

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

# Messenger

## LIFEdvelopment.info

# What could it mean for a local church?

by Pastors Alan Hodges and John Surridge

### Get connected

By now most churches have heard at least something about LIFEdvelopment.info. It is a new initiative which the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland is adopting in order to take the Gospel more effectively to our secular friends and neighbours. Of course, how effective it is depends on you, and your local church.

The first part of the LIFEdvelopment.info approach (pronounced 'life development dot info', by the way) is called 'Get Connected' and the motto we've suggested is: 'Make a Friend – Change a Life'. Not surprisingly the idea is to make friends with secular people, because making friends is the very best way of witnessing.

### Dwight Nelson

When we look back at the NET '98 programmes we can see very clearly that they were most successful in introducing people to Jesus Christ when those people were brought along to the meetings by their friends. Next year Pastor Dwight Nelson will be broadcasting another series of programmes and we want to make sure that as many friends as possible can come to see them.

OK, so we probably all agree with this general idea, but how do we turn it into a reality? One thing we do know from the Net '98 experience is that if lots of people get behind a single project the results are much greater than if everyone does different things. There may be other good strategies for evangelism but, like the Church name and logo, if we all try to promote the same one and do it consistently, we will be far more effective in the long run.

### Schedule of events

Below is a schedule of how we hope things will progress over the next year:

- **NOW – Church Board discusses LIFEdvelopment.info**  
Each church looks at the possibilities of setting up small groups, which will be open and friendly to secular people. They may also like to consider

whether or not they could start a church plant, where the mother church sends a core group of people out to establish a new church. Perhaps the church can set up a Life Development Centre. This could be the church hall or another building, but the idea would be to have a place where people, Adventists and others, could socialise around a meal and talk about the issues of life. Whatever route the local church decides to take they should appoint a LIFEdvelopment.info co-ordinator, and maybe even a committee, to take the strategy on.

- **MAY 2002 – LIFEdvelopment.info co-ordinators talk together**  
It's still early days in LIFEdvelopment.info and some of the best ideas and approaches have probably not surfaced yet. During May there will be district and regional meetings to which all the local LIFEdvelopment.info co-ordinators will be invited. Here they will be able to share their own ideas and also get a good understanding of what is being done in their area and further afield. Soon after these meetings the local LIFEdvelopment.info co-ordinators will use what they have learnt, along with the LIFEdvelopment.info materials, to present the ideas and strategy to their local church members.
- **25 MAY 2002 – A Union-wide 'Day of LIFEdvelopment.info'**  
A special Sabbath dedicated to the principles of LIFEdvelopment.info. A suggested programme outline for the day will be sent to pastors and elders, along with a video. The purpose of the day is to have a special time of prayer and commitment for the project.
- **JUNE 2002 – 'Becoming a contagious Adventist' seminars**  
Your pastor has already received a pack of materials entitled 'Becoming a Contagious Christian'. No matter which materials are used, these seminars

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Discover a better friendship in Christ - Make new friends - Experience the joy of sharing your Good Friend with your new friends . . .

**Get Connected**  
Contact your LIFEdvelopment co-ordinator in your church or contact us directly:

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### What could it mean for a local church?

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will be designed to equip believers for effective evangelism in today's world. Seminars may be run in different ways: four sessions of two hours each, eight one-hour sessions, or over a weekend, for example.

Pastor Dwight Nelson's 'Becoming a contagious Adventist' materials, which include a number of online sermons and study guides, can be downloaded from the Pioneer Memorial Church website at: [www.pmchurch.org/reaching/contagious.html](http://www.pmchurch.org/reaching/contagious.html).

#### ● SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER – Further LIFEdevelopment.info training

We hope to have a number of these training seminars around the country. They will be structured in such a way as to help members develop their own skills in making lasting friendships with secular individuals. For the more adventurous there will also be specialist seminars in how to organise and

run different types of small groups, café churches and LIFEdevelopment centres.

#### ● AND THEN?

Once your church gets a small group, a café church, or a LIFEdevelopment centre organised, it needs to be registered. This will make sure that your local work becomes part of the wider strategy of LIFEdevelopment.info and thereby benefits other churches as well as drawing on the experiences of others. This can be done by writing to Pastor Alan Hodges at: [LIFEdevelopment.info](mailto:LIFEdevelopment.info), Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ, or by sending him an email at: [ahodges@adventist.org.uk](mailto:ahodges@adventist.org.uk). Alternatively, you can phone him on 01923 672251.

Once you have registered, your group will be listed on the LIFEdevelopment.info website, and will become part of the network. The group will also receive regular LIFEdevelopment bulletins with information on resource materials, events, news, and stories from the LIFEdevelopment group network.

There is no doubt that LIFEdevelopment.info is going to be one of the most important evangelistic strategies ever embarked upon by the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. With your help it will be a major tool in God's hands for reaching his lost children.

## Dr Leslie Hardinge dies

On 14 March Dr Leslie Hardinge died at the Simi Valley Hospital in California, aged 89. Dr Hardinge was a distinguished author, teacher and pastor. He graduated in 1933 and, in the early years of his ministry, did pioneering work in Torquay, Exeter and Edinburgh. He was a prime mover in the acquisition of the Edinburgh church and saw its potential for evangelism in the university district of the city. His woodworking skills were evident in the Torquay and Edinburgh churches and in Salisbury Hall, Newbold College.

Dr Hardinge was an excellent teacher at Newbold. SPCK published his book *The Celtic Church in Britain*, which continues to be regarded as an authoritative work in the area of Celtic Christianity.

Dr Hardinge served as a Bible teacher and college president in the Far East. He is remembered with great affection in the Far Eastern Division and by the older generation in Britain. A full obituary will appear in a future issue.

