Hang on to it!
The enclosed information sheet is intended to build your awareness and confidence for the new ADRA Annual Appeal campaign.

Be Prepared.
ADRA Annual Appeal 2003
by Pastor Cecil Perry, Chief Promoter for England and Wales

The Ingathering programme comes to us with a divinely-insired humanitarian label. It was introduced to enhance the mission and witness of the church to the world.

Operating as we do under charity regulations the need has arisen for us to emphasise the humanitarian aspects more strongly than before. A wary but generous public wants its donations to be applied to medical, social, physical and educational concerns. This is the second year we will be collecting under the charity ADRA-UK, which has a good track record of 'people helping people'. We can collect with confidence, ADRA-UK has a good system of accountability for all its projects.

Over the years Ingathering has been kept alive by volunteers. Hundreds of hours have been spent by intrepid collectors knocking on doors or ringing bells. They do this, not for physical exercise, but in the belief that soliciting public donations is one way of fulfilling the commandment, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

We appreciate, too, the generosity of those within the church who, because of circumstances that prevent them Ingathering, make personal donations to the programme.

Nine projects were beneficiaries of the record £523,887 collected in 2002. All the projects were people-orientated, serving large communities, some with family planning concerns, HIV/AIDS-related conditions, and various other medical and educational needs.

We need to double our efforts for the 2003 Appeal. We shall be collecting for projects in ten countries ranging from the Sudan to Wales. The funds collected under ADRA-UK will help children with disabilities, train workers in Type II Diabetes Control, provide Day Care Centres for street children and educational facilities and training for hundreds of people in lifestyle issues. Included among the projects will be an emergency fund set aside for disaster relief.

The number of collectors over the years has been dwindling. We need new recruits to fill the vacancies – especially from among our youth, on whose shoulders the future of the programme rests. Whatever the weather or the size of your congregation, let me plead with you on behalf of the needy to increase our new professional pack is designed to help you ask the right questions on the right issues to the right people at the right time for the right response.

Our new professional pack means business
Professional presentation folders are available from Ingathering Agents, Conference Personal Ministries departments and ADRA-UK for members who want to solicit significant donations from business and professional associates.
Multi-faith Relations - How far can Christians go?

by Helen Pearson

On Tuesday night, 4 February, Newbold College hosted the latest in its monthly series of lectures organised by the College’s Institute for the Study of Religion and Cultural Diversity. Guest lecturer at this first lecture for 2003 was Professor Paul Weller from the University of Derby – a Baptist Christian. As Professor of Inter-Religious Relations and Director of the Division of Human Science, Professor Weller has been intimately involved in the development of the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby and its work over the last ten years by improving relations between those of different faiths.

Professor Weller’s lecture was entitled: ‘How far can we go? and offered fascinating insights into the dialogue between people of different faiths. He challenged the members of his audience to move from the position which he described as ‘talking about’ to ‘talking with’ about the task in hand.

We all talk about the beliefs of God and the Church. How far can Christians go? What are the boundaries, and what is not appropriate?

It is wonderful to know how much encouragement the Bible characterises and by meditating on what Jesus did about prayer in his life on Earth and what he said our attitudes and habits should be characterised not by its ability to exclude, but by its ability to include and those whom we tradition- ally see as ‘outside’ our own group. The way to grow in knowledge is to do the truth.

R arely has a man taken his marriage vows as lightly as Albert Edward, Prince of Wales. When he was in extreme old age, one of his friends made a serious attempt to focus his mind on something other than the carnal. He took the Prince to the famous ‘Fat Men’s’ slums in Clerkennell and St Pancras.

The Prince was astonished by what he found in the slums. Going from alley to alley, his uncornt- ed party of friends discovered entire families, each living in a single unrefurbished room. There was a gaunt, shivering woman on a heap of rags with three nearly-naked children too daunted by cold and hunger to make any response to the Prince and his friends.

The Prince returned to his palace enraged. Four days later he was still angry enough to make a speech in the House of Lords. He was amazed and alarmed. He had read no Dickens. For decades Charles Dickens had described the conditions just below in books that read in the homes of the rich. In Scrooge he had carica- tured a hard, selfish man of business who needed to be told, ‘Mankind is your business.’

That’s quite a mission statement about how you relate to the world. The Prince of Wales had lost interest within a month or two and returned to the arms of the amazing number of women who populated his life. He had discovered that he, among others, owned the freedom of some of the slum districts he had visited, he found that he had never been interested in affairs . . .

