Adra-UK Annual Appeal Funds Help Bring Relief to 392,000

by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director

Hurricane Isidore, Mexico
ADRA operated 23 feeding centres assisting those who were made homeless by Hurricane Isidore on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Approximately 300,000 households have been affected, and 300,000 people made homeless. This intervention benefited 17,500 people.

Southern Africa Famine
This is a food crisis of epic proportions that is threatening the lives of 35 million people. Drought, erratic weather patterns, crop failures, effects of HIV/AIDS and mismanagement of natural resources are contributing to the plight of millions of Southern Africans.

ADRA-UK's Annual Appeal funds assisted with the successful completion of the following three interventions:

- 37,500 poor female-headed households and orphans in Zambia and Malawi have received starter packs which include maize, bean seeds and fertilizers.
- 11,000 farmers in Zambia and Malawi received agricultural training from ADRA specialists to improve crop production.
- 27,000 women and children in Malawi received emergency food supplies.

Remember, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.” Matthew 25:35, 36 (New International Version).

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to address the devastating effects of disasters upon millions of poor people in our world. In 2002, ADRA-UK responded to 21 disasters aiding over 392,000. This would not have been possible without the support of our church members. THANK YOU for your compassionate ministry.

The objective of this article is to highlight two of ADRA-UK’s disaster responses in the last quarter of 2002.

LIFE.info testimony
I’d like to share my testimony concerning LIFEinfo magazine:

A couple of months ago our neighbour had some people intrude into their home who started to literally beat them up. We were disturbed by all the noise and ran outside to see what was going on. My husband managed to break up the fight between our neighbour and the male intruder, I stood outside praying whilst my mother broke up the fight between the female intruder and our neighbour’s girlfriend. It was dreadful. We were all shaken by the incident but thankful that it ended in peace.

What’s this got to do with LIFE.info? Well a few nights after the incident, I decided to give our neighbours a LIFEinfo magazine. The topics in the first issue were so apt for them. Especially topics such as ‘Bullying’ and ‘neighbours from Hell!’ They thanked us for the magazine and said they would read it. They were both moved to tears that we had helped them and cared about what had happened to them.

At Christmas instead of giving us a Christmas card they gave us a beautiful poem about prayer. We were blown away. These were the last people on earth we expected this from. Giving them the LIFEinfo magazine was a great avenue to start a friendship with neighbours who we had termed as ‘neighbours from hell’ but we have realised that they are God’s children who are looking for something more in life. Keep up the good work.

E. West Midlands
In hypothermia, the whole body is affected with shivering and low body temperature; a slow pulse; the muscles; and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure to cold, which reduces the body temperature below 35°C, causes the brain. The condition affects all ages but is most serious illness or fatality. In hypothermia the whole body is affected with shivering and low body temperature; a slow pulse; the muscles; and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure to cold, which reduces the body temperature below 35°C, causes the brain. The condition affects all ages but is most serious illness or fatality. In hypothermia the whole body is affected with shivering and low body temperature; a slow pulse; the muscles; and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure to cold, which reduces the body temperature below 35°C, causes the brain. The condition affects all ages but is most serious illness or fatality. In hypothermia the whole body is affected with shivering and low body temperature; a slow pulse; the muscles; and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure to cold, which reduces the body temperature below 35°C, causes the brain. The condition affects all ages but is most
Development of Aberdonian
The campsite at Aberdonian holds very precious memories for many of our members. It is a unique site, that has been developed over the years to be able to accommodate premises of its own.

Education
The education programme in our Conference is centred on our two schools, Dudley House and Harper Bell. Both institutions continue to develop academically and have been commended by HM Inspectors for their progressive development. Financially, they have made a remarkable recovery and is currently operating in the black. Harper Bell has greatly improved its financial situation and we are currently working with the school to enable it to achieve and sustain a positive financial position. We are grateful to the heads and the staff of both schools for the excellent work they are doing with and for our children.

