The concept of LIFEdevelopment.info is gaining momentum around Britain, Ireland and even beyond these shores.

Visit of Dr Jon Paulien to the British Union
At the end of October 2002 Dr Jon Paulien from Andrews University responded to an invitation from the British Union to speak to pastors in meetings arranged in Watford and Wolverhampton. He also spoke at a meeting of the LIFEdevelopment Board and to over one hundred lay persons at Stanborough School.

Dr Paulien has spoken and written widely on the subject of reaching postmodern or secular people with the Gospel. He states, ‘It is not my intention to criticise traditional methods of evangelism. Most have functioned as long as they did because they were very effective. If what you are currently doing is effective, continue with it. But traditional methods of Adventist evangelism are not connecting with the indigenous, majority cultures of the Western world. Scripture and experience both teach us that we need to add other strategies to our repertoire if we wish seriously to engage the secular, postmodern culture of Europe.’ (To read more see www.adventist.org.uk/home/lifedevelopment.) When Dr Paulien spoke of the ‘indigenous majority’ he was referring to the third and fourth generation, whatever the cultural background.

Dr Paulien’s presentations were well received and have helped to emphasise the importance of the responsibility the church has in reaching all sections of our society with the Gospel.

The British Union Responds to the Challenge
In order to achieve the goal of reaching our postmodern society plans have been laid which will result in resources and events which will help members and local churches in their evangelistic endeavours.

The launch of LIFE.info Magazine
Feedback from the first issue of LIFE.info has been positive and The Stanborough Press is completely out of stock. Issue 2 will be in your hands soon. We encourage every member and local church to support the production of the magazine by investing regularly. This can best be achieved by standing order by individual members or local churches. Every amount invested, whether small or large is important. LIFE.info is a valuable tool in reaching people in your community.

‘Get Connected’ in 2003
The uniqueness of LIFEdevelopment.info is that the concept can be adopted in ‘Your Time’, ‘Your Place’ and at ‘Your Speed’. As members of the LIFEdevelopment team have visited churches over the last few months we have realised that members need more time to establish LIFEdevelopment groups and centres and more time to make lasting friendships. We are, therefore, recommending that each member and local church concentrate their activities on ‘Get Connected’ in 2003.

‘The Evidence’ and ‘Mind the Gap’ in 2004
We have revised the dates for the satellite event presented by Pastor Dwight Nelson. ‘The Evidence’ will now be televised live in March 2004 and ‘Mind the Gap’ will be transmitted in October 2004.

Dates for your Diary in 2003
19 April - Day of Fellowship in Wolverhampton: Guest Speaker Pastor Dwight Nelson
26 April - Day of Fellowship at Wembley Arena: Guest Speaker Pastor Dwight Nelson

The LIFEdevelopment team is planning special fellowship Sabbaths for the Missions. The dates are as follows: 8 March - Ireland; 15 March – Scotland; 12 April - Wales

We want these special days to be an inspiration, keeping our minds focused on sharing our faith with others and reaching out to the community.
Healthwise

Dangerous times

These are dangerous times for the well-being of the world, says Dr Gisela Martz, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). ‘The world is living dangerously, either because it has little choice or because it is making the wrong choices about consumption and activity.’

In the World Health Report 2002 Brundtland draws attention to the paradoxes that exist in the area of health. She says, for example, there are 170 million overweight adults worldwide and a further 300 million who are undernourished. On the other hand there are 1 billion overweight children of whom 3 million will die this year. On the other hand there is 1 billion overweight adults worldwide and a further 300 million who are clinically obese. Underweight and overweight are the alpha and omega of the WHO’s top ten. The others in between are:

- unsafe sex
- high blood pressure
- tobacco use
- alcohol use
- unsalable water, sanitation and hygiene
- iron deficiency
- indoor smoke from solid fuels
- high cholesterol

Some of these risks have results that are far reaching. WHO cites sub-Saharan Africa and India as having 30% of their disease burden arising from fewer than 5 of the above risks.

