The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is working with Davis Memorial Adventist Hospital and Adventist Health International (AHI) on implementing a health education programme that addresses the national epidemic of diabetes. Karen Simpson, an experienced nurse educator from Scotland, is leading this training programme for nurses and health agents. A curriculum has been developed to provide community volunteers with the necessary skills in disease screening and health education. Appropriate equipment for blood sugar screening, blood pressure measurement and material on nutrition and health education has been supplied. Adventist churches remain a formidable social force in Guyana, and it is expected that educators coming from this base will have the best potential to change national behaviour in nutrition and exercise. The first group of 120 health agents have completed this training course. The Ministry of Health endorsed the new initiative as the national standard for the country.

ADRA is providing training in HIV/AIDS for teachers, parents, peer educators, church members and staff of the health and education departments in the Sampov Meas District. With limited access to quality health care services, the mortality rate of Cambodian women in rural areas is among the highest in south-east Asia. According to the latest report, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Cambodia is growing rapidly. More than 42 million people around the world are infected with the HIV virus or are coping with AIDS. AIDS has killed more than 22 million people and orphaned 13.2 million children.

The health challenges that confront Guinea are very striking and enormous. The country's infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the developing world. The vaccination coverage for children aged 12–24 months is estimated at only 26%. Against this background and at the request of the people in the district of Siguiri, ADRA initiated a 2-year child health and safe motherhood project. The project covers 72 out of the 129 villages in Siguiri, benefiting over 72,000 women and children. The intervention includes vaccination, nutrition, malaria prevention and family planning/safe motherhood.

**Did you know... in 2001**

ADRA helped more than 16 million people.
ADRA was present in more than 125 countries.
ADRA provided development and relief assistance valued at more than £72 million.
ADRA responded to 367 disasters worldwide.
ADRA distributed 76,684 metric tons of food.
It put everyone into a bad mood the first time I talked about postmodernism. So there hasn't been another second chance!

But I have been reading about it! Mostly I have been reading books by Christians along the lines of how-to-present-the-gospel-to-the-postmodern-world. I am going to share with you what I've 'learned' that might otherwise have been missed by a change of a few days when I entered church work thirty-five years ago.

In those days the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Britain had it in a nutshell and television playwright called George Target. So he was bound to know all about communicating the Gospel to secular man. Right! We could certainly do so at the time. At every opportunity George was wont to wheel out his spiel. At a communication weekend at Newbold, George marched onto the platform with a bellucet of water – and threw its contents at the front of his audience! His contents turned out to be silver paper, not the wet stuff. And that, I am afraid, is an apt metaphor for his message. Today his magazine articles, like the VOP lesson series prepared under his influence, like his novels, make stiff reading.

For all that, George Target inspired my generation.

In my library I still have a copy of his Bell. It is signed, 'to devise services that are lively and relevant to postmodern families and marginalised folk and single parents and (OK, so he gets a bit silly here) African dolphins and stage-struck crack-crazed preachers, and, well, just about everybody and everything really ...'

Suddenly, writes Plass, 'my spirit revolted.'

Do you know what came to mind? The commissioning of a television series to devise services that are lively and relevant to postmodern families and marginalised folk and single parents and (OK, so he gets a bit silly here) African dolphins and stage-struck crack-crazed preachers, and, well, just about everybody and everything really ...

And, as he presided over the modern, medieval and postmodern world, the only method of transport to the project site in Guinea was by inviting the Holy Spirit to do more in our lives. After all, we only possess a heart-felt desire to be of service. Jesus said, 'Again, I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, “Be moved there to that place,” and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it shall be done for him. Therefore I say to you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it shall be yours.' (Mark 11:23-24.)

Plass was involved in a television discussion on how to make the Christian message attractive to various audiences. 'We discussed the need,' writes Plass, 'to devise services that are lively and relevant to postmodern families and marginalised folk and single parents and (OK, so he gets a bit silly here) African dolphins and stage-struck crack-crazed preachers, and, well, just about everybody and everything really ...'

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National Marriage Week
Get more ‘happiness’ into your ‘ever after’

Dr Gottman’s top tips for happy marriages
(Applied from the ‘National Marriage Week’ website. Notes and ideas supplied by Karen Holford)

Edit yourself
Couples who avoid saying anything angry or hurtful about each other, who manage to talk about their differences and to be honest and open with each other, are more likely to succeed than those who don’t manage to do that.

