes with gifts for the children of Eastern Europe. The appeal was part of The Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child which annually asks people to collect shoe boxes filled with inexpensive gifts such as toys, books, balls, dolls, sweets and toothpaste, for children who have suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect.

As the organiser of the appeal in the two churches, Helma Chalcraft says, ‘These gifts will minister so much to many children who otherwise won’t get a gift.’

As the area seminar leader, John Crab said, ‘This was a wonderful and successful event, and ask that we are blessed with items from across the country and we are looking forward to continuing our training on three further one-day training courses in the next six months and, having been given homework, are starting to prepare for the formation of small groups throughout Wales.’

The programme had been published, and was up with some consternation that the youth of Bedford, Harrow, Hope Community, Luton, Milton Keynes, St Albans, Stanborough Park and Watford Town gathered at the Stanborough Park Café on the afternoon of 19 January.

The programme began with a warm welcome from the Federation’s president Andrew Rock and sponsor Pastor Colin Stewart. They reminded us of the potential of Area Seven and the major impact church leaders can have in the Eastern Europe. They thanked us for the pleasure of our four churches but rejected the possibility of the hundred and so who had made it from the other area churches.

During the course of the evening we were blessed with items from across the area, and we are looking forward to continuing our training on three further one-day training courses in the next six months and, having been given homework, are starting to prepare for the formation of small groups throughout Wales.

**Presented for children in Eastern Europe**

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Manchester South: Five baptised
On Sabbath 5 January, five ladies were baptised and accepted into fellowship at the Manchester South church. The baptism followed a four-week evangelistic campaign conducted by local pastor Richard Brooks. During an all call at the end of the campaign many individuals indicated their wish to accept Christ and be baptised.

Feliciano Fellowship Day
On 17 November the members of the Swansea church were privileged to play host to the London Feliciano church. The church was full to capacity as we were ministered to by 30-40 of our brothers and sisters.

Our visitors led us in some of the various services of the day, but the high spot was the inspirational message of Pastor Rod Folias, the pastor of the Feliciano church. In his message he encouraged us to be like Joshua and to be faithful in the faithfulness of the Lord.

At the close of the day during a very informative BBQ and quizzing time. The participants received not only foodstuffs for Christmas but also for the local Filipino church.

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Queens sends card to sixty-year Valentines
V

erley and Elmer Valentine, very much-loved and respected members of the Stoke Newington church, have celebrated their diamond wedding, joining in the celebrations were their numerous family members, some coming from as far away as Jamaica, Canada and the USA, as well as friends and members. A special church service was conducted by our minister Dr Richard De Lisser, assisted by Pastors Stephen McKechnie, Richard Holder and Roderick Thomas. A reception followed at the John Loughborough School Hall.

Pastor C. R. Beng, BUC president, and Pastor Don McFarlane, SEC president, were present, and special musical items were provided by Brothers Foster, Espejt, Stuart and Corea.

The Valentines (nee Wong), 81, and Verley, 83, were married in Jamaica in 1942 and emigrated to England in the 1960s. Verley worked as a skilled tradesman while Elmer stayed at home to raise her family of eight children.

During their active years, Verley was first elder in our church, while Elmer was head deaconess.

Pastor Perry said that the love which the couple maintained over the years was unique and a manifestation of God’s love. He also said their relationship was very even more remarkable against the background of today’s high incidence of broken marriages and unfulfilled relationships.

The couple received a congratulatory card from the Jamaican High Commissioner and a card from the Queen, which read: “I am so pleased to know that you are celebrating your diamond anniversary. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion.’

I know that you are celebrating your diamond wedding anniversary. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion.’

The Valentines said that the key factor to their long relationship was love, trust, patience and, above all, faith in God. They said they were very grateful for the time God had granted them together. They had always viewed their marriage as being for life.

They have also been blessed with forty-six grandchildren and fifty-seven great-grandchildren.