Conference membership
The Conference continues to experience membership growth. Reports show that the membership, which currently stands at 6,243, has increased by 183 on the membership figure as at December 2001.

On reflection we have so much for which to thank the Lord. The Gospel is being preached and souls are being born for the Kingdom of God. The assistance of the Church in the North England Conference is progressing. However, we cannot be too careful in acquiring new premises. The Church has been experiencing a growth in numbers. The Church Ministry has been experiencing a growth in numbers. The Church Ministry has been.

As a part of its development programme, the Conference will be building the new accommodation block on Ravenhurst Street in Birmingham, the former West Midlands City Centre.

Church buildings
About 64% of the clergy in the North England Conference own their places of worship. The other 36% minister in rented accommodation. Over the past two years the Conference has assisted six congregations in purchasing properties of their own. A seventh congregation has been greatly blessed with its own place of worship – a generous gift from a member who wants to support the work of the Church. We trust that those congregations that are still worshipping in rented accommodation will be able to acquire premises of their own.

In 2001 over 40 churches submitted evangelism proposals, indicating their intention to run evangelistic efforts during 2002. There were also those churches that had planned to run church-based outreach activities, but had not submitted a formal proposal. Reports received to date indicate that we have had a total of 228 people join the Church during 2002; 210 of these were by baptism.

We expect the figure to increase as we receive further reports for 2002.

New initiatives
In the past two years we have had new initiatives developing within the Conference by way of church plants. There is the Catholic Church’s ‘Caritas’ in Southcoates, ‘The Manor’ in Sheffield and the Frayford Community Church in Sittingbourne.

We would like to see many more of these taking place around the Conference in the days after 2002. As well as the maintenance of Conference-owned property, for many years very little has been done towards the general maintenance of the office. During 2001 the Executive adopted the approach to carry out refurbishment of the building in stages. The result is that the building is looking smarter and the service has been greatly improved, thus enhancing its appearance and making it a more representative administrative office.

Sin as addiction
The sin of addiction can lead us down into dark, dark places. There is the sin of self-righteousness by self-righting that and, in turn, can become a symptom of depression. When Paul said, ‘What a wretched man I am, it is possible that he had gone there? When he asked, ‘Who shall deliver me’ can we identify with his question? If so, let us take on board the answer that he found: ‘I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!’

We said confession is good for the soul? Did they know what they were talking about? Did they experience it? Paul seems to have understood the truth of the matter. Jesus said, ‘The impact of the war. He seems to have captured the emotions and all which that war brings. It stuns your powers, limits ability, and confines flair, creativity, imagination and innovation. Religion does not do good. For it is you who is trapped. Paul called himself a ‘wretched man’; I always wondered what he meant. Now I know.

Trapped by circumstances, chained by suffering, many of us become bitter, negative, critical. Religion is so often easy to blame someone else or say, ‘I don’t know’ or ‘It just happened’. The first is to give up. The second is to ask for help. Paul, said the ‘careful in helping others in sin, that you do not succumb yourself’. Yes, it does make one stop and think. But sin is not needed to be invited and fed and does not deserve appropriately when you step on the door with the ‘faintest’ voice and the gentlest smile. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. God can give a person a vision of Christ. You watch. I am not asking for help. I thought I could handle it. I hardly imagined.

You ask where am I now. Praying, you say. ‘Oh, no! Why do you say, “Oh, no!”’ Do you forget what? No! ‘Talk to someone’, you say. ‘Who would you? I am not looking for sympathy, empathy or counselling, especially the last. Do I know the signposts? Yes, I can read them. Yes. Do I need help? Of course. Yes. No! Seventy-times-seven is a strange number. You see, you never keep the law in its entirety. When you have been down the same greased pit, other places they say. It seems to me there; there; and ‘Ahhhh, poor fellow’.