Dr Gottman believes that much of the conflict in marriages results from broken childhood bonds. Some conflict is inevitable, but part of the aim of Gottman’s research is to identify issues that can help couples to work through their difficulties and feel close again. Gottman is convinced that we can all make changes to improve our marriages.

He encourages couples to change their language to make their marriage healthier. Gottman favours using ‘I’ rather than ‘you’ statements, asking questions rather than attributing blame, and using the phrases ‘It’s not that’, ‘I understand’, ‘I get it’, ‘I feel’, and ‘I’m mad or sad’. This helps to show genuine concern and understanding of the partner’s feelings.

One of Gottman’s top tips is to be willing to show grace and forgiveness. Gottman believes that it is vital to forgive in order to move forward and stay in love. Gottman believes that many of the things that bring us to tears can also bring us joy if we forgive. Gottman encourages couples to learn to see each other’s needs and to try to meet them.

Gottman believes that we need to be more intentional about showing love and appreciation to our partners. He encourages couples to make sure that they notice and appreciate the good things about each other.

Gottman believes that couples need to work at maintaining a healthy relationship. Gottman encourages couples to make sure that they are making time to spend together and to make sure that they are happy and healthy.

There are many things that Gottman believes can help to make a marriage healthier. Gottman believes that it is important to be intentional about showing love and appreciation to each other. Gottman encourages couples to make sure that they are making time to spend together and to make sure that they are happy and healthy.

Focus on the bright side
In a happy marriage, couples make at least five times as many positive statements to and about each other and their relationship. (“We laugh a lot. As opposed to negative ones (“We never have fun”). A good marriage must have a rich climate of positive attitudes. Make deposits in your emotional bank account. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8, NIV.

1. Spend some time enjoying each other and having fun together.
2. Write down ten good things about your marriage and then share them with each other. Print this list out attractively and keep it where you will see it often.

by Karen Holford
B e thankful for small mercies, an injunction that is often repeated in Christian homes for the high academic standards and the plan. In the mind I want to share with the members of the British Council of Marriage, the number of small mercies that the South England Conference has received from our Father’s hand is much more than we can count in recent times.

500 Accessions At the end of September 2003, the membership of the Conference stood at 14,188. This is an increase of 248 compared with figures at the commencement of the year. Accessions of 411 for the first nine months were the most important factor contributing to the encouraging growth. Accessions figures for the fourth quarter are not yet available. However, from the unofficial reports reaching my office it is quite safe to say that for the fifth time in its history the Conference will have shown an increase over 500 accessions in a calendar year. Praise God!

130 Congregations Not only is the Conference experiencing significant growth in membership, we are also seeing an appreciable rate of increase in the number of our churches. Currently, 130 congregations are served by the Conference, six of which were organised during the 2003. For the fifth year running, Filipino churches in the heart of London and a church of largely Eastern African Churches in Beckton, South London. Plans are afoot to organise new churches in Hackbridge, South London and Horsford, Bristol, during 2003.

Increasingly cosmopolitan The church in the South England Conference is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan. Fifteen years ago our focus in evangelism was largely on two people groups – Afro-Caribbean and Polish respectively. Today we are reaching a wide variety of people groups within our Conference, we are aware that the largest group of all is that class as indigenous. We have joined with our fellow fields in the BUC in a comprehensive and long-term programme of evangelism, dubbed Life Development, in an attempt to break down the barriers to the vast numbers of secular and unchristian people in this country. At the same time we are trying to plant a number of new churches to address this need. The new groups in Kingston and Rustington, and our work in Yeovil are three of our efforts to reach this group of people.