The Valentines’ story graced the whole of the front page of the Weekly Guardian (the top Caribbean newspaper) and featured in other weeklies, The Hackney Gazette, The New Nation and The Voice among them.

Halford couple Mansel and Doreen (jones, who met at Newbold Revel sixty years ago, have just celebrated their diamond wedding.

Mansel, 85, is a prominent Welsh figure in West Yorkshire. He was born and grew up in Aberdare, working as a coal miner between the ages of 34 and 40. Later Pastor Leslie Hardinge introduced him to the Adventist Message and Pastor Mansel went to prepare the ground for ministry. At Newbold Revel he fell in love with the principal’s secretary, Doreen, and they married in Rugby. The Joneses settled down in Huddersfield. Doreen, 82, is a Yorkshire girl. There Mansel built up a horticultural business, becoming an expert nurseriman.

For over half a century Mansel was elder of the Huddersfield Seventh-day Adventist congregation. In the Adventist church, and in the communities of West Yorkshire, Mansel became well known as a public speaker. For many years he was a regular figure at church youth camps, including those at Aberdare. For ten years Mansel organised an annual Cyanila Gans (Welsh-style hymn-singing festival), typically attended by members of more than a dozen Adventist congregations.

Doreen and Mansel have a daughter, Maralyn, and a son, Faye, who organised a family party for their parents’ diamond wedding at a Huddersfield restaurant. Mansel (jones has never retired, not completely anyway. At 80 he sold his business, and since then he has worked the gardens and greenhouses of a local businessman.

Mansel and Doreen are committed to the adventist health message and to the churches of Ellen G. White. For many years they have counted the majority of church leaders in the British Isles among their friends. They still have a great love for Adventist young people.
From Sunday 10 to Wednesday 13 February over 370 ministers, Bible workers, guest speakers and special visitors attended the Workers’ Meetings of the British Union Conference in Swanwick, near Derby. The theme for the meeting was ‘LIFEdevelopment.info,’ a new evangelistic strategy on a strong emphasis on reaching people from a secular background rather than those who already have some knowledge of Christianity.

The Workers’ meetings were organised by the British Union Conference’s Workers’ meetings director Pastor Alan Hodges, who is also Executive secretary of LIFEdevelopment.info. ‘It is important that our organisation meets regularly for our workers, said Pastor Hodges. ‘Many of them are fairly isolated in their districts and having fellowship with other ministers can be very helpful in their ministry. It is also good for Church leaders to be able to discuss new ideas with all our workers at the same time, and this was why we chose these meetings to launch LIFEdevelopment.info. This is a new evangelistic strategy which we are planning to launch to the public in October this year, said, that we will launch it within our own worker force as soon as possible.

Multi-media package
The opening speaker on Sunday evening was Pastor Minoru Fujii, the executive director of LIFEdevelopment.info. He described the concept as a long-term process, not a single event. It represents a paradigm shift away from short-term evangelism,” he said. ‘This is not another evangelistic programme, he added, the strategic vision based on building friendships with secular people, it will be an ongoing process with not only the full commitment of church members, but also of pastors and church administrators. If we can’t meet people in their terms, where they are, we won’t be able to minister for Jesus Christ.

The guest devotional speaker for the meetings was Pastor Dwight Nelson, who has served as the pastor of the Ridgeview Memorial church in Michigan for the last nineteen years and was the speaker for the Nineteen Nineties, ‘LIFEdevelopment.info’ will present more issues directly related to stressors and challenges that pastors face, Dwight also spoke about the LIFEdevelopment.info theme. In his opening message he told the story of a man who lost his car keys and then all his friends to help him look for them. After a time of fruitless searching one of the friends asked him if they were looking in the right place. ‘This isn’t exactly where they lost it,’ the man replied, but the light is better over here. ‘This illustrates the theme for Dwight’s subsequent presentations and he ended up his understanding of LIFEdevelopment.info. ‘For too long we have been seeking the lost in the wrong places,’ he said. Referring to Adventist theology and biblical understanding he continued, ‘the light may be better where we as Adventists are standing, but we’re not likely to find many lost people there.’