Now I hope to see some of your prayer requests to add to my prayer list and to the prayer list on this page, so that as a church we may pray more specifically and, therefore, effectively for bringing visions to life. I have these sent requests to Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Penygroes Road, Caerbryn, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, SA18 3BZ. Thank you.
Eighth at LD Training Weekend

The icy roads and inclement weather were not a deterrent to the 80-plus individuals who attended the LD Training weekend, from January 31 to February 2, at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, organised by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School department of the SEC. The attendees represented over thirty churches. The dynamic presentations on groups and centres, the sharing in small groups and worship renewal sessions, not only resolved the questions but provided new ideas and impetus for fulfilling the Saviour’s mission to reach his lost children.

The Holy Spirit used Pastors Richard Delisser, Colbert Ellis, Paul Haworth, and Aris Vontzalidis to inspire, unceasingly and motivate all present to a renewed vision for their lives and for their churches. The song, ‘Crash in with many crows’ took on a whole new meaning. Jesus was lifted up as the One whose methods we need to emulate, as the One in whom all power resides, as the Saviour of all mankind.

Watch out, for many Life Development Groups and Centres will be springing up within your churches. Did I hear you say, ‘What is a Life Development group or centre, anyway?’ Why not ask your church’s Life Development co-ordinator, or contact Pastor A. Vontzalidis at the SEC, or visit the website: www.ldtraininguk.info?

Through this heaven-inspired strategy and process, the hosts will hear the story of Jesus, and your joy will overflow when they say to you: ‘I liked the story.’

The decision of the Wimbledon Women’s Ministries department to hold a Girls’ Night Out was greeted with much anticipation. It is a truth universally acknowledged that when ever women get together they have nothing better to talk about than men!

Thus the scene was set for Wimbledon’s first Women’s Retreat that was held on 14-15 December. A small group of nine ladies, companions’ members and friends from Wimbledon’s international congregation, travelled to a secret location (hotel) far, far away for an overnight stay, and a fun and relaxing evening. One of those of the stronger sex who were testing facials by a cosmetics expert who posed for a photo with them in a makeshift studio – one of the en suite bathrooms!

Topical discussions on the role of women in God’s ministry, as well as issues such as stress and the menopause, conducted by Dr Gita Wijeyesinghe, focused on the women individually in their personal, professional, social and spiritual lives. The subtext for the weekend was, as predicted, men, indeed, they were the primary focus of every aspect of the weekend from ‘jacuzzi’ to ‘menopause’.

Would you believe it? (See right)

Biggest investiture

Sabbath 1 February was an exciting day for the Crieff Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs because it was their investiture service. Ted’s Pastor Paul Tompkins was the visiting speaker and he said he was thrilled to be present for what was probably the biggest investiture in the history of the Scottish Mission. Eleven Pathfinders and Adventurers received their honour badges and had been inducted in the various course honours. Honours as varied as scripture, glass painting, textiles, lamp and craft camp were obtained. The Sabbath was the result of two years of hard work, and Pastor Tompkins wanted to thank Myra Rodd who had started the club and Malcolm Logan and his team of helpers who had carried on so conscientiously.

As well as the investiture of the Adventurers and Pathfinders a really historic event occurred when seven members from various churches in Scotland were invested as Master Guides. This was the result of a training scheme started by Pastor G. Smith and carried on by the new Scottish Youth Sponsor, Marcel Gozalia. The visit to the website: www.messengersoc.org.uk, for one of those invested. He has been helping to run Pathfinder clubs for decades and co-ordinated the General Conference Medalion for service to Pathfinders at the last BUC Camporee at Auchenglike. Pastor Tompkins said the Pathfinder programme had been established in 1949 by the General Conference, and when he asked for a show of hands in the congregation of those who were Master Guides, he found someone who had been invested right from the beginning.

Sydenham: Two baptised

Two candidates were baptised by Pastor W. Blake at the Sydenham church on 12 December. Victorian Dedrick was formerly a Baptist but her husband, Ralph Dedrick, was brought up in an Adventist home. Gloria St Martin, the second candidate, testified powerfully to the saving grace of God.

Baptism at Preston

Preston church was overflowed as two young men decided to take a stand for the Lord and be baptised on 23 December. Renssen Ongaro, 14, was brought up in an Adventist home. He decided that he wanted to be baptised and his main influence was his family and their Christian values. He has always taken an active part in the church services at Lancaster and is a regular member of the Pathfinder Club. Renssen said, ‘This is one of the bravest choices I have ever had to make, but thank God I made the decision to follow him.’

James Haslam began practising Christianity at the age of 15, but it wasn’t long before he started to challenge the doctrine of the church to which he had become accustomed. For the next four years he began spending his time in Riverside, California, home of the La Sierra University, where he was introduced to a doctrine which refreshed him, fully in line with Bible teaching.

Since then, James has regularly attended the Adventist church and taken part in missionary work in Mexico, working with orphans, which he found to be a rewarding experience. From March 2002 he has regularly attended the Preston church and, on occasions, helped out with the Pathfinders.