Gift Aid We continue to encourage God’s people to make use of the new tax concessions for Gift Aid. The first for 2003 was approximately 12% up on 2002. Back in the early nineties, when my colleague and I was considering a cause for great rejoicing but God is doing something even more wonderful for our church today. As a result of the increase in tithe we have been able to provide extra funding for evangelism, employ a few more workers and join the rest of the BUC in providing an service for our employees – though not of the proportion being asked for by the fire-fighters! The Gift Aid programme, formerly Developing Churches, continues to provide the Conference with significant funds for Conference-wide develop- ment projects. During the course of the year, over £1 million was reclaimed from Inland Revenue. It appears that the penny has dropped for a large number of churches. They are now reap- praising the value of tithe income. In one form or another nearly all the Gift Aid received for the year came from Inland Revenue to go to our local churches. Places of worship We also must say a word on the acqui- sition of properties for worship and other purposes. This has become a monumental challenge for the Conference. The portion of Gift Aid funds received for church building amounts to between £50,000 and £400,000. At the same time properties that ten years ago would have cost approximately £200,000 are now selling at £1.4 million. It is quite clear that very soon the Conference and local churches will not be able to compete with organisations of greater financial resources in the purchasing of properties. We will have to rethink this whole matter and find novel means of providing accommodation for our people. Despite the prohibitive cost of properties today, we succeeded last year in acquiring a property for our students with the resources that the church has and I am delighted to see that we have made some progress in this area. It is quite amazing to see how God is providing for our churches. This has become a reality.

Schools The Conference operates five schools. In general they are reputed for the high academic standards and the name and rounded education they provide our children. Our teachers and many of our staff are doing a sterling job in developing the minds of our students and preparing them for the future that is available. Last year John Loughborough was successful in an OFSTED inspection.

Though the work of evangelism is extremely challenging in the secular context, as we work, our ministers and local churches are all seeking to put new properties to good use. We are constantly challenged. This recognition that we live in a dynamic society and that the church is continuing to be successful it must, of necessity, respond to the changing needs of society. This is different from saying that the church must accept the standards that society imposes. It is for us very encouraging to see many of our pastors and churches seeking to meet the needs of the community in which they are located as a basis for meeting and reaching the churches. No other organisation is able to do this as the church has and I am delighted to see that we have made some progress in the area of properties. We will have to rethink this whole matter and find novel means of providing accommodation for our people. Despite the prohibitive cost of properties today, we succeeded last year in acquiring a property for our students with the resources that the church has and I am delighted to see that we have made some progress in this area. It is quite amazing to see how God is providing for our churches. This has become a reality.

A note of caution is that we face as a Conference, the greatest is that the church must accept the standards set by society. It is for us very encouraging to see many of our pastors and churches seeking to meet the needs of the community in which they are located as a basis for meeting and reaching the churches. No other organisation is able to do this as the church has and I am delighted to see that we have made some progress in the area of properties. We will have to rethink this whole matter and find novel means of providing accommodation for our people. Despite the prohibitive cost of properties today, we succeeded last year in acquiring a property for our students with the resources that the church has and I am delighted to see that we have made some progress in this area. It is quite amazing to see how God is providing for our churches. This has become a reality.

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ASNA launches National Carers’ Support Network Project

On 29 September at Newbold College, ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association) held its first disabilities networking event – Disabilities and the Church: Let’s get educated. There are over 8.7 million people in the UK covered by the Disability Discrimination Act. This represents 15% of the population. With this in mind, the conference aimed to bring together the leaders and members of the church to discuss and develop positive steps towards successful ministries to the disabled in the UK. It also discussed disabilities and education in our church schools and churches.

Fifty-one delegates in attendance expressed how informative and interesting they had found the conference and they were very pleased with the responses obtained back in their churches. Evaluation forms showed qualitative evidence of the success of the event. All had found the conference well

J ohn Loughborough’s ‘Agenda for Excellence’
by Steven Dayes

John Loughborough School, known as ‘a school with an agenda for excellence’, again lived up to its reputation on its annual Speech Day.

Teachers, parents and friends who had come to celebrate the success of the students of John Loughborough School.

Numerous awards and prizes were allocated to deserving students. Among the going outstanding awards were: Michelle Castillo and Jason Oei – Head Teacher’s Cup; Janice Delwyn and Antione Daniel – Deputy Head’s Cup; Ethelri Macani and Adina Simmons – Shaw Awards (highest performers in Years 7-9); Ethelri Macani – TED Award (highest grade point average). Shyra Nicholson-Potter was the proud recipient of the first ever Artist of the Year Award.