When you are this far down, that’s not much help. What did I do, I ask. You ask. What is it you can commit? No, that one? ‘That is not the worst. No, the worst is the sin of not being able to sleep when you wake and you sleep and you live with and that weight breaks every moral bone and sucks you dry of all the moral virtue you thought you had. And now you stand surrounded by righteous people, in the midst you stand – a sinner. How small, insignificant and uncomfortable. It is not possible to live here. That is why sin and goodness will always be at enmity with one another. And so we struggle not to feel bad and feel even worse while struggling. Suicide, leaving your wife, leaving your family all seem reasonable and acceptable options. The reasoning appears logical: I will leave here because other than when I bury it; my good name, be it a hypocrite, or worst, still, and stay and become an indentured servant of my sins. In fact, as soon as you take action that gets you away from anything and anyone that is righteous seems a reasonable and acceptable option.

Addiction is a good word for what sin does to you. Did they know that? Neither will you. But the road to recovery is much the same as it is for an addict; the first is to wake when you are an addict; Second, that you cannot help yourself. Third, that you need Jesus to get you the way back is ‘in the hands of the Father’.

Imagine driving. The speed limit is 55 mph and you are driving at 65 mph. Are you breaking the law? Why not slow down to limit the why you are driving that fast? Eventually you are stopped. What is your reaction? How do you feel? ‘I had no idea I was going that fast’, VIPicked or ‘Name your excuse. You now have a fine and points on your licence, how do you respond? Continue to drive with the same state of mind, or transform? Do you now look at your blood pressure when checking for speed cameras, patrol cars, in fear of being caught again, or do you drive without the limits to no end?’

We have said for so long that we live in the end, but actions do not mirror our words. We are still looking to build, to acquire and to pay for. The problem with all of this, where is our treasure. Is it for me, I have been down too long to worry. So much going on and so many decisions. I was so impressed that he offered to help. Broome, the ‘Knitwit’ group, busy with a never-ending power source. Jesus; and ‘It is one thing’ and ‘I think I could handle it’.

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Dublin population explosion
In the past eighteen months Dublin has experienced a population explosion – and this has been reflected in the membership of the Dublin Church. Patsy McCormac has lost almost twenty children, and his diary is filling up for 2003! Among those clients are Kajal Mungara who arrived from Zimbabwe some two years ago.

Church without pastor baptises seven
Smetwick had not had a baptism since 1999, but seven candidates were baptised on 9 November. The seven new members are Marjorie Blake, Michelle Dallis, Vema Grant, Anna Grant, Anna-Kaye Harris, Ayesha Hoyles and Philip Sangster.

A traditional service was at the Westminster Church and was conducted by Camp Hill minister Pastor John Shotton.

God has worked in miraculous ways to rebuild the Smetwick congregation. The effect of all this has been so profound that the harvest of souls is deep because, in the absence of a pastor for several months, the people had to rely on each other – J. Holmes, Brother Holmes, a young man, prepared each candidate for baptism.

The Smetwick congregation has grown rapidly. For the past six months we have had a full church each Sabbath.

Newport outreach
In the run-up to Christmas, Newport members distributed Christmas card boxes, copies of FOCUS and LIFE info magazine to their friends, colleagues and neighbours. I look forward to them in worship to the people who live in the district surrounding the church.

A special natal play was performed by the children under the direction of Pastor and Mrs Adrian Brome. The ‘Kristel’ group, busy with their needles all year, contributed, among many other things, quirky stockings, booties, blankets to the collection of clothes, gifts and books distributed in two residential shelters.

Dr Clareinger, of the Werner Institute in the UK will conduct the very important programme at Roundelwood. The Werner Institute is a research centre specialising in church health and temperament studies.

Roudnell Health Centre
23-30 March 2003
Roundelwood Health Centre
Davies is a very serious condition which can lead to blindness, heart disease, and stroke. Almost two million people suffer from diabetes, but only 40% of them are on drugs. It is a medical emergency. Do you know anyone who is diabetic? Did you know that diabetes can make your eyesight worse, that you might lose your ability to work, that your feet might become insensitive, that you can get an infection in your foot that spreads rapidly, and that you might have to have an amputation?