Both candidates were appointed spiritual guardians – Evander Whyte and Carine Jeffers.

Ballincraoch baptisms

January 25 was a very special day for one particular family. The Vermeeken family travelled to Dublin from South Africa a little over a year ago in search of a better life. Rohan worked with computers and had little difficulty getting work with one of Ireland’s largest IT firms. Inge and little Rohan travelled to Ireland a little later and they began to make a home for themselves in Bray, just outside Dublin.

They very quickly became a part of the fabric of the Dublin church, being involved with the youth and children’s programmes. But due to work commitments they moved and found themselves living not too far down from Ballincraoch church, which is about thirty miles from Dublin. They now support this church and not only one boy, Rohan, but two. On the 25th we dedicated the newest addition to the Vermeeken family, Ethan Jeffrey. This was also a special occasion for Inge as her parents had travelled over.

But that was only the beginning of our service, for we also celebrated the baptism of Rohin and Ethan’s parents, Rohan and Inge. Rohan shared his testimony with those who had gathered, friends and family, and paid tribute to those who had touched his life and in part helped him and his family settle in Ireland and also those who had testified to the living and loving God.

MESSENGER. Know why? They were random sample! But at least we have a complete picture for the faces of his spiritual guardians – Evadne Whyte and Carine Jeffers.

Left to right: Pastor Frank Magee, Renssen Ongaro, James Haslam and Pastor K. John.

Why would you believe it?

About a third of the pastors and Bible workers who attended the Swannwick Ministerial Council failed to appear in the picture, reproduced on pages 6 and 7 of the 14 February issue of Messenger. Know why? They were missing in cyberspace! Pastor John Sumigle has now located them and we hereby reproduce the whole picture! We apologise to the pastors who did not appear last time, and especially to Southampton’s Pastor Barry Allen and Newark’s Miss Phe Hickold – who were chopped in half! Such! The editor has looked in vain even in the complete picture for the faces of his old friends, and has drawn the conclusion that even this is only a random sample! But at least we have not left anyone hanging about in cyberspace!
God is leading in Ireland

President: Curtis Murphy

"Ireland, once visited, is never forgotten," it said. For once the blarney rings true. The Irish landscape has a mystic resonance, due as much to the country's unique linguistic heritage as to the home of the fairies and the "little people". Sun, the weather may not always be clement, but the damp-'in' word, but I'm still catching up. Unlike my cyberEdge which I pepper with emoticons, I'm getting more familiar with the Irish landscape and traditions. However, I believe the blarney isn't playing the 'catch-up' game. God is leading, directing and moving us on.

We are about 335 members on an island that is divided into two countries, two currencies, but the Church sees God in all that. The name that is above all names is being lifted up in praise and glory. God is clearly at work among us.

We do not minimise the challenges of being a part of God's team in this difficult pitch, but we are about to cross the line and love and care for each other. We have many new faces and so we are moving forward in God's plan as a church together.

Curtis Murphy

Welsh and Irish Missions

Onward in the Welsh Mission:

President: Brian P. Phillips

The Welsh Mission was always the largest in membership of the three missions within the British Union Conference. Since 1911, with a few interruptions in the 1920s, its territory has included the English Border Counties of Hereford, Shropshire and a small part of Worcestershire. The mission has been included in the Mission because the main road and rail link between South and North Wales runs through this border area.

Wrexham

In 1909 Pastor E. C. Read began services in North Wales in the village of Rhosasgarneg, near Wrexham. For many years we had a few members, living in that area, but now all over the Mission area and in many places of worship.

Bangor

Last year regular services also started at the university town of Bangor in North Wales. Ten years ago the idea of a church was in its infancy. Today there are five places where worship services are taking place. We praise the Lord for his guidance in the work in the Mission through a dedicated band of workers and church officers. Our only prayer must be, Lord glorify your name. May we win them in stature as we exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

Small groups

Prayer is uppermost in our minds. Small areas are discovered all over the Mission territory. Attending these small groups reminds one of the "Experience Meetings" that gave a solid foundation to Methodism in the eighteenth century. Evangelical Revival. Prayer is an important part of all these gatherings and we are asking the Lord for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to enable us to finish the work.

A number of dedicated sponsors have been appointed to enable the work in our churches and to encourage believers to be prepared to spread the Gospel message in the churches and in the community.

Last year was an experimental year when we asked the department directors from the British Union to come into the Mission on a regular basis. They responded with enthusiasm, and so much so that they gave some great examples of spiritual and cultural initiatives. However, we now have a list of do's and don'ts for the future.