Driven by experience
As a further refinement to this new challenge to Adventists, Dwight spoke of the different attitudes shared by secular people today. ‘Secular people are driven by experience rather than knowledge,’ he said. ‘A secular person coming to your church will need to be present before he will believe. ‘The theme ‘belonging before believing’ was taken up by a number of speakers and became the main catchphrase of the meetings.

On Monday the structure of the meetings was addressed by BUC treasurer Dr. Stew Harty, director of the ‘Faith for Life’ television programme, again presented by Pastor Gifford Rhame who produce further materials dealing with the subject of baptism. The final two sessions deal with Christian life, growth, and service.

Cell groups
A key element in LIFEdevelopment.info is the formation of small groups, or cell groups, throughout the British Union Conference. BUC Personal Ministries director Pastor David Cox is currently presenting this concept and a number of prototype groups have already started. During his presentation on Monday afternoon Pastor Cox spoke of the various types of cell groups that can form in a church. ‘You can have special interest groups, prayer groups, Bible study groups, or Bible reading groups, he said. ‘the most effective type of group is what we call the “holistic cell” group. These core groups which are evangelistic in nature and are the ones which have the real potential to make the church grow. Pastor Cox went on to say that he would like to see 1,000 cell groups formed in the territory of the British Union Conference over the next year and a half.

Pastor Peter Rammfield, Ministerial Association director of the TED, followed up on the cell group concept by talking about the new models for ‘church’ which are beginning to develop across the Division, Drop-in Centres, Better Living Centres, Community Centres, and Café churches, are all examples of different approaches which can be taken in the attempt to meet people where they are. Pastor Rammfield particularly highlighted the work of the Cottage Back café church which has been started by Pastor Bryan and Mrs Jocie Webster in Southport. ‘These café churches may not have any religion preached from the front,’ he said, ‘but there is a lot of spiritually happening around the tables.’ According to Pastor Rammfield, these churches have a number of qualities that appeal to secular people today, ‘they allow you to “come as you are”, they are non-threatening, they have a relaxed rather than a formal atmosphere, and they provide that one resource which is indispensable to social interaction today, food.

Stew Harty, director of the ‘Faith for Life’ television programme, went into some detail about how Dwight Nelson’s satellite television series would be produced in 2003. He also answered some of the questions raised concerning the method of receiving the broadcasts. While the receivers already set up in many Adventist churches for NET’98 will be able to download the broadcasts, many hoped that the programmes could also be included on a ‘free to air’ satellite channel.

Finance matters
The issue of LIFEdevelopment.info finances was addressed by BUC treasurer Dr. Stew Harty. The workers present spoke of the evangelistic projects that their churches were already involved in and some expressed concern that the money being put into LIFEdevelopment.info would detract from the good work currently taking place. Continued on page 10

The Indispensable Cell
by Pastor David Cox, Church Growth director, BUC

It’s a fact of life – wherever there is life, there are living cells. The cell is the basic building block of living things throughout the natural world. We grow and function only because of the growth and function of the millions of cells of which we are made. And, apparently, the Creator intends that the cell should be as important in the growth and function in the body of Christ – the Church. Consider the importance given to the cell or small group on the following three occasions:

1. The Exodus. Just after the Exodus from Egypt, Moses implemented an inspired plan by which the vast multitude of Israelites – as many as two million souls – could be organised and given a new sense of identity by being formed into small units of no more than ten people (see Exodus 18).