Inequality in health care provision was highlighted in 1980 with the publication of The Black Report issued by Sir Douglas Black and colleagues. A new report The Health Divide, coinciding with the demise of the Health Education Council in 1987, showed that little change had occurred in the intervening years. Lower occupation groups exhibited poor health in comparison with the better-off occupations. There were even regional differences in health.

Commentators at the time wrote of the health inequality findings as ‘shocking’, ‘devastating’, and ‘tragic’. There is no reason to expect that their reaction would be too different in 2003 since many if not most of the inequalities have not been adequately addressed.

Similarly the WHO Report uses words such as ‘alarming’, ‘startling’, and ‘shocking’. Should these same risks to health be visited a few years down the line the world will be restored to the redeemed.

The face of the old year is covered with the wrinkles of our past experience. In the peaks and troughs of it are the stories of our victories and defeats; joys and sorrows.

God’s grace has given us another opportunity in this New Year. God’s grace also gives us spiritual strength to face the challenges ahead. He has spared us to carry out his divine purpose. God’s eyes are upon his church and covenants with his people to make it a means of grace to the world.

The members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, living among a secular, postmodem and Biblically-starved generation, must seize the opportunity of another year to alert the last to the message of God’s saving grace. We are under divine orders to mingle with the world, to make friends with the unchurched. Jesus’ blood was shed for them all. It is the right thing to do for our souls’ well-being. Our experience of the assurance of salvation in Christ will result in a confident outlook on life and a passion to reach out to the lost.

The week came to its climax on Thursday. Off came the hats a week! Families from all around South England came together in the beautiful, idyllic surroundings of Chapel Porth in Cornwall. Each day was organised with its own activities that accommodated all age groups. Some of the highlights of the week were Secret Families, 14-mile Camel Trail Cycling (or 27 for those feeling energetic), a trip to the Sports Centre, an afternoon out at a Kid’s Fun Park. This still gave time for families to relax and enjoy a peaceful rest while their children played in the safety of the campsite. Football, rounders, and the swings gave them plenty of fun while they became friends. Mums, dads and grandparents, too, enjoyed each other’s company as friendships were made.

Dana and Leslie King led out in the family worship with the theme ‘I know the Father cares for me’. This is certainly spiritually stimulating as they used both dialogue and drama to illustrate Isaiah 49:2, and becoming ‘Polished Arrows’ for God. The importance of this scripture was certainly spiritually stimulating as they used both dialogue and drama to illustrate Isaiah 49:2, and becoming ‘Polished Arrows’ for God. The importance of this scripture was

The GC theme for 2003 is Experience the Wonders of His Grace. What a glorious idea to contemplate for the New Year. God’s unmerited favour towards us is the reason we exist and we have the hope of a brilliant new world in which the blessings of paradise lost will be restored to the redeemed.

The Health Divide

The quality of personal and church life

This is demonstrated by members whose lives radiate the joy of salvation, restoration and anticipation of the world to come. We need to be on guard lest we fall into Laodicean complacency. The quality of our spiritual lives cannot be determined by self-assessment and management. God’s assessment is what counts. What we feed on spiritually is crucial to our soul’s well-being. Our experience of the assurance of salvation in Christ will result in a confident outlook on life and a passion to reach out to the lost.

A recent survey indicated that many of our members lack the assurance of salvation. This was a consequence of impoverished relationships with Jesus; and this, in turn, resulted in poor relationships within the Church.

In 2003 let’s make a conscious effort to achieve greater spiritual depth and growth through Bible study, worship and a more meaningful prayer life.

Unity

This has to do with cohesiveness in doctrine resulting from Spirit-filled, Bible-based, Christ-centred fundamental beliefs.

One of the challenges facing a growing church such as ours is the potential for division. Seeking biblical unity and not merely uniformity is crucial. We must promote sound doctrine and the basics of Christianity. The call to the Church is to be true to Scripture and the teachings of the Holy Spirit. As a Church we must move together to present the whole Gospel to the whole world.