Moving to Wales

The year 2002 will be remembered for the number of people who moved into the Mission within the year. In March, they are from Portland Adventist Academy and consist of students and staff who will be involved in cross-community projects in Belfast during the day, and

Bible-based projects in Larne during the evening. This initiative will be conducted under the banner, 'A Resurrection Call of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The resurrection call of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The New Year Adventist Singles' Ball, a rich and lively mixed company. The event was entitled 'Jesus for You'.

Singles' Ball

The New Year Adventist Singles' Ball, a black-tie charity event, was held at the Advent Centre. Organisers were Maureen Linda Raphael and Joynia Jackson-James. Pastor Richard Vine is the minister. They start-up in the month of the Mission in Belfast, and Larne, served by Pastor Mart de Groot and Adam BATES, Percy – d. 1 December. Percy was born nine-years ago in 1869, in Churchtown, Hamilton. He attended the Central Sunday School in charge of Mr. A. H. B. Board. He graduated with a higher certificate. While studying at Hamilton's College in London, he was a teacher and Maurygrove Mission in 1917, a teacher and teacher. The name that is above all names is being lifted up in praise and glory. God is clearly at work among us.

The Belfast Mission is the largest and most successful of the three missions within the Baptist Union of Ireland. Since 1900, a few interruptions in the 1920s, it has included the Mission because the main road and rail link between South and North Wales runs through this border area.

Onward and Onward

Onward and Onward

Onward and Onward

Onward and Onward

Onward and Onward
I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I do not want to be inherited.

by Rusti A. Karsa, ADRA-UK Director

It is very sad when a husband dies of HIV/AIDS. It is even more tragic when a widow and her two sons are instigated after a husband's death.

On 30 January I had the opportunity to visit one of our ADRA UK projects in Kisumu, western Kenya, supported by the 2002 Annual Appeal Funds. I met Ana and her two sons Dialou and Omondi. Ana lost her husband to the AIDS epidemic in December 2002. During our conversation, I asked her if she received support from her husband's family. Immediately, she broke down in tears. She looked at me and said in a sad voice, I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I do not want to be inherited.

Following her husband's death, Ana in-law tried to force her to marry one of her husband's brothers, as tradition in western Kenya has long dictated. Ana refused since she strongly believes that such cultural practices are contrary to the teachings of the Bible. As a result, Ana in-laws rejected her and drove her out of her home and community to face starvation.

Most of the 12,235 widows who are receiving support from our 2002 Annual Appeal funds possess little education, have no property, do not hold jobs and do not have the skills to find one easily. They must choose between 'inheritance' or face starvation.

Ana is one of these fortunate widows who are receiving help from our ADRA funds. Through your dedicated efforts last year, she has received shelter, food, clothing and free education for her children. Ana is also receiving vocational training in basket-making, weaving, tailoring and knitting and the income generated by these activities is helping her to build her life.

It is wonderful to be part of God’s compassionate ministry. Changing the world one life at a time is ADRA’s slogan. Thank you for changing the lives of Ana, Dialou and Omondi.

HOME CARE MANAGER WANTED

Luton Friendship Homecare is seeking to recruit a manager with a flexible approach and good interpersonal skills and relevant management qualifications. Knowledge of homecare provision and NQH regulations is essential. For further information and an application form, please contact Sally Banks on 01582 725814. Closing date 31 March. Salary to be negotiated.

The treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks £4,150 from Aveon, and £250 from CNT.

Festival

Wembley Arena

26th April 2003

SPEAKERS

dwight nelson

celby cakir

ted pujic

don mcclanren

Adventist Prom Praise

Starts: 10.00pm Doors open at 8.30pm

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT WHEN WHERE WHO HOW

Gospel Concert – Candy Taste and See

16 March, 7pm Battersea Adventist Church, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW8 4BL

Children £5 Adults £10

Closing date 31 March. Closing date for applications: Monday 25 March 2003.

FULL-TIME BUSINESS MANAGER

The John Loughborough Adventist School requires a qualified, experienced and innovative person to start April 2003. Salary up to £30,000 depending on experience. The successful candidate will be a practising Adventist. Have the knowledge and experience to carry out effectively a financial, administrative and strategic planning role within the school. Take responsibility for all delegated budgetary accounting procedures within the school, including the maintenance of departmental and account expenditure balances. Formulate and implement and review and control financial procedures. Coordinate all administrative functions associated with all school income. Arrange to support the smooth running of the school. Application forms are available from the head teacher, Ms Edwena McFarquhar. Tel: 0208 801 6719. Fax: 0208 801 6718. Closing date for applications: Monday 25 March 2003.

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

March

16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

23 West Midlands 10am-2pm

April

21 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

May

11 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Sunset

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

Full 60-piece orchestra

Saturday tickets are £27.50 Overseas airmail £22. Overseas airmail £22.50

Overseas airmail £27.50

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk

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