2. The First Advent. Jesus attracted many disciples, but after a night of prayer He chose just twelve from among them. He formed His own small group of ordinary men to share an extraordinary relationship with Him and with one another (Luke 6:12-13). Rather than desiring this time to preaching to large crowds, He concentrated on teaching the twelve – modelling the values of the kingdom of God, preparing them for service, and building a sense of intimate community. After His ascension, the small group or cell became the basic organisational unit of the young church, meeting daily in the homes of believers. It was this cell structure which facilitated the explosive growth of the church recorded in the book of Acts.

3. The Second Advent. As we prepare for the return of Jesus, the blueprint for completing the Gospel commission and experiencing the new community of the Kingdom of God could not be more clear. The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err: Evangelism, page 115.

LIFEdevelopment.info is an ambitious plan for the growth of the Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The city is indispensable to its success, as it will have the building of God’s Kingdom on Earth until Jesus comes. Holistic small groups, in which members are committed to growing in their relationship with God and each other, and to sharing what they have with others, are multiplying throughout the British Union Conference. If you are not already part of one, plan to get involved.

And watch for small group training events: perhaps God is calling you to start your own indispensable cell.
evangelism within a church. 'You can tell when you have a revitalised church however,' he said, 'because you will see it planting new churches.'

'Contageous Christians'

Graham Paris, a guest speaker representing the Willow Creek organisation, spoke about the 'Becoming a Contageous Christian' materials which have been sent to every minister in the British Union Conference. His presentation included several videos, one of which was entitled 'Lessons from Geese'. This four-minute video emphasised the benefits of teamwork, the extra effort required when you try to 'go it alone', and the benefits of honking to encourage the goose in front.

Victor was able to confirm that LIFEdevelopment.info was not something that would stop all other forms of evangelism, but it was a project which could bring focus and direction to those churches which were still exploring their approach to evangelism. Regarding the quantity of money which would be spent on LIFEdevelopment.info he said, 'I'm not too worried about the money. It's when we start thinking that we can't do big things that the problems start.' He went on to speak of the faithfulness of members in giving for evangelistic work and the large amount of money which has been raised from the Government through the Gift Aid scheme.

Pastor Martin Vukmanic, Union Evangelist in Sweden, spoke on the subject of 'Revitalising churches' and stated, 'I am tired of the problems of new churches, as he has done many times before, that there is no magic bullet when it comes to revitalising and reviving a spirit of evangelism within a church. 'You can tell when you have a revitalised church however,' he said, 'because you will see it planting new churches.'

Although the launch of LIFEdevelopment.info was the main theme for the Workers' Meetings there were a number of presentations on other topics designed to assist and support the ministers in their work. BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry spoke on the subject of Ministerial Ethics, drawing many lessons from his wide experience over the years. BUC Executive secretary Pastor Eric Lowe presented, and took questions on the ‘Keeping Our Church Family Safe’ document, which provides guidelines particularly in the area of child safety. ADRA-UK director Mr Raafat Kamal gave a presentation on Ingathering and answered several questions relating to the change from World-Wide Advent Missions to ADRA-UK, and BUC Education director Mr Keith Davidson gave a report on the latest developments in our schools where over 1,100 children are currently being educated.

Undoubtedly the most entertaining speaker during the three-day Workers’ Meetings was Pastor Denys Baildam, a former departmental director at the BUC, who is now retired. He spoke on the subject of retirement and, reading from a meticulously crafted script, dealt with some serious issues while still managing to keep his audience laughing.

The uniqueness of LIFEdevelopment.info is that there is no one set way to work. Everything is customised to each individual member. Also each person can participate in their own time, place and at their own speed.

What is LIFEdevelopment.info?

A strategic vision to involve Adventists

> In building lasting friendships with secular people
> To help them in the process of leading people to Jesus Christ
> To support them with a multi-media package

Why LIFEdevelopment.info?

> Evangelism is a long-term process, not a single event. This concept of life-time evangelism represents a paradigm shift away from the short-term evangelism we have done in the past.
> Enables every member of the church to be involved in real evangelistic witness. This requires an actual strategy and structure for a familiar concept – every member a minister – to be a reality.