EDITOR



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# His mother's translation

'Please do not tell me anything more about God. I know all about him already.' These were the words of 9-year-old Princess Elizabeth – for the last fifty years, Queen Elizabeth II – to Archbishop of Canterbury Cosmo Lang.<sup>1</sup> And some Adventists have a little in common with the precocious princess.

Charles Swindoll once heard four scholars talking about their favourite Bible versions.

One said: 'The *King James* is the best. No version can compete with its beautiful, poetic language.'

The second said: 'Granted the KJV has beautiful language. But I like *The New American Standard Bible*. It is the most accurate version because it is the most literal translation.'

The third said: 'I prefer *The New Revised Standard Version*. It is not only scholarly, it is gender inclusive: women are included in the language as well as men.'

The fourth said: 'My favourite translation is my mother's.' *His mother's?* I mean, what was he talking about?

Everybody laughed at him! When the laughter died down, someone got a grip and said, 'What on earth do you mean, *your mother's?*'

'Just this,' said the fourth scholar, 'My mother used to translate the Bible into her life. That's the best translation I ever saw. She lived it.'

Here and now let me say, I'm with the fourth scholar!

Many of us are like the 9-year-old princess. We think we know 'all about God', *but do we experience him?* We may have a lot to say in the Sabbath School class, have a working knowledge of the proof-text schema for every doctrine, know all the answers in the Bible quiz, make free with the reasons why our favourite version is best – but what about his mother's translation? That is the acid test. *How does the Bible translate into your life?* I don't want to wear out this expression, but here it comes again: We know how to talk the talk, but do we know how to walk the walk?

A friend of mine used to say, 'If you want to know who behaves the worst, look for who sings the loudest!' Now since she said that I noticed some notable exceptions! I think that what she meant to say was, 'The ones who are making the most noise may be the very ones who are not living up to their profession.' Shakespeare had the same idea in 'Methinks he protesteth too much'; as did Jesus in 'Not everyone who shouts, "Lord, Lord" will make it into the Kingdom of Heaven.' The strictures of Jesus against the Pharisees, including Matthew 23, were against the people who did a lot of shouting (talked the talk) but did not live up to their profession (failed to walk the walk).

"How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn him into twice the son of hell as you yourselves are." Matthew 23:15, New Living Translation. That's tough talkin' in anybody's language!

We talk a lot about the time of trouble and view it exclusively in apocalyptic terms. But sooner or later each one of us, individually, faces times of trouble. And they test our Christian metal. Pity help those who do not already have an experience of God and his Word – *his mother's translation* – for they will be like the man who built his mansion on sand instead of granite.

You really knew that Ginger disapproved of something when he said, 'Tain't Christian!' There are a number of things that 'Ain't Christian' about the church community: \* Aware of the sinful failings in their own lives, there are people who, instead of tackling them with God's help, focus instead on the more conspicuous failings of others. It's called gossip. 'Tain't Christian, but it happens. \* Aware of the failure of their pet outreach ideas, there are people who, instead of stopping for a rethink, spit venom at the up-and-running ideas of others. 'Tain't Christian! When we have a failsafe method of soulwinning, there will be such an influx into the Church that there will be no time for carping. \* Unaware that the personal insecurities and neuroses that prevent them from running their own lives successfully arise from unresolved issues from childhood, there are many people who form cosy *cosa nostras* to enable them to run congregations (maybe even conference sessions!). 'Tain't Christian, as Ginger would say.

It is in facing the issues and crises of life that we demonstrate to those around us how firm is our foundation. Unless our lives are foundationed on Christ, unless our theology becomes life, unless the translation we present to the world is our own (the Word lived out in our lives) – then in no meaningful sense can we be described as Christian. A set of standards and legalistic requirements will not work any better for us than it did for the Pharisees. Why? Because we apply them to other people, not to ourselves. The Gospel is not standards, 'It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.' (Rom. 1:16, KJV). Knowing about God – even *all about God!* – won't do. We need to *experience* God and live God's Gospel. That way 'the only Gospel that some men will read: the gospel according to you' will be authentic and winsome.

<sup>1</sup> Ben Pimlott, *The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II* (Harper Collins, 1997), pages 31, 32.

## Up and Down Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The over 22 million antidepressant prescriptions issued annually in the UK are now costing the NHS £310 million. With the similar high-rate and cost of drugs being offered in most Western countries, clinical scientists are questioning the efficacy of such treatments.

'Six or seven in every ten depressed people will get better on antidepressants within six to eight weeks, if they take them regularly,' says the Royal College of Psychiatry (RCP). Other authorities disagree. University of Nevada's professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences, David Antonuccio, says: 'I don't think the data support antidepressants as a first choice treatment.' Against the backdrop of these opposing views the *Consumer Association* has launched its own investigation into the effectiveness or otherwise of antidepressant drugs. Concerns have been raised about the validity of the clinical trials for a variety of drugs since there is good evidence that drug companies are very selective with the material they publish, so the drugs may not be all that they are hyped up to be.

Other concerns are focused on the likelihood of dependence and/or an increased suicide risk. The RCP state that if the drugs are used as recommended people do not become addicted. What is not always clear is whether the symptoms experienced when the drug course ends are withdrawal symptoms or a recurrence of the original problem. One drug company believes that withdrawal reactions are rare, occurring in only two cases per 1,000 patients.

As far as a tendency to suicide is concerned, again the situation is unclear. It is not known whether or not patients kill themselves as a result of taking the tablets or because of the underlying depression which led to the drugs being prescribed. The *Health Which?* reviewer, David Healy, writes that data from a number of trials leads one to conclude 'that in all probability there is a direct link between antidepressant therapies and suicide induction'. However, like the dependency rate, actual suicide is not a common occurrence.