Outstanding performance in GCSE were the three top students: Nathan Lewis and Des-Chantal Minors – Maureen Luton Award (best GCSE English students); Nathan Lewis – Maths Award (best GCSE Maths student); Philip Dumas and Nathan Lewis received the Awards as best GCSE Science students; Philip Dumas got the Andrew Butler Award (best GCSE French student).

We extend our heartfelt commendations to our students and especially to Nathan Lewis for maintaining the reputation of John Loughborough School.

Valerie Bernard, a former teacher at John Loughborough, when the school was founded and now currently head of Behavioural Science at Newbold College, was the motivational speaker for the evening. Her dynamic message on the theme of Success challenged the students to excellence. She used her experiences in secondary school and college to illustrate the point that they could achieve something worthwhile while in life. She expressed gratitude to her supportive and encouraging parents who continually insisted in her world that she could succeed. Ms Bernard advised, ‘Success demands effort; success demands setting goals; success demands determination. Do not allow circumstances or parents, or friends, or associates to hinder your progress in becoming somebody of note. Hold your head high, believe in yourself, aim meditatively and stand tall.’

To conclude her speech, Ms Bernard cited the story of the eagle that had been denied its power of flight because it had been reared and domesticated to think that it was a chicken. However, when it came in contact with a naturalist, the bird realised its power potential and the capability within the span of its God-given wings – and soared in the blue expanse to which it belonged.

The poem presented by Folayan Lekwa and the melodious harmony produced by Kimberly Williams, Betty 10, reiterated the fact that success is within the reach of every student. Michelle Castillo, Jason Oei, Janice Delwyn and Antione Daniel demonstrated their creativity in the voice of thanks to parents, teachers, fellow students and visiting guests for the part they played in moulding and shaping their school years.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Beverly Officer-Clarke and her team of business, dedicated teachers and staff who executed an extremely efficient and pleasant conference. Long live John Loughborough School! May you continue to be ‘a school with an agenda for excellence’. Bridge Taffe

Southend works for orphans and homeless

Southend’s 2002 Toy Service was conducted by Pastor Dalfent Elias of the SEC. David Hadcox, representing the department responsible for ‘Children at Risk/Carers’, was present to tell us about the work involved and about the needs of children in care. David thanked the Southend church for all the toys, games and books donated to the children’s centre. Southend also collected for a feeding programme for the homeless – in the High Street, Roots Grounds Market, and at Victoria Railway Station in November and December. The church has been engaged in this project for over eight years, and had had a very good response from the public and local businesses.

while the carers are on holiday, ASNA is keen to hear from anyone interested in receiving training in the area of special needs and disabilities. For more details contact Anne Lofman, 01908 576925.

ASNA is an association run by volunteers who aim to provide Resources, Education, Support and Training (REST) in disability. Our central goal is towards ‘access for all’. If you would like to be involved with our nativity campaign, contact asna@saiiial.sain.net.co.uk. We will host our Repeal and Training weekend on 22-23 March. Our living and awareness programmes will also continue throughout 2003. If you would like to have a programme in your church or if you would like to attend the weekend contact 01941 831533. Ask for your colleagues in support and prayers for this work.

World events

Sabbath 26 October saw Stevenage church hosting their Community Services Day, when the theme was, ‘Lord the tempted is righting’. We welcomed as our preacher for divine service, Brother Laurence from Croydon church. It was the second time in just a few months that we had welcomed this inspiring young preacher. The special musical item was provided by our first elder Alton Levy. Members and visitors shared a potluck lunch. The afternoon programme was presented by Trishia Cunih, elder of the Wood Green church. Brother Cunih’s presentation was powerful, instructive and interesting. Many questions were asked and answered.

Hacksney: ten baptised

Pastor Michael Mannix baptised ten people at Hacksney on 7 September: Marcus Arnold, Eden George, Sherwin Shillingford, Chesley Brooks, Stacey Marshall, Karemle and Beverly Hanson (sisters), with their grandmother Lucille Hanson, Maria Hallial and Michelle Wiltie. The baptism followed on from Christie to speak about ‘Trust, Love and Forgiveness’.