Growth

Growth results when members have a rich spiritual experience. They discover their spiritual gifts and are moved to commit to active witness. The rate at which the Church is growing or not growing in Western Europe cannot be overlooked. We must preach or perish. We are called intentionally to co-operate with the Holy Spirit for growth spiritually and numerically. It is God’s will that we bear much fruit.

(John 15:8.)

The General Conference has set aside 2004 as The Year of Evangelism. The British Union in concert with them has launched the LIFEdvelopment.info initiative which incorporates many of the features of the GC’s call to evangelism.

There are two projects launched from Washington: ‘GO ONE MILLION’ and ‘SONE ONE BILLION’. The first has to do with at least one million members making a commitment to engage in active evangelism in the year 2004.

To date over 1.2 million have pledged to be a part of the forward thrust in evangelism.

‘SONE ONE BILLION’ calls for the scattering of evangelistic tracts or Christian literature purposefully to gain the attention of those around us for Christ. Our outreach through LIFEdvelopment.info is to distribute 50,000 copies of the LIFE.info magazine in the making of friends for Jesus Christ.

Out there, at least one person is waiting to receive an invitation to the Kingdom – from you. God is depending on you and me to make a deliberate decision now to be co-labourers with Him. Remember this is the acceptable time for one of us – can we wait?

Have a blessed New Year. The grace and peace of God be with you all!
Taking the Gospel to the community

J

nanda Alexander and the children's choir Promise performed in the gospel concert at the inaugural Milton Keynes Arts and Music Festival. The festival, a mix of Gospel, jazz, classics and art exhibitions, was presented at various venues across the city. Ullanda and Promise each performed a 20-minute set as part of the Jazz in the Park! event where they shared the stage with the Styll Lawrence Orchestra. Their audience included some serious devotees of the open-air music scene who came prepared with lamps and tables, intent on having a good time. They got what they came for plus some inspiration and encouragement as well. Promise, always, performed to greater detail than before. This had helped to win over the hearts of the audience. Later that evening Ullanda took to the stage and this is what the organiser thought.

‘Wow! The power of this lady is matched by the sheer strength of her personality. Her very presence on stage is absolute dynamite and her ability to involve the audience in her singing is truly magnificent. She engen-


ners, through her singing, a true feeling that everything is all right with the world. We look forward to hearing her return to Milton Keynes.’ Geoff Drinkall, City Centre Manager, Arts and Music Festival 2002.

Working with community partners like this is part of the wider music ministry of the word and the No. 7 Promotions. Articles within the Church are blessed with the message of the word and evangelism such as the nature of this community which provide valuable opportunities for them to share their music without compromising their beliefs, and they are rewarded for doing so.

As part of Black History Month recently Ullanda Alexander, Promise, 35, Pastor Joshua Mapgona, Jacyln Dabelle made sure that their audience was entertained by a fascinating soulful performance of a Gospel concert produced by No. 7 and promoted by the African Caribbean Area in London.

75th anniversary of the Stanborough Park church

T

he weekend of 29 and 30 November marked the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Stanborough Park church.

Organised by Sue Bennet, the Friday night ‘Young People’s Night’ was a night of music, fun and games. The following day was a day of worship and prayer before the service of thanksgiving was held.