Prozac, hailed as the new antidepressant

wonder-drug, has not turned out to be as effective as at first thought. What beneficial effect it has can be gained naturally by using foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids. These include nuts, seeds, and legumes, as well as the publicised fish-oils.

There is no stigma in getting professional help when we are depressed: it helps to talk things through. As Dr W. Blair Stewart said to his junior colleagues in 1901: 'Ten minutes quiet conversation will do much to relieve the worry, excitement, morbid fears and ideas of mental depression'; and we should not stop taking prescribed medications without talking it over with the prescriber. We all have our ups and downs but as with other aspects of health, all that we can do to prevent illness should be done, and we can talk problems over with the Great Physician.



## Headquarters church hosts Women's Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer took place on 1 March and, in Watford, it was the turn of Stanborough Park church to play host, affording an excellent opportunity for our members to reach out and make friends with Christians visiting from other denominations.

Over a dozen churches were represented on the local committee for this international event.

The service was written by the women of Romania on the theme of 'Reconciliation'. Two 'leaders', one of whom was Mrs Anne Pilmoor – the headmistress of Stanborough Primary School – directed the programme. Readers, called 'voices' consisted of seventeen other women and a few children. The children were part of a choir from the primary school. With Mrs Frida Peake conducting, they sang

'Sometimes I wonder'. The chorus: 'Sadness will turn to laughter; mourning will turn to dancing and our tears will be wiped away' made the song very appropriate to the occasion.

The address was by Mrs Audrey Balderstone. Starting from scratch, Audrey built a large flower arrangement. As she placed leaves and flowers in position, she spoke on the chosen theme. Lilies represented the purity of Christ; blood-red roses his sacrifice; flowers of blue, pink and white showed how we can complete the picture by contributing to reconciliation and restoration. Watford MP Claire Ward, and Watford's Mayor Sybil Tuckwood were both present, and with all the readers took flowers forward for Audrey to use.

BRONWEN ATKINSON

The photo by Stanley Maxwell shows Audrey in the final stages of designing her arrangement.



## Adventists given medals

Each year *The Grantham Journal* has its own New Year Honour Awards ceremony held in a local hotel.

Readers are invited to nominate those who have gone beyond what is expected of them, and as one might imagine the nominees come from a variety of interests. Those who care for others feature high on the list.

Two Adventists were nominated this year and were presented with medals by the Editor-in-Chief of the weekly newspaper. They were Rita Ballentine, manager of a local nursing home, and Mary Brook, originally from Bradford, a Lollipop lady who has won the respect and affection of the children, parents and staff of a school in the town over the last ten years. The recognition coincided with her retirement and she was presented a week later with a CD especially recorded by the School.

Rita, who was baptised three years ago by Pastor Mick Smart, first knowingly came into contact with Adventists when she was deputy to Karen Shelbourn who was manager at the time. She started to come to church

when duties allowed and attended the NET '98 programmes.

The editor of the paper made short statements about each recipient at the presentation. He said, 'The words caring, committed, dedicated and love came up again and again when

nominations were being made.'

We wish both the Grantham members the best for the future, Mary as she begins her retirement and Rita as she continues to care for those in need of help, healing and the comforting word.

MIKE COWEN

## Unity in diversity

Commonwealth Day was celebrated in colourful fashion at Stanborough School on Monday 11 March. Pupils representing Member States within the Commonwealth took part in a special assembly, celebrating the occasion by wearing traditional dress and talking about life in their home country.

A few of the pupils from abroad are shown in the picture against a background of national flags whose emblems were explained by the pupils. Stanborough is a multicultural school with boarders from forty-three countries. They believe strongly in the enriching quality of their mini-United Nations.

JEAN HINKS, Secretary



## Salt of the Earth: Yeovil church planting update

by Dana King

Church planting since 1997 has been a roller-coaster ride of hair-raising heights of exhilaration and plunging into the depths of the great unknown. Four years in, and we were at the stage of developing 'community' – involving the parents of our parenting group in a community project that would impact Yeovil and bring us together as a core group. This was a huge challenge as we were all coming from very different backgrounds. During the course of 2001 we saw the birth of Time Out Together, a charitable company that aims to

Mothers' Day kisses.



meet the 'felt needs' of families. A teen club was launched and a parenting newsletter was hot off the press for National Parenting week, to name just two of the endeavours.

We had no idea of the impact that would follow after a year of getting involved in our community – until Christmas. For three Christmases we have enjoyed bringing together all our friends, the parenting group and the clubs, Pathfinders, Adventurers and Explorers (children's branch Sabbath school), along with their parents and friends. There was a turnout of twenty the first year in our home, which greatly increased to 70-80 the following two years. Last year all the children participated in a concert, showing off their talents and reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Parents shared the responsibility of the food as we seconded a friend to be Father Christmas. He arrived with a sack of gifts for the children that he could not even carry! On surveying the crowd we were overwhelmed at the sight of over a hundred people. The hall was abuzz with festive sights and sounds – excited children playing, parents chatting, mince pies and nibbles in abundance, tinsel, twinkling lights. It was at this stage that we realised the result of four years' work, the blessings of service, the privilege of walking among the people and being the salt of the Earth.

February saw our fourth Holiday Club. Thirty-five children eagerly attended 'The Fun Fruit Factory', discovering fruits, cooking up a storm and experiencing puppet fun as they learned about the fruits of the Spirit. Newspaper coverage has been excellent and we have had regular responses right into March.

On 4 March twenty-three Pathfinders and Time Out Teens paid tribute to their mothers by serving a three-course candlelit meal, which they planned and cooked themselves. Sixteen mothers were overcome with joy as their earlites expressed their appreciation.