Riotous nativity play

St Bremore church Mother & Toddler group, ‘The Sunshine Club’, held its Christmas party on 12 December. This group has now been running for well over three years and is well known and popular in the Winton area of Bournemouth. During that time almost a hundred children have come and gone in the group, one or two of these attending only once, but many more attending right through from the start. One mother has also been bring her little boy along to Sabbath school for well over a year now.

Because we want to maintain the contact with children who have grown up the group and moved up to pre-school, the older ones were invited back for the party, and we had thirty-seven children at the party. Pastor Martin Anthony presided over the riotous nativity play, with little angels and shepherds running all over the church! Altogether we had a congregation of eighty-eight, and the play and some carols were followed by a sit-down tea in the church hall and presents for all. A basket of ‘goodies’ was presented to them as a memento, and they were delighted.

Gordon and Sylvia will be sorely missed in Cornwall but everyone wish- es them happiness in their new home and God’s blessings in the future.

Valerie Rowe

Farwell to Sylvia and Gordon Mueller

Gordon and Sylvia decided to leave Cornwall to be near their families in Surrey. They have been members of the Redhill church for thirty years and are loved by everyone.

During this time they held many church offices between them, and lat- terly, Gordon had been church leader and Sylvia church clerk. They have both worked diligently in all aspects of church life – he led it including evangelism, Ingathering, social functions or church marri- ance. Their friendliness and kindness has shone throughout.

A farewell luncheon was held for them and, in spite of the underlying sadness, it was a jolly occasion, enjoyed by all who attended.

A picture of one Gordon and Sylvia’s favourite places, St Ives, and a basket of ‘local goodies’ was presented to them as a memento, and they were delighted.

Gordon and Sylvia will be sorely missed in Cornwall but everyone wish- es them happiness in their new home and God’s blessings in the future.

VALERIE ROWE
Camp Hill youth baptism

On 28 September hearts were touched to God in baptism. It is often said that today’s youth have no interest in the church, but not so for these youth and the young at heart.

CHURCH OFFICE, MICAL THEOLOGY

Colchester carols

At 6.30pm on 14 December the lights were dimmed and the candles lit for Colchester church’s annual carol con-
cert. The evening was blessed with congregational singing – of many of our much-loved carols. The talents of the members and our guests were exceptional. The many scripture readings included one in French and another in Fijian. We had singing from Nicola Saunders and her daughter Rachel, plus music from the piano, flute and violin.

A special offering was taken up for ADR, and we collected £300. God truly blessed us with a wonderful evening.

ELIZABETH JONES

Leeds Monday Group

A long-standing member from the Community Services Department of the Leeds church recognised a need to form a senior citizens’ group to give meaning to a week that was pretty much spent alone, away from other members. As a result of the initial venture a new group has now been established and will continue to meet every Monday.

Left to right: Laila White, Natasha Edwards, Christine Heed, Maggy Chuchall and Bible worker Michelle Mcleod

Diamond Wedding

On 12 September 1942 Tom Heap and Maude Walton were married at the Hebron Hall in Carlisle. Tom was serving in the army at that time, so they had one week together before he had to go to duty.

They had met as teenagers at a friend’s house, but when Maude had to go into hospital some time later Tom, who was on leave, visited her and asked if she would write to him. They wrote for a couple of times and then Maude received a letter which was different from all the rest. It was a proposal of marriage. Tom and Maude were parted for most of the war. Leave was irregular and Maude did not see Tom for a year at a time. After the war, when Tom was demobbed, they were reunited and Maude settled down to a happy married life in Carlisle. In contrast to the war years, when they spent too much time apart, they have never been separated from each other since.

In the early 1950s, Tom and Maude moved into the flat in which they still live today – over fifty years later. In 1953 their daughter Jhanelle was born, making their happiness complete.

On 4 October 1952, Tom was baptised and, together with Maude, was accepted into the fellowship of the Carlisle Adventist church. Both had been firm Christians since their youth. Maude having been baptised while attending the Brethren Church in 1937. They became interested in Adventist teachings when they attended a campaign conducted by Pastor William Lennox. They have been members for many years and Maude was church treasurer for over forty years.

Tom and Maude are still strong, active members of the Carlisle church, and we are happy to see, every week, how the regular visitors appreciate their loving Christmas gift. We rely on their wisdom and advice, which is always given with love.