The service started in the church, where the theme of the sermon was ‘Being Different’. In it Pastor Richard Brooks, when seven precious souls who sat in darkness.” Isaiah 42:6, 7

A Mission to India

I am Zie Tevelyan. My 19-year-old

gardened with a floor-length garland of roses and jasmine flowers. I gave a very personal touch by asking God’s permission to his people. Twenty-six local pastors were present, sitting at the front of the auditorium, as well as the local principal and teachers. There was a need for all of us at school principal’s house, where rice was cooked outdoors on the cracked earth under eccentric trees over open fires in enormous stainless steel cauldrons. This royal treatment was typical of the reception we received everywhere we went. The overwhelming poverty suffered by most of the missions in India didn’t affect their wonderful hospitality and generosity. Time and time again the parallel of the widow and the mate came into our minds and I felt ashamed for my comparative wealth and my reluctance to share. The drive over potholed and narrow mountainous roads took up to eight hours on occasion. That same 14-hour day that we suffered, came for plus some inspiration and encouragement as well. Promise, as always, performed to greater detail than before. This had helped to win over the hearts of the audience. Later that evening Ullanda took to the stage and this is what the organiser thought.

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**Pathfinder, commitment and reward**

by Emma Stickland

It's great to have a minister who is a leader and committed to Pathfinder. Supported by an equally committed staff, the rewards are great.

The fortnightly meeting for the club leaders seen a struggle at times. But the club leaders still have a great interest in the future of the club. This is the club leader's level of commitment and the way they interact with other club leaders.

**is it true or false?**

1. Is there an induction route for your club?
2. Is there adequate lighting to prevent shadows on those speaking?
3. Are there large print paper copies available for people unable to see the screen?
4. Are there voice for wheelchair users?
5. Are there seats with arms and long leg room for people with mobility impairments?
6. Can people take communion comfortably?
7. Can someone in a wheelchair use the facilities?
8. Is there an accessible toilet for wheelchair users?
9. Can a disabled person access refreshments or a telephone?
10. Are there large print Bibles and hymnals available?

The various young people gathered to collect their certificates of achievement for the things they had been working on during the previous year.

What better day than the Pathfinder Rally Day to have an investment and restart the club following the school year cycle?

Attope 5 Pathfinders, 8 Adventurers, and 5 Beaver Groups were invested, following the induction of 3 new Beaver Groups, 5 new Adventurers and 2 new Pathfinders.

It was necessary not to take up too much time in the Family Service on Sabbath morning as Pastor Patrick Boyle was running a two-week campaign at that time, including meetings on the Sabbath morning. Instead the Pathfinder Club took over the Sabbath school time.

While all Sabbath school classes at Banbridge are important, well-attended and eager participation is guaranteed, no word of a mention was made at the forlet of the Sabbath school time in place of the Pathfinder programme.

Why? Because thanks and acknowledgment were not given to only the children and parents, but to God our Father in Heaven. He is the reason for Pathfinder, the reason for exploration, the reason for creation, the reason for developing the Church in your family for the future. The reason for studying the Bible is to discover his love for us.

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Adventist Chorale at the Albert Hall, the Banqueting House – and on Christmas TV!
by John Surridge

O n Sunday 17 November the London Adventist Chorale and the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir joined together to perform as guests at part of the Grand Final of the 2002 Sainsbury’s Choir of the Year at the Royal Albert Hall. Inviting choirs to past events was something done especially for the millennium year. However, the success of that compelled Sainsbury’s to repeat it. In 2003, the Adventists were put last on the programme, as it was the organisers’ desire ‘to save the best till last’ as they put it. Once again last year they placed the Adventist choir at the end and once again the response was enthusiastic. Two songs were chosen for the performance based on the theme of that quarter’s Sabbath school lesson studies: ‘The Advent Hope’. The first song selected was ‘Ready to Ride’ – the title of the first of the new Faber Music publication of choral arrangements by Ken Burton. The song, in the style of a spiritual, speaks of being ready to make that final journey in the ‘heavenly chariot’. The second song, based on John 14:1-3, was ‘Come and go with me to my Father’s house’, and reminded the audience that Jesus is the only way to our Father’s house. The audience clapped enthusiastically throughout the song, which was accompanied by Tina Brooks on piano. The songs were performed together with Sharon D. Clarke, currently performing at the Dominion Theatre. On Wednesday 13 November the London Adventist Chorale took part in a charity event for Her Majesty the Queen. The event was the ‘Alliance of Religions and Conservation’, founded by Prince Philip in order to raise awareness of environmental issues among differing faith groups. This took place at the Whitehall Banqueting House, and was presented by Pam Rhodes. The event was broadcast on the BBC’s World Service (Radio). During the Christmas period Adventist musicians appeared several times on national television – a specially commissioned gospel arrangement of ‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’ for the Leslie Garrett Christmas Concert on BBC1 was arranged by Adventist conductor Ken Burton for Leslie Garrett, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Northern Spirit Chamber Choir from Harrogate. Then there was BBC2’s screening of the ‘Sainsbury’s Choir of the Year’ programme. Soon after Christmas, Ken Burton was included on a BBC1 review of the Jubilee Year – Plus BBC Wales’ performance by the Adventist Vocal Ensemble on the ‘Mike Joyce Show’, which had already been shown previously.