If you have diabetes and you would like further information about the Werner Institute, please contact one of the following:

Dr Clareinger: Tel 07747 901396

The fact is it probably sneaked up on us. What have I done, you ask. What was I thinking? Was I mad? No. I am still climbing out. As I stepped on the bottom rung, I thought I could handle it. I didn’t know what I was thinking was going to do to me. Why? What am I doing? What am I going to do? What am I going to say? What am I going to do? Was I thinking, ‘This is not going to happen’? Was I thinking, ‘I thought I could handle it’?
United in the wonder of his grace

A report on the BUC Ministerial Council at Swanwick, 6-9 January, by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

F rom Monday 6 to Thursday 9 January virtually the entire min-isterial workforce of the British Union Conference met together at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, for their annual Ministerial Council. Altogether more than two hundred people attended the event which focused on the General Conference theme for 2003, ‘United in the Wonder of His Grace’. Guest speakers included: Ed Dickerson, a layman from America with extensive hands-on experience of reaching post-moderns; Racco Howard, newly-elected secretary of the North American Division; Oscar Olindo, lecturer in Islamic Studies at Newbold College; Wilma Bartlett, a specialist in Children’s Ministry; and Harold Wallen, secretary of the Trans-European Division.

Keynote address
In his keynote address on Monday evening BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry spoke about ‘God’s Amazing Grace’. He pointed out that although natural justice demands an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, grace breaks the rule and saves us from the otherwise inevitable consequences of our actions. However, he went on to say that, ‘to whom much is given, much is required.’ When we deal with people who may have wronged us we need to consider how God deals with us.

‘Basic Adventists’
Ed Dickerson’s humorous style made him an instant favourite with his audience. His emphasis was on the importance of relationships in Christian witness and he highlighted the issue of what he referred to as ‘Basic Adventists’. The people in our church who we tend to think of as saints are those who have a preoccupation with church work and are good rather than nice. But this model of godliness has to change. These people that really counts is ministering to people whose needs, and we have thousands of people in our churches who can do

Diversity
Racco Howard’s special subject was diversity. In his introduction he talked about his upbringing in black, white and mixed families, and went on to show from the Bible that we are all

fact all blood relatives, from the same family. ‘With a correct understanding of scripture,’ he said, ‘Seventh-day Adventists will create a new culture. We will not allow secular culture to influence our culture. For everyone will be our brother or sister.’ In a later lecture Racco explained why the culture of diversity needs to be faced up to. ‘Demographically it is predicted that by the year 2050 there will

be no dominant culture in North America. It is a fact that the Church has changed and it will continue to change. The question is, do we spend our time worrying about why the change has taken place or do we work on adapting to the change?’

Revised by humour
Wednesday afternoon was dedicated to the LIFEdevelopment.info evangelistic strategy and presenters included Miroslav Pujic and Dubert Elias, who are key promoters of the project, and Lee Gallaher who announced the imminent release of the next LIFE.info magazine. Lee

presentation went down well, his dry sense of humour reviving those who were beginning to flag under the sheer weight of information being presented. New faces in connection with LIFEdevelopment.info were Daniel Sudseial and Raymond Odogbo, whose company, Future Advent, is taking over the design and implementation of the LIFEdevelopment.info website.

Child abuse
On the last day Wilma Bartlett spoke quietly to a subdued audience on the issue of child abuse. ‘Everyone expects our churches to be safe,’ she said, ‘but we can’t assume that. Just as we cannot assume that our churches are safe from fire, we need to put in a system for ensuring that our children are safe.’ Fortunately the Church has been actively implementing new guidelines and procedures in the area of child safety, and Wilma, together with Heather Haworth, outlined some of the training materials that are now available.

Commitment
Harald Wallen concluded the Ministerial Council with a devotional study on ‘commitment’. He emphasised the fact that God uses normal people to do his work, ‘people like you and me, but people who can make a difference.’ These ‘difference makers’ need to have certain qualities such as discipline, being a good team member, and perseverance, but mainly they need to be willing ‘to show others that a life with God is worth more than a life without God.’