2002 will continue to be a year of strengthening relationships, lifting the profile of Time Out Together and Yeovil Family church (the church of our vision) and moving into the vital stage of small groups and Christian growth. The greatest challenge is ahead and we realise that our success depends upon our prayers – why not join us on the church planting roller-coaster ride with your prayers for Time Out Together, Yeovil Family church and most of all the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit.

## Ballinacrow baptism

Ballinacrow is a small church about thirty miles south-west of Dublin, set in the idyllic countryside west of Wicklow. On 16 February the members gathered together with a few from Dublin for a very special Sabbath celebration. Kevin Rothwell had returned home to share his baptism with his friends and family.

Kevin and his wife Caroline had travelled home from Liverpool, where Kevin has almost completed his nurses' training. They have looked forward to this day for some time. Kevin placed his life in the hands of God many years ago and is very much a student of the Bible.

The members prepared the church for the service with fresh spring flowers and foliage, and Kevin's father, Ben Rothwell, sang an old favourite gospel melody. In the sermon Douglas McCormac reflected on the life of David and the new life that is experienced with a relationship with Christ. At the close of the service fellowship continued with a more than ample potluck lunch and all those present were able to welcome Kevin personally.

COMMUNICATION SPONSOR

Kevin and Caroline.



Preston church children present *The Owl's Tale*.

## The Owl's Tale

On Sabbath 23 February the children of the Preston church used the afternoon as an opportune time to do something worthwhile within their community. They raised funds for the Derian House Children's Hospice by presenting a programme entitled *The Owl's Tale*. This was a fun way of also sharing the message of God's love which was prominently featured throughout in various forms including beautiful songs, poetry and an acrostic.

The regular congregation were joined by visiting friends who appreciated the dramatised story of *The Owl's Tale* by the various animals on stage. They were one owl (Jasmine Toussaint), a squirrel (Estelle Bryant), a family of robins (Laura Toussaint, Natalie Jeffers and Theodora Weirdu) and a hedgehog (Laura Jeffers). Natasha Strachan set the scene as the narrator. Jesus, who was played by Nathan Strachan, summarised how God expects us to treat our fellow beings.

Bill Adams, a volunteer worker for the Hospice, gave us an insight into the work of Derian House and expressed gratitude for a cheque for £383.77 which, along with the help from other charitable organisations, will help them to meet the financial commitments for the year.

JENNY JEFFERS

## Michael makes his commitment

On 19 January Michael Likupe (15 in March) was baptised at the York church by Pastor Ron Edwards. It was a very happy experience for everyone there. 'The man of the moment' described himself as feeling 'different from what I did before'. He says it 'feels good', and that he 'thinks of God more in everyday life'. He also said that it was easier to stand up for his beliefs in front of his friends – which, with God's help, may mean we see some of them coming to church in the not-so-distant future. Michael wanted to thank everyone for making it such a nice day, with 'special thanks to Pastor Edwards for baptising me'. The members decided to get a *Mission Praise* songbook for him as a present, which has 'good songs that I like in it'. There was a potluck lunch afterwards, with all manner of pizza, rolls, and things that smelled gorgeous, whatever they were! Michael's parents are very proud, but he can't rest on his laurels – the church has voted that he should serve as a deacon for this year.

ANDREW PUCKERING



Pastor R. V. Edwards baptises Michael.

# The trouble with Sabbath school

DAVID SHENFIELD, a member of the Leytonstone church and Woodford Green branch Sabbath school, reports on the different approaches to the Sabbath school and the Sabbath school lessons he observed while visiting a score of churches across North America. He believes there are lessons to be learned.

During the past year I have visited Sabbath schools from Newcastle to San Francisco. I have attended Sabbath schools in four different countries, and have seen some good ideas and also things that threaten the sustainability of Sabbath school.

The problem with some Sabbath school superintendents is that they feel they must organise a programme that ends up looking like divine service. Prayers, hymns and special items should be there to enhance the learning experience, which is best done in the small groups with a Sabbath school teacher. When a good discussion within a class is cut short because all are being called together for a special item, the devil is pleased because deep learning of Scripture truths is not taking place. The best practice is where the Sabbath school breaks into classes and each class is told to close with prayer. Classes are then free to overrun into the break before divine service. I

witnessed this at the Philadelphian church in San Francisco, Edmonton South Alberta and Newcastle. The break between Sabbath school and divine service is essential for various reasons. Questions can be asked of teachers and wise people about the lesson that the questioner is embarrassed about. Muscles can be stretched and fresh air breathed deeply. The mind can be stilled and prepared for worship. Divine service is about worship while Sabbath school is about learning and consolidating that which was learnt during the week's daily lessons.

Not many congregations have the luxury of the adults being able to go to a different room and vacate the sanctuary. In the Berean church, Atlanta, Georgia one teacher is able because of their abundance of classrooms to use Power Point presentations to illustrate his lessons. In the Newcastle church they move into the hall and sit in a large circle. Where you have movable chairs it is best for the class to form a

circle. Whenever I take a Sabbath class I always do this if I can. Looking at the back of someone's head is not conducive to adult learning. We should get away from school day approaches. We are not little children who need spoon feeding.

The role of the teacher is to cover the week's lesson from a different angle from the daily readings. Within the Teacher's Quarterly there are various teaching plans. They are there to be used. To cover the lesson by debating each day starting from the Sabbath afternoon is a task that is rarely completed before time runs out.