BILLY HUTCHINSON

Focus Family Week

Over 400 people gathered at Watford Girls’ Grammar School on the evening of Tuesday 29 November to listen to Rob Parsons, director of a charitable foundation based in South Africa. Rob focused on the importance of adopting a life-long strategy to support for all aspects of family life.

Among them were about forty friends and members from the Stanborough church, who were captivated with his presentation on how they could ‘maintain a healthy marriage’. Rob Parsons discussed a variety of personal accounts of the ups and downs of married life. He reflected on his youth as a young layer, sharing stories of the people he met and giving examples of how challenging ‘parenting’ can be.

Outlining five basic principles in two-and-a-half hours, Rob focused on Acceptance, Communication, Time, Finance and Sex. With an interval in the programme to include the purchase of his books, videos, cassettes, and resource materials, the audience went home inspired and focused on revising their relationships.

On the following Sabbath, families gathered in the church and the visitation was joined by the ADR programme for a potluck lunch. In the afternoon Karen Holford (Family Service, SEC) led a study in a ‘Creative Family Worship Workshop’. Full of wonderful fun and creative ideas, Karen inspired those who attended and excited the children about how to learn about the love of God through fun and creativity.

ESTELLE AND SPIRITUALS

Smethwick youth

Smethwick church experienced a unique youth day when the youth expressed thanks for, among other

things, the rapid growth of the church, with young people and adults making a packed congregation. The message was delivered by Celina Whitmore. The youth choir sung touchingly.

Children’s Day at Watford

October 26th was the day that Holcombe Road church celebrated their Children’s Day. The theme was ‘All together now’. The day began with Sabbath school under the leadership of 9-year-old Hannah and focused on the divine service consisting of songs and stories of a sermon. It culminated with the ADR programme where the main speaker presented her experience of teaching children in the South Pacific Islands of Eubea.

CAROL YOUNG

Children’s Day at Gloucester

On Sabbath 23 December the congregation celebrated ‘Gloucester Time’. Full of wonderful fun and resource materials, the audience went home inspired and focused on revising their relationships.

Outlining five basic principles in two-and-a-half hours, Rob focused on Acceptance, Communication, Time, Finance and Sex. With an interval in the programme to allow the purchase of resources is crucial.

A number of children, Sabbath school teachers, parents and adult members of the church together to watch a one-scoop but an enjoyable day but the exercise proved to be a big success with the children raising an overall sum of £90.

BILL KITCHEN

Children’s Day at Stanborough

The annual Toy Service at Stanborough park on 14 December continued a tradition started over forty years ago, and was attended by Watford Mayor, Councillor Sheila Jones and her husband, with other members of the church, came together to wash and vacuum cars. Not only was it the purchase of resources is crucial.

The programme consisted of music, poetry, plays and songs, with each child taking part. With the central theme, ‘The Greatest Gift’, no fewer than four sermonettes were preached by last year’s conference Speaker, Daenerys White (12), Serena Wyatt (10), Jacque McKenzy (9), and Kayleigh Kelly (10). Each member of the congregation received a paper heart made by the children, inviting them to give their heart to Jesus.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Car wash fund raising

Sunday 28 August saw the Holcombe Road Junior Sabbath school children out and about in the early hours of the morning. The reason for this was an enjoyable day but the exercise proved to be a big success with the children raising an overall sum of £90.

Children and friends were happy to help wash and vacuum cars. Not only was it the purchase of resources is crucial.

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HOLCOMBE ROAD SABBATH SCHOOL CHILDREN AND FUND RASING

Leeds Monday Group

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Left to right: Anne-May Wallon, Dr Malcolm Jones, the Mayor (centre), Pastors Robert White, Pat Walton and church elder Katherine Podare. Councillor Sheila Jones and her husband, with other members of the church, came together to wash and vacuum cars. Not only was it the purchase of resources is crucial.

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COMMUNICATION SECRETARY
Darlington witness
Anne Selvage of Darlington church had a wish, and on Sabbath 14 December that wish came true when the church members took an afternoon Christmas programme to the nursing home where her mother lives. There were cards, readings, poems – and a dust-out of our youngest members and Kristen who sang ‘Away in a Manger’. At the end there were refreshments and time for residents, staff and members to chat. All who were there were truly blessed.