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One word of encouragement,’ said Mr Paris, ‘can keep me going all day.’

Reactions from those attending the meetings were varied. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, the opportunity to meet with friends not seen for a long time, and the chance to make friends with those not met before. Almost all of those who were asked to comment about LIFEdevelopment.info recognised that there would be challenges in its implementation. However, all were convinced of the underlying strategy that it is time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to begin focusing on reaching the secular, post-modern, non-Christian people who now make up the vast majority of our populations in Western Europe.

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Credit Union members visit Cuba

Dr. E. L. Henry

On 9 December the London Adventist Credit Union (LACU) celebrated another year of varied successes at its Annual General Meeting, convened at The John Loughborough School, where over a thousand young people were in attendance. The worship service was vibrant, interspersed with visits of Dr. Ellis Guthrie, who made the plan of salvation at Simon Bell’s baptism on 19 December, with the power of technology, the proceedings in the pool, his daughter Pat was the first

\[ \text{Credit Union treasurer} \]

\[ \text{Pastor Ellis Guthrie: baptism of candidates.} \]

1. Salvation through sacrifice

Two brothers shared a passion for painting. Their poor financial situation kept them from pursuing their dreams, so they came up with a plan to help them achieve their goal. They decided that one of them would work in order to support the other’s passion for art and then, after things had settled down, they would change around. The first worked very hard to support the other but, by the time his brother made his final breakthrough, years of hard labour had left his hands calloused and unfit for the fine brushwork required in painting. He sacrificed his life so that his brother could live his life to its fullest.

With this illustration, Pastor Alan explained the plan of salvation at Simon Bell’s baptism on 19 January. Friends, family, and members at the Worchester church shared in Sue’s and Simon’s happiness.

Sue said she was an Adventist church, but became disillusioned and left as a teenager. Several years later her wife Sue became interested. This proved an encouragement to Simon. They were given copies of the NET 1984 version series, hosted by Dwight Nelso. This inspired them to join the fold. They are currently worshipping at Worchester, where the congregation is overseen by Simon’s decision.

- "Helping children near and far\[ \text{helping children near and far.} \]

During recent years the Loughborough School, which culminated in an enjoyable banquet and presentation of awards. The school choir, under the leadership of C. A. C. Ellis, in his report that success can only be realised if hurdles are cleared. He said, 'Fire and water can be both destructive and constructive at the same time that burns and destroys and purifies. It is the material that goes into the fire that determines the outcome. It is the same water that flows - wills - that also sustains life. Life or death depend on how we use the water.'

One year later the Bank of England has re-

\[ \text{Fixed rate in the UK.} \]

\[ \text{Sea level rise at 7%.} \]

\[ \text{Sabbath, where over a thousand young people were in attendance.} \]

\[ \text{Baptist Calmness and Builder's dollar} \]

\[ \text{focussed on the characteristics of Christ.} \]

\[ \text{They are able to take part} \]

\[ \text{keeping your feet on the ground and confirmation in addition to the} \]

\[ \text{to the LACU from} \]

\[ \text{needed to build their nest} \]

\[ \text{and} \]

\[ \text{In honour of Brother Lewis, a mem-} \]

\[ \text{the change of the new president, and to} \]

\[ \text{the board of the LACU.} \]

\[ \text{This included how and why the} \]

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Obituaries

Robert Neale, with his wife Marilyn and Morris Franci, were at the brink of a truce, but in December 1962, complications set in. Robert Neale died on 31 March 1963, leaving behind his wife and three children. The family was devastated by his loss, but they found solace in the memories they shared together.

Mary Young died in 1964, leaving behind her husband and two children. Her passing was mourned by her family and friends, who remembered her warmth and kindness.