Sometimes a church does not have space and this calls for a special style of teaching. Again the person who is addressing the whole Sabbath school should not follow the weekly plan, but teach using one of the teaching plans on offer. This address from the front should be different from a sermon and be interactive with plenty of turning and reading of Bible passages. Mount Pleasant church one Sabbath set up a mock radio station. They broadcast from the backroom to the sanctuary fake news stories and sporting reports. The week's lesson was covered in an inspiring and interesting way.

It is an insult to Sabbath school staff when, on or after breaking into class, the superintendent reminds the teachers to take the register or do some

other task. This action belittles the teachers and I have seen it break their stride and so undermine their teaching. These reminders should be issued beforehand but I feel the asking of what people have done during the week is distracting from the main task and a source of unintentional boasting.

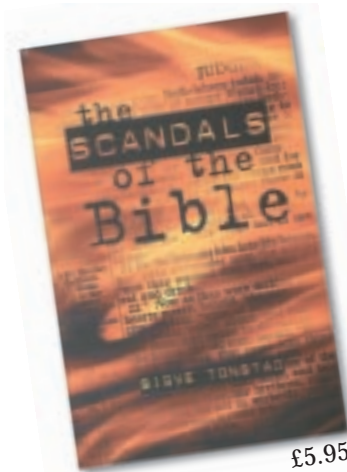
The best Sabbath schools are those that are totally different from divine service. The superintendent should not feel obliged to lay on a programme but only do that which is best done together with the majority of time spent in classes. At Bridgeland church, Calgary, they did come together at the end of Sabbath school but this included the ten-minute spot, which was for Personal Ministries. This I felt was better than the usual situation where Sabbath school finishes and the person giving the ten-minute spot is trying to stop members from getting up while they are eager to use the toilets or get a breath of fresh air. The ten-minute spots should be within the Sabbath school but before the school breaks into classes. The ten-minute spot between Sabbath school and divine service usually starts with the person given the task having to fight for attention and initially not being respected. This scenario helps to destroy the reverence for the Lord that should be building up as the divine hour approaches.

We should not get trapped in tradition and our concepts of roles. We should honour the meaning behind the components of the Sabbath and the key tasks of the roles performed. In a class of experienced Adventists (and long-term Christians new to Adventism) the teacher is more a facilitator, allowing and encouraging the class to find God's truth and not feeding them.

## Valentine's Diamond Wedding

MESSENGER of 8 March carried the report of Verley and Elmer Valentine's Diamond Wedding. Unfortunately, we were unable to include a picture of the happy couple at that time. Now we have a photograph of the Valentines on their big day and, in reproducing it, add our congratulations to those of Her Majesty the Queen and the Stoke Newington church members.

Editor



£5.95

### The Scandals of the Bible Reviewed by Jonathan Gallagher \*

From the gory details of the Levite and his butchered concubine to the suffering of Job (with child sacrifice and demonic persecution on the way), Sigve Tonstad's book *The Scandals of the Bible* might seem to be a hostile criticism of the 'Book of books'.

Not so. What Dr Tonstad (a specialist in internal medicine in Norway) has done is to catalogue masterfully some of the worst stories in the Bible, and explain why they're there. More than that, he takes a clear delight in portraying the God who still works for good despite such truly scandalous events.

In 154 pages not all the problem scenarios can be tackled – like the Flood, the killing of the firstborn in Egypt, or tales such as Tamar's seduction of her father-in-law. Maybe Tonstad will work on a sequel. . . .

An old newspaper ad is equally applicable to the Bible: 'All human life is here!' True enough – yet many still puzzle over the relevance of such scandals in God's holy book. Tonstad has done us a great favour in his helpful analysis of the meaning behind the Bible's scandals, showing God still at work for our salvation even in the worst of times.

Published by Autumn House and available through the ABC. £5.95.

\* Dr Gallagher moved from the Secretariat of the British Union to the General Conference.

### St Austell witness

Each year the St Austell members engage in some charitable event. This year we took on three projects. The first was on Sabbath afternoon 15 December, when our group visited a local home for the elderly and gave them a Christmas concert. The musical talent of our young people enhanced the programme; and a short message from the pastor focused upon the 'Good News'. The residents and staff said afterwards that this concert was the best they had had. Then we visited the town centre, to sing carols and collect for ADRA's appeal.

The following Sabbath morning, 22

December, our Redruth church members joined St Austell for the Christmas Carol Service. This year we decided to give our special offering to the 'Sunrise' appeal. Throughout Cornwall people are donating funds towards a special unit, partly funded by the government, for cancer patients so that they can be treated at the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Trillick in Truro rather than travel each day, or whenever necessary, all the way to Plymouth in the next county. Steve Greaves organised the Carol Service in which everyone participated. We had four people come from the local community; and when the collection was taken the total amount came to £151.73. After the service everyone was invited to stay for the fellowship lunch which we all enjoyed as we sat together around the tables and enjoyed one another's company.

That evening we staged another important charitable event. Our Community Services leader, Enid Coon, had arranged and organised for the St Austell Male Voice Choir to put on a concert. We requested BBC Radio Cornwall to announce the event in their 'What's On' section, stating that Ray Shaddick, one of the local radio celebrities, would be compering the concert. Well, this was what the Choir spokesman had informed us! This was also advertised in the local community with flyers put out a couple of weeks before. However, a few days before the event the choir informed us that Ray Shaddick would not be coming. People from the local community filled our church sanctuary – whether they came thinking they would meet the celebrity or not we are unsure, since no one was heard expressing their disappointment. But this did give us the added opportunity to witness for our faith more directly because we compered the programme ourselves, and wove items of our faith in Jesus as our Saviour and his soon return into the remarks we made.