Rally of the Seven Church Choruses
On 30 November the Smethwick church, under the auspices of the Sabbath School department, presented ‘Rally of the Seven Churches’. Pastor P. Erskine, president of the North England Conference, our guest speaker, presented a stirring sermon based on the seven churches.

Evangelism in Banbridge
By Pastor Patrick J. Boyle*

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At the invitation of the church in Banbridge and the writer, with the local pastor Nathaniel Stickland, held meetings for three weeks in September and October.

The people of Ulster have suffered much in the past thirty-odd years. It is a lasting tribute to the majority of the population, Catholic and Protestant, in the face of terrorism they have retained a strong and living faith in God.

This is the deeper and longer intention which centred on the objective of lifting Jesus up before the people of Ulster, to give them an understanding of the essence of what Christianity is all about, and to encourage them to walk in faith, to be reconciled to one another, so that the community might continue to grow.

The seventh-day Sabbath and the writings of Ellen White are also topics of conversation. Most Christian people have a good knowledge of the Scriptures and understand salvation by faith alone. This makes them suspicious of obedience to God’s law, seeing it as legalism. These factors make evangelism more difficult for the local church than for those in other parts of the British Commonwealth. There were no baptisms, but the members were encouraged and some new contacts were made for Pastoral Stickland to pursue.

In order to help create a proper understanding of the Adventist faith, Pastor Stickland and the writer took nine copies of the book. The Essential Jesus and its companion the book of Acts. These copies were given to a variety of ministers of other faiths: Baptist, Methodist, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and non-subscribing Presbyterian. In each case the books were received gladly. Some of the ministers had been missionaries in Brazil and Zimbabwe and knew about Adventists; others were interested to learn more about us. In all but one instance Pastor Stickland and the writer were present to give the books, asking for God’s blessing upon them in their service for him. This was a rewarding exercise because it enabled us to speak and pray with ministers of other faiths, to present our faith and to encourage them to seek the truth for themselves. Adventists are Bible-believing Christians who are not to be confused with non-Christian groups. It is obvious that if we want to influence other people we must get alongside them and enter into dialogue.

Those of us who live and worship in favourable situations can help our fellow believers in Ireland by bearing them in the Lord in prayer and, where possible, making visits to them when visiting or during their holidays.

While it is vital that an ongoing programme of evangelism is maintained, it is equally important to hold our own children and youth. In this way we can build the relationship of Pastor Nathan Stickland and the support of the members in Partington is therefore very encouraging. A large group of children were invited, which demonstrated the value and holding power of the Pathfinder movement.

Wherever we are, life has its problems. In the Banbridge church, tragedy struck in the Mudlaw family. Their 10-year-old daughter Kerri was looked after. The doctors’ prognosis was less than encouraging. The child’s heart had stopped beating on two occasions and they did not hold out a lot of hope. Joan and David Mudlaw, the pastor and members were strong in their prayers to God on behalf of the little girl. David told how his mind went a complete blank. All he could remember was the phrase, “God is not willing that any should perish.” He prayed, “Lord, do you want our daughter to perish?” Today the little girl is safe; they say in Ulster, ‘right as rain’. To our merciful Father everlastings thanks and praise.

Being a faithful Christian has its problems and difficulties, but it has built up for us. Our responsibility is to bear witness and to trust the Lord to use us for the salvation of men and women, boys and girls. We are told for the promised return of Jesus, and the indications suggest it will not be long delayed. As Pastor Curtis Murphy, president of the Irish Mission, said, “If you have a threefold plan for your work in Ireland: Evangelism, Evangelism, Evangelism.” There is no alternative no matter what difficulties we face, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said: “Those who saw in tears will reap with songs of joy.” (12:6, NIV)

* Pastor Boyle is enjoying a very active retirement in the Waford area.
Leamington youth baptism

On 16 November at Leamington Spa church, local members, along with young people were delighted to welcome back their friends to witness their baptism and to see some of the church’s young people welcoming others to the church for the first time.

Sixteen baptised at Reading

On Sabbath 7 December sixteen young people from the congregation were baptised at the Reading Central church. The church was packed to capacity and local members, along with visitors from the Sunderland, Bootle and Lesmahagow churches were warmly welcomed into the Lord’s family. We apologise for this. Time was taken to give some special presentation by the Sabbath school superintendent, Pastor Alan Conroy.