Please, no more ‘crusades’

The title itself is provocative, drawing the reader in with its implication of a call to action. The text that follows is a call for reason and a plea for a more peaceful approach to religious and cultural differences. The writer, an advocate for interfaith understanding, argues that the term ‘crusades’ is a misnomer and a slur on the history of Christian-Muslim relations.

Activities at The Dell

On Sunday 5 November The Dell held a service in the church hall. During the service, various activities were conducted, including a craft fair, a concert, and a lecture on the history of the church. The service was well attended, with many people coming to share in the event.

Verona Machell

A couple of years ago, Verona Machell was visited by a group of Pathfinders who were conducting a camp meeting. They were kind enough to invite her to a social gathering, and she was delighted to accept. The pathfinder's music and entertainment, along with the warm welcome, made her feel very much at home. She was especially impressed by the enthusiasm of the pathfinder players, and she was glad to see them supported by so many guests.

Obituaries

Elizabeth Phillips – 7 November 1991

Elizabeth Phillips was a dedicated member of the church, and she served in various capacities throughout her life. She was a tireless worker, and her contributions were invaluable to the church. Upon her passing, the church was left with a void, and her absence was deeply felt.

Sister Stoodley

Sister Stoodley was a beloved member of the church, and she was always willing to lend a helping hand. She was known for her kindness and her generosity, and she was always ready to lend a listening ear. Upon her passing, the church was left with a void, and her absence was deeply felt.

Olive Paston

Olive Paston was a long-time member of the church, and she was known for her dedication and her commitment to the church. She was a faithful member, and her contributions were invaluable to the church. Upon her passing, the church was left with a void, and her absence was deeply felt.

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Issues

Adventist missionaries have long tried to warn us about this term. ‘The word ‘crusade’ carries with it a floating, misleading and aggressive connotation, using military and political might, bent on dominating or eliminating Islam and Muslim governments,’ notes Dr. Jerald Hughes, in his book, ‘Adventist Missionary.’ To use the term ‘crusade’ to mean the preaching of the gospel is misleading, according to Hughes, and it may lead to negative perceptions of the Adventist Church.

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International News

Self-help Primary Schools - Eyoka, South Sudan. Seventh day Adventist self-help primary schools run by local churches have been potential centres of evangelism in the South Sudan Field, according to Clement Arkanpe, principal of the Eyoka Adventist Vocational Academy, South Sudan. All these schools the pupils not only learn how to read and write, but they also learn about Christ, the Author of life and true education, he says. 'This approach has led many pupils to make a decision for Christ. Parents are also encouraged by the new lifestyle of their children.'

Although most are built with rudimentary materials, and some operate under trees, these primary schools have been running since the early 1990s. With the steady growth of the churches, the need for a Christian education has become an unavoidable need of every local church. The challenges of developing these primary schools have been many.

On朱de Worthing, education director for TED, whose auspices South Sudan belongs, recognises the importance of these self-help schools and reports that 'plans are being laid to enhance the professional performances of the teachers involved so that the maximum possible be achieved for God and for the children of this war-torn area.'

When the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in South Sudan was established in 1994, the primary schools were benefitted from the school materials that ADRA distributes to community-based primary schools.

As school materials became available, teaching at the self-help primary schools improved. Some of these primary schools now rank among the top primary schools in South Sudan, according to Arkanpe. 'This is not because these schools have good infrastructures, but rather it is because the Christian atmosphere results in good teaching.'

Lectures on Islam at Newbold – Eyora, South Sudan. Professor in Islamics, returned to teach in the Vocational Academy, South Sudan. 'At these lectures series he delivered an evening lecture open to a wide audience entitled for tin Ladaa a good Muslim.' This was the first in a series of lectures that will be delivered under the umbrella of the Diploma in Islam Studies programme.

After a brief review of Islamic beliefs and practices, Schantz focused on specific elements that 'could appeal to an extreme fundamental' – referring to individuals such as tin Ladaa and those involved in Taliban.