Representing STAK (St Austell Kitchen), a charitable organisation supported by local churches for feeding the needy in the town, was Mrs Teague who spoke to us about their ministry, and when the collection was taken up she was not only surprised at the generous public response but also delighted to receive a cheque for STAK, presented by our treasurer, Pam Symons, for £215.60. Everyone expressed their delight in and enjoyment of the evening's programme; and the St Austell Male Voice Choir also responded by saying how much they appreciate our church allowing them use of the hall for their weekly practices. Afterwards everyone was invited to go through to the church hall and enjoy 'light refreshments'. This gave us the opportunity to get to know the members of our community and they us. It is part of St Austell's evangelistic 'Vision' project to make better friends with our community in order to prepare the way for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus and his last-day message for everyone.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

MORGAN, Michael Joseph – d. 30 December. Michael Morgan was a good man. Generous, kindly a ready wit and full of faith. He was a man of God. Now he sleeps; his life work is done. He was born on 21 October 1909 in Manchester, Jamaica, one of six brothers and sisters, and a dedicated father to twelve children. In his younger days he was a dashing young farmer providing milk for local dairies. His joy was bareback horse-riding. In 1956 he moved to Trowbridge, Wiltshire, having come via the USA to Britain. As the first Jamaican in Trowbridge he was determined to share his faith and worked hard to build up the local church and care for his wife and family. By his example he impressed his faith with the love and abiding presence of his God. The family moved to Gloucester in 1976 where I first made their acquaintance in the larger active church. He was a literature man at heart and a champion at Ingathering. He was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; when ill health prevented him getting around he talked with passers-by at his garden gate. He died peacefully in Gloucester and the funeral service was conducted there by the writer in the presence of family and many friends. As the service ended we watched some pictures on the screen of our brother in very happy days with his children and grandchildren. He was laid to rest beside his wife in the cemetery in Trowbridge to sleep peacefully until he is called to life everlasting. We extend our sympathies to Marjorie and Miriam, and all the extended family, assuring them of the promises in Scripture giving us such a blessed hope and certain reunion on resurrection day. We miss him now, but he will greet us then.

PASTOR ROY BURGESS

JONES, Grace – d. 15 February. Grace Ellaline Murial Robertson was born in Aberdare in 1906. She was not the strongest of children; in fact, the family doctor told her mother, 'Grace will not live into her teens.' Grace was pleased to prove his diagnosis unsound by living to 95! Her father, who was a policeman, was transferred to Cardiff. While Grace was in her early twenties her mother died suddenly. Shortly afterwards her father remarried, and Grace was turned out of the family home. In those days it was difficult for women to make a living on their own. However, Grace was a resilient person. Brought up an Anglican, her faith sustained her at this difficult time in her life. Relationships also proved troublesome at this time and she had to make what must have been heart-breaking decisions. Nevertheless, this tenacious little lady struggled to make her life work. In 1961, while travelling on a bus with her daughter Chris, she saw an advertisement for some meetings on Bible Prophecy at St Paul's Church, Cardiff. The speaker was Pastor Kenneth Elias. Grace had always been interested in Bible Prophecy. She and her daughter faithfully attended the meetings and at the end of the series joined the church. Grace loved both her Lord and her church. She married Bill Jones in 1971 and they had an extremely happy time together. Following her husband's death, Bill's son Bobby and his wife Mary proved to be a tower of strength for Grace. Grace had a full and eventful life. We remember her gentle humour, her warmth and Christian love. The writer, assisted by Dr Brian Phillips, conducted the funeral service. Her daughter Chris and granddaughter Alysha read some of her favourite poems, while Ruth Frederick rendered a moving solo before interment at Cathys cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Grace's son Andrew, her daughter Chris Leech and their respective families. We are so grateful for the blessed hope that we have in Jesus and we truly look forward to seeing Grace again when our Saviour appears in the clouds of glory.

PASTOR GEOFFREY DENNIS

DUST, Marilynne – d. 6 January. Marilynne Price was born in Fleetwood in 1936. A year later the family moved to Coventry, her father having been transferred there as part of a war preparation. Sadly in 1939 Marilynne's elder brother Gordon died. During this sad time, Mr and Mrs Price were introduced to the Plummer family, members of the Adventist church in Coventry. After study and prayer, they began a lifelong walk with Jesus. Marilynne was baptised by Pastor Edwards when she was 18. She left home to study at Newbold, graduated, and became an accomplished secretary and personal assistant, working in a variety of church departments in London. While working there, she became very ill and spent five months in hospital in Coventry. All treatment failed, surgery was suggested as her only hope but, aged 21, she refused. She could not imagine her life being that of an invalid, totally dependent on other people. Against her will she was sent to Guys Hospital, London, where, in spite of immense medical pressure, she remained resolute. Many people were praying that a way would be found to help Marilynne. She was invited by Dr Brown to go up to Crief for alternative treatments. This she did and, in a month, there was a visible improvement. With much prayer, wonderful care and quietness, her strength returned and she made a full recovery. At about this time

a young man came into her life. In May 1960 Charles Dust and Marilynne began a marriage based in Jesus and the church family. They were blessed with two daughters, Beverley and Gillian. Over the years, Charles and Marilynne made a great contribution to the Coventry and Leamington churches. Their hearts were always open, nothing was too much trouble: there was always hospitality and a warm welcome at their home. Marilynne made time for everyone – no one left empty-handed or without a hug or word of encouragement. Twelve years ago she became ill with cancer. Again, she chose to refuse medical advice and put herself on a severe diet and strict regime. Her faith sustained her and, until the last few months, she was as busy and active in the church as she had always been. Finally she subjected herself to the awful treatments which her illness required. Through it all, she was supported by Charles, her family and many friends. We have all lost a special lady. Oakley Wood was packed for the funeral service, conducted by Pastors Alan Conroy and James Huzzey. Later, Marilynne's ashes were placed in a quiet corner at St James Church, Styvechale, Coventry, to rest till Jesus comes. One of her favourite hymns, sung during the funeral service, was 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.' That was her belief; it motivated her life and sustained her to the end. Marilynne touched the lives of many people and many prayers winged heavenward for Charles, Gillian, Beverley, Don, Kashara and Kalisha in Canada, her brother Leslie, Helen and family and a large extended family. They mourn a devoted wife, mother, nana, sister and friend. A few days after Marilynne died, Charles received a letter from the consultant who looked after her in hospital. He wrote, 'I am only sorry that we were unable to do more for her at the last. She was one of the nicest ladies it has been my fortune to have looked after and it has been a privilege to have known her.' There were many who said 'Amen' to that.