EMILIA ARMS

Battersea sea honours senior citizens

On 26 November Battersea’s mayor welcomed six senior citizens to the Battersea Town Hall, as Battersea’s oldest residents. After each of these elder souls taking the presentation, she said, “I have been here for a long time and I have seen many changes.”

MEMBER receives award at Café Royal

On Thursday 27 November bedsitter and pianist Emma Robson was present at the Café Royal in London with a silver award for the Pharmaceutical Clinical Researcher of the Year UK award, presented by Hannah Robson to Emma Robson.

STANDARDS BOARD PRESS VACANCY

Due to the retirement of the outgoing press officer, there is a vacancy for a Press Officer who would be responsible for publicising the church’s work and events. This role is for a part-time position (15 hours per week) and would be based in Battersea. The successful applicant for the position would be expected to have experience of working in a busy press office, including day-to-day press releases, media planning, media relations, and producing promotional materials.

Closing date: Friday 19 February 2003

Adventist home school teachers needed

The North London Adventist School in Hendon (Hendon Adventist Press) is seeking to appoint one teacher to teach a primary science class. The school has strong links with the local community and has a reputation for providing a high-quality education.


top: Hannah Robson; Above: The Robinson family.

Leamington youth baptism

On 16 November at Leamington Spa church, local members, along with visitors from as far as Altrincham and Manchester, came together to witness these two young people dedicate their lives to the Lord.

Hannah Robson and Michael Green were baptised by family and friends to witness their baptism and were warmly welcomed into the Leamington youth community. They were baptised by Pastor Alan Conroy.

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Sponsored haircut. Michael Hytton, 18, of the Reading Central church, heard of the plight of the Meru tribe in the remote regions of Tanzania. In particular, he heard of the need for ‘strong young men’ to assist with the laying of water pipelines, so that fresh, clean, running water to easily accessible, and to assist in the building of a church and church school and in the work of education among the children.

Having contacted Pastor Vincent Goddard in Tanzania to get the necessary details, Michael volunteered his services to help in both areas on part of his gap year before going to university. He decided to raise funds by means of a sponsored haircut – his own. Michael had been growing his hair for eighteen months and thus had some long braids. The event took place at Reading Central church and raised £1,000.

Additional funds were raised from a concert, a cake auction, as well as generous donations from individuals, bringing the total to £1,000. When Michael reached Tanzania, he presented the cheque to Pastor Goddard.

Adventist dies in arson attack. An Adventist has died after arsonists destroyed her house during an attack on the village of Blaine, Solomon Islands, in December.

Some 200 people destroyed buildings in Baine with fuel and set them on fire in the early hours of 22 December. The town is the headquarters for the Adventist Church in the region. It seems the purpose of the attack was to destroy the permanent buildings and not to hurt the villagers,” says John Turner, treasurer for the church in the Western Solomon Islands.

Among the 20 buildings destroyed were the houses of two church members, the Adventist district director, two Adventist teachers, and a shop and a service station owned by two Adventists.

ACTS 2003 Revealing Jesus at Newbold College
22 February, clamp.
Evening concert featuring ‘Blessed Voices’
Concert Admission £5. Five inclusive bus tickets from Newbold station. Please bring packed lunch. This is an all-day BUC-wide youth event.

ABC BOOK SALES 2003
February
16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
20 ACTS Programme Newbold College

March
16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
23 West Midlands 10am-2pm

What has happened to YouthPAGES?
That question has been asked for a while now! Well... it’s BACK! A major makeover of the site ditched some downtime, but finally it is online again, with lots of new features, including an events section, music and books resource section, and online events database. YouthPAGES is one of the leading youth websites in the Adventist church. Designed for youth by youth, we try to provide something for everyone’s level. Our purpose – YouthPAGES exists to serve and inspire young people by connecting them together, equipping them and providing opportunities for ministry, in order to reach others and inspire God. YouthPAGES continually needs help to keep progressing, to develop new features, and to support existing ones. For more information visit: www.youthpages.org.uk, contact myself, or email: info@youthpages.org.uk

YouthPAGES. Get connected... TODAY.

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