Other high-profile performances involving Adventist musicians have included: 23 November (World AIDS Day), when the London Adventist Chorale participated in an event for the charity ‘Positively Women’ which helps women affected with HIV. On 7 December the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir performed at Clitori Opera House in Cheshire. On 20 December the London Adventist Chorale performed an hour’s programme at Stomilch church as part of the Spillfields Festival. From 22 to 23 December the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir were on tour in Amsterdam, Netherlands. On 23 December Ken Burton was musical director at a concert entitled ‘Christmas Presence’. This included the King’s Singers, Deryn Edwards (formerly of The Swingle Singers), and the Howells School Choir. On 8 March the London Adventist Chorale will be guest singers at a cancer charity event held at Blenheim Palace. The keynote speaker for this event will be former US president, Bill Clinton.

Christian counsellors

The SEC Counselling Service has grown. It has been available for a little over six years now, and the Holy Spirit has blessed the work done and also the workers involved. We would love to welcome more voluntary counsellors into the group to help provide a first-class service in this very needy area of ministry. If you are a trained counsellor who is interested in joining this very worthwhile service we would love to hear from you. You can get full details from Trudy Young, Counselling Co-ordinator, SEC, 25 St John’s Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ. Tel: 01923 237728, or email: tyuppy@secadventist.org.uk.

The SEC Counselling Service operates an open line on Monday evenings from 6.30 to 8pm, and we respond daily to messages left on the answeringphone. Please let your family and friends know that the Counselling Service is there, or if you just need someone to talk to, call the SEC Counselling Service: 0840 4363602.

 Aren’t we drifting further and further behind?”

In spite of the huge challenge, said Dr Paulsen, the Adventist Church continues to be a mission-driven Church. “God wants us human beings, the Church, to be his witnessing instruments in the last days,” he said. “The biggest challenge for the Church is to prepare the hearts of our people to have the will to follow this up,” says Michael Ryan, a key co-ordinator of ‘Sow one billion’. “In terms of logistics, it will not be raising the money to print, it will not be the distribution, it will be the organisation and viability of very effective Bible schools. When you consider that we are only a church of 13 million members, this is a complete rethink and retooling of our resources to respond to this. That’s the challenge.”

There are currently many Bible correspondence schools functioning around the world, but Ryan says that plans are under way to put a Bible correspondence school in every country.

Adventist church leaders approved a new evangelistic initiative on 9 October to reach one billion homes around the world by the end of 2003. ‘Sow one billion’ is a joint effort among each of the Church’s twelve divisions, and leaders say the far-reaching project will require co-operation and participation at all levels of the world church.

The goal of ‘Sow one billion’ is to distribute a billion special brochures, or tracts, inviting people to study the Bible with an Adventist pastor or layperson, or through an Adventist Bible correspondence school. World church president Pastor Jan Paulsen presented the initiative to international church leaders gathered for the annual council, saying that the concept was ‘maybe bigger than we can grasp right now’. He reminded listeners that the Church is growing by one million people annually, while the world population is growing by some 130 million annually. The disparity, he said, prompts the question: ‘How is the Church going to reach them all?’

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