Adventist health professionals meet – Zlatibor, Serbia. About 50 Adventist health care professionals and church administrators from throughout South-East Europe met together from 1–3 February at the church campsite in Zlatibor, Serbia, for lectures on health, discussions of mutual concerns, and about sharing their faith in their workplace.

The gathering was organized by Dr Zorica Pavlovic, Health Ministries director of the Adventist Church in the South-East European Union Conference who introduced two new programmes that she plans to be used in the SEEUC – Eight Weeks to Wellness and a new anti-smoking programme that has already been translated into Serbian. Pastor Paul R. Cine, Health Ministries director for the TED, was guest speaker on the opening evening and spoke on the theme of 'Maintaining a closer relationship with God.'

Ugandan Government responds to pleas of Sabbath-keepers – Kampala, Uganda. Election officials in Uganda relaxed a national election following a public protest by local leaders of the Adventist Church. Originally set for Saturday, 16 February, the election was brought forward to 14 February. The change of date headed off plans by Adventists in Uganda to hold a peaceful street demonstration to draw public attention to their plight.

People of faith should not be excluded from public life simply because government agencies fail to accommodate religious practices, such as Sabbath-keeping, said Adventist leaders at a press conference.

A peaceful protest would tell the world that we are being marginalised as a church and as a people, says John John, president of the Church in Uganda. He explains that Adventists encounter problems not only at the polls, but in other aspects of public life as well. As far back as 1999, our students in government institutions of higher learning have had the same problem, with examinations and lectures scheduled on Sabbath. We have repeatedly appealed to the government and to heads of these institutions to accommodate our students, but to no avail.

This most recent incident has generated widespread support for Sabbath-keepers within Uganda's faith community, says Mansi. Following the extensive media coverage of the Adventist protest, ‘many people, including Catholics, Anglicans, and even Muslims, rang our office (and said) they would march with us if we announced the day and time for them to assemble.'

Adventist television series captures public attention – New Saul, Serbia. An estimated 1 million homes tuned in to view a series of programmes produced by the Adventist Church in Serbia and broadcast by fourteen cable television stations.

Radusa Antic, president of the Church in the South-East European region, presented the 18 programme series entitled ‘The World of Love, Truth and Jesus Christ.' The series was recorded in the new New Saul church and was broadcast six evenings each week during prime time.

The time has come when we can use the electronic media to preach about Jesus Christ our Saviour to millions and millions of people, said Antic. When this opportunity came our way we didn't want to miss it, and so we came together as a team of forty people, put the structure together, and asked the Lord to bless. A miracle took place and, once again, the Scripture is right when it says that ‘All God's all things are possible.'

During the three-week broadcast period, thousands of people phoned in to chat about issues relating to the programme, say organizers. Thousands more logged on to the website, www.adventistministries.org for more information and sermon summaries.

According to Miodrag Zivanovic, director of the church's regional Bible Correspondence school, more than 750 people have enrolled in Bible study courses, with the number still increasing.

New HIV/AIDS programme – Mosi River, South Africa. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency has started a new HIV/AIDS programme in the town of Mosi River in Mzuri's Nala Primary, South Africa. The multi-faceted, three-year pro-

programme focuses on prevention strategies, support groups, economic development activities, and home-based care for those suffering from AIDS.

Mosi River was chosen because an estimated one third of its 22,500 residents have HIV/AIDS. The town, located along a toll road, has few income-generation opportunities for women with education, and prostitution has flourished. The South African government built a large number of houses as one way to alleviate poverty, but the number of people who have moved from AIDS has drastically shortened the waiting list.

HIV/AIDS prevention is a key component of the new programme and youth are encouraged to talk with each other about changing their behaviour and taking serious responsibility for their actions. An economic development programme offers women an alternative to prostitution as a way of earning an income.

A support group will help people cope with the suffering of family members or friends. The last phase to be implemented will be home-based care of those with advanced AIDS.