Communion
There were many other memorable events during the week, including workshops, worships, and a particularly encouraging report back from several ministers who are seeing God work in exceptional ways in their districts. Most would agree, however, that the most memorable time of all was on Wednesday evening when everyone joined together in the chapel for a communion service. This included a solo, ‘Grace Grace’, by North England Conference president Edward Tracey, and a sermon based on Romans 5 by South England Conference president Don McFarlane. In his farewell sermon Dr Tracey praised BUC Pastoral Associate director Alan Hodges, who organised the whole Ministerial Council, spoke of the communion service as being the highlight of the week, and thanked all those who had helped to make the meetings a time of spiritual renewal and true fellowship.

Wimbledon goes to Centre Court
On Friday 20 December 2002 from 4-6pm Christmas cards could be heard ringing throughout Centre Court shopping mall in Wimbledon town centre, thanks to the thirty members and friends of Wimbledon church who had gone there to witness to the community and to collect money for the local Mayor’s charities: Christian Care and Diabetes UK.

Councillor Ed Macaulay, Mayor of Wimbledon, provided T-shirts, baseball caps and buckets for those taking part. A total of 1408.8 was collected for the Mayor’s charities, a further cheque for £100, representing part of the money collected at the Carol service by the Friends of Wimbledon Church, who had also presented to Wandsworth

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Radiant centenarian
by G Martin Bell

Irene Osborne, former Bible worker and Voice of Prophecy Bible teacher, was 100 years old on 14 January. The ward at the James Paget Hospital in Great Yarmouth was lit up by her beaming smile as she greeted many friends, including Pastor Cecil Perry and his secretary, Wörie Pearce, who had travelled 170 miles from Watford to join the birthday celebrations.

What Irene had looked forward to most of all about her birthday was the opportunity to witness to the newspaper people when they came to interview her, and, true to her word, she spent a considerable time telling the young lady reporter about her life as a Christian and how she gave her heart to Jesus when she was 11 years old. Irene was delighted when the reporter quoted her almost word for word, and described the celebrations in the following way:

“In spite of being in the James Paget Hospital at Gorleston, after a fall, it was a radiant Centenarian who greeted everyone on Tuesday who had come to see her, with a kiss and a ‘God bless you’.

The ward was full of flowers from well-wishers all over the country, some eighty or ninety greeting cards, balloons, and a special celebration cake with Irene’s picture in icing brought by her visiting niece, Sylvia Bruce, from Brighton.

Other hospital patients and their visitors joined in the happy celebrations as the Mayor and Mayoress of Lowestoft arrived with a huge bunch of flowers, and the Hospital Administrator with a large bottle of champagne (much to Irene’s embarrassment, who stated that she had never touched a drop in her life). Irene enjoyed the company of the Mayor and Mayoress for several minutes and told them all about her faith and her Church.

It was unfortunate that Irene suffered a fall and broke her femur shortly before her birthday celebrations, but she is looking forward to returning to her retirement flat at the Dell where she enjoys independent living.

Irene is looking forward so much to Jesus’ return. Until then, we wish her every happiness in her 101st year.

Fastest Faith First

At 8pm on Sunday 29 December Pastor Gary Gordon, the associate pastor in the Birmingham Camp Hill district, featured on the popular BCC2 television programme ‘Top Gear’. He took part in a driving competition entitled ‘Fastest Faith First’ which seeks to find the fastest driver from a selection of people representing different faith communities. As a pastor in a large built-up area Gary does not get much opportunity for competitive driving but he relished the chance to test his skills against others on the track.

The section was introduced by programme presenter Jeremy Clarkson.

Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the ‘Triennial Session of the Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 29 June 2003 in the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church.

Delegates should note that registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am. Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendations Committee.

L. R. Edwards, president
V. Pilmoor, secretary

Acknowledgement

The principal of the Advent Discovery Centre acknowledges with thanks a donation of £200 received January 2003.