JANET LENNOX

Charles, Bev and Gill would like to give heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards and letters of sympathy.

SISSON, George Stanley – d. 19 February. When you live for 93 years there are not many of your contemporaries to attend your funeral service. A full church in Dublin, with an overflow service in the youth hall, celebrated the life of George Sisson, Senior, who was affectionately known as 'Pop' or 'George Senior'. Few were his contemporaries but all were present because the life of this remarkable man had touched and in some way influenced their lives. George was baptised in the early 1930s in Dublin by Pastor E. C. Bailey. His association with the Dublin church was to prove a wonderful blessing. He lived at a time when to become an Adventist required no small sacrifice. Often the loss of employment and friends followed such a step. The age was less tolerant of or indifferent to religion as is the present age. It was largely through the life, witness and enthusiasm of George Sisson, Senior, that a Seventh-day Adventist witness was maintained in Dublin and the south of Ireland in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Like his counterpart in the North of Ireland, the late Dr John Houston, George stood solid as a rock for his faith and gave encouragement and support through many problems, not least unemployment, to trust Jesus and keep his Sabbath day holy. George's family came to Dublin from London over a hundred years ago. His father was a master printer and George followed in his footsteps. He met his first wife Chrissie Jones working in Helys, a major print works in Dublin. They married in 1937 and had one son, George, Junior. Chrissie died in 1943. George remarried in 1954 to Rosemary Lane, a missionary's daughter and sister of Pastor L. A. D. Lane. They celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary last year. During the service many tributes were paid to George, including a moving tribute by his son George, Junior. It is impossible in a short space adequately to describe the influence and role of this man in the life of the church in Dublin. Pastors came and went but George was the pastor's friend, church elder, deacon and support over a lifetime to the members of the church. Perhaps the highest tribute to this remarkable man is that he passed on his faith to his son and his wife and family, all of whom were present at the service to celebrate his life. George was laid to rest in the Kilmashogue cemetery, Rathfarnham where he sleeps until the Lord he loved and served so well calls him forth to life everlasting. George is missed by his wife Rosemary, his son George, daughter-in-law Betty, granddaughters, Dr Lynda Sisson, Dr Elaine Sisson, his grandsons, Raymond, John and Niall Sisson and a wide circle of relatives and friends. The local pastor, Douglas McCormac, led out in the funeral service on 21 February, assisted by Pastor Curtis Murphy, the Irish Mission president, Pastor Mike Logan from Cork and the writer from Watford.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE

# International News

**20,000 baptized.** More than 20,000 people have been baptised as a result of what organisers are calling the most successful evangelistic series ever held by the Adventist Church in the Dominican Republic. The seven-night series, entitled 'Jesus is the Hope', was conducted by Adventist evangelist and leader Alejandro Bullon. Each programme was broadcast live by thirty-five local television stations and cable networks, as well as by ADSAT, the Church's South American satellite broadcast network. *ANW*

**Persecution in Turkmenistan.** Proposals by the United States Commission on International Freedom to address the ongoing persecution of religious minorities in Turkmenistan brought reaction from the Adventist Church's department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

Addressing panelists and attendees at a Capitol Hill meeting on 7 March, Jonathan Gallagher, associate director in the PARL department, said: 'We are appalled at the gross violations of religious liberty in Turkmenistan. The church supports attempts to make the persecuting regime change course and respect the fundamental freedoms they claim to endorse. When churches are bulldozed and Christians imprisoned, tortured and deported, we must speak out against such atrocities.'

The rule of Turkmenistan's President Nyazov, former Communist supremo, has brought widespread condemnation. Nina Shea, commissioner for USCIRF, announced the commission's proposals. 'The commission remains gravely concerned about the situation in Turkmenistan, where conditions for religious freedom are extremely bad,' she said. 'Most groups, no matter what their religious orientation, are now banned and actively suppressed.'

The proposals called for immediate suspension of all non-humanitarian assistance to the government of Turkmenistan and the cancellation of all state visits between the two countries. Additionally, the commission called for Turkmenistan's human rights record to be raised at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Adventists have been targets of state-sponsored religious persecution in Turkmenistan, with the destruction in November 1999 of the only Adventist church building in the country, the arrest and detention of the pastor and members, fines and beatings, and the expulsion of an Adventist woman from her apartment for allegedly holding religious services there.

'We must send a clear message to the president of Turkmenistan that his actions in violating fundamental human rights are intolerable,' says Gallagher. 'We are asking all those who wish to support our protest at the treatment of religious minorities in Turkmenistan to write to both the Turkmen government and to elected leaders here in the US.' Details about the letter-writing campaign are available at: <http://un.adventist.org>. *ANW*

**Troubled East Indonesia.** Government efforts to end more than three years of religious and ethnic violence in Indonesia's Maluku province have met with only limited success, reports an Adventist church leader in the region. Two days of peace talks between Christians and Muslims were held earlier this month in Malino, South Sulawesi, aimed at ending the sectarian fighting that has left some 10,000 people dead, thousands of homes and churches destroyed, and tens of thousands of people displaced.

Reinhold Kesaulya, president of the Adventist Church in East Indonesia, calls the reconciliation efforts in Malino 'excellent', but says there is no guarantee that peace agreements will hold in local regions and remote villages. 'If the Malino team could visit all the villages and call all the people together, then I am sure that

peace would come,' he says. But in the meantime, he adds, the continued danger means that Adventists are being advised to delay their return to their former villages.

Kesaulya, along with a group of local Adventist leaders and a police officer, visited the Poso district in January. 'When we entered the district of Poso we saw and videoed many villages left desolated, with no more houses,' he says. 'Our church buildings in Saatu and Tangkura villages were burnt to ashes. The road we travelled was so deserted and desolate that for several kilometers we met only one or two vehicles.' In Poso city the Islamic presence is dominant, says Kesaulya, with women and girls wearing veils in compliance with a regulation recently passed by local authorities.

'We thank the government for the peace talks in Malino between Muslims and Christians of Poso,' says Kesaulya. 'We really appreciate their positive effort in uniting the people there.' He says the government is also encouraging those who fled the violence to return to their villages, and is offering to rebuild houses and churches destroyed in the conflict. *ANW*

**'New day' in Cuba.** The Adventist Church in Cuba is a vibrant community, whose members have a 'readiness, a willingness, to share their faith', said Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the world church, during a visit to the country last month.

'I have been encouraged visiting Adventist churches here, by seeing that they are Christian communities that are alive,' said Paulsen, adding that a 'new day' has dawned in Cuba.

During the five-day itinerary, Paulsen met with Adventist church leaders and members, and spoke at church events across the country. He also met with government officials in Havana, including Caridad Diego, minister of religious affairs. During their meeting, Paulsen mentioned his earlier visit to the Adventist seminary in Cuba, built by Maranatha Volunteers International. He commented on the small selection of books in the library, many of

which are outdated, due to the restrictions on bringing books into the country.

'I told Diego that I find it incomprehensible that ministers can be trained in a modern society without the proper literature,' said Paulsen later. 'The library has the square footage and space, but not enough books. This is one of the challenges facing the seminary.'

Diego responded positively, granting the Adventist Church an opportunity to import additional books for the seminary in Cuba.

The church in Cuba currently has some 30,000 members and continues to experience strong growth. Maranatha, along with other Adventist organisations, has played a key role in supporting this growth through its evangelism programmes and an extensive church building and refurbishment project. *ANW*

## JOB VACANCY AT ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is seeking to appoint a Programmes Director commencing September 2002. The successful applicant will have:

- a minimum of an undergraduate degree, preferably in the area of Development Studies;
- experience in working with government donors on grant applications such as DFID, EU and Ireland Aid;
- experience working for ADRA in overseas development projects;
- competence in writing proposals and reports;
- a passion for serving hurting people;
- be an enthusiastic motivator.

Initially a one-year contract. Salary according to denominational scale. Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

ADRA-UK Director, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.  
Tel/Fax: (01923) 681723.  
Email: [rkamal@adra.org.uk](mailto:rkamal@adra.org.uk).  
Deadline for applications: **7 May 2002**.

## YouthPAGES launches missions website

On Friday 15 March the YouthPAGES team proudly launched its latest venture, YP MISSIONS, your 'gateway to missions' website.

Visit <http://www.yppmissions.org> and find out about building an orphanage in Zambia or distributing gift boxes to street children in Romania. Join our mailing list, read what others have to say and find out what God may have in store for you! 'Here I am, send me.' *Daren Bullock*

## ABC BOOK SALES 2002

**April**  
28 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

**May**  
12 West Midlands 10am-2pm  
19 Newbold Graduation 10am onwards  
26 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

**June**  
10-16 SEC Camp Meeting Prestatyn

## ABC Stanborough Park, Watford NEW OPENING TIMES!

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm  
Friday 9am-12 noon  
1st & 3rd Sunday 10am-2pm  
1st & 3rd Wednesday Closed!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Da Plan Tour Music, Comedy and Poetry	21 April, 7.30pm Tickets £7	Bullion Room Theatre, 118 Wilton Way, E8	Alan Charles + Band, Teddy Bear, House of Troops	020 8985 2424, 020 8318 3632 <a href="mailto:focusarts@yahoo.co.uk">focusarts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Da Plan Tour Music, Comedy and Poetry	27 April, 7.30pm Tickets £6	Adriane Boule Hall, Birmingham B3.	Alan Charles + Band, Teddy Bear, House of Troops	0121 643 6187 or 020 8318 3632 <a href="mailto:focusarts@yahoo.co.uk">focusarts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Area I Day of Fellowship	18 May	Oldway Mansion, Paignton	Speaker: Pastor Jack Mahon	01726 64494 <a href="mailto:meye5@meyewalker.freereserve.co.uk">meye5@meyewalker.freereserve.co.uk</a>
Graduation 2002	19 May at 2.30pm	Gymnasium, Newbold College	Speaker: GC President, Pastor Jan Paulsen	Tickets for Sunday Phone: 01344 407420 Email: <a href="mailto:hsavage@Newbold.ac.uk">hsavage@Newbold.ac.uk</a>
5-a-side Football	19 May	Sheffield	Steve Palmer, NEC Youth department	0115 960 6312 email: <a href="mailto:NECSDA@cs.com">NECSDA@cs.com</a>

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

## Messenger

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EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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## Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Apr 5	7.40	7.52	7.46	7.59	8.07
12	7.52	8.04	7.59	8.13	8.21
19	8.04	8.16	8.11	8.27	8.34
26	8.15	8.27	8.24	8.41	8.48

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