Sabbath 4 October is a significant date in the LIFEdevelopment.info diary. We would like to encourage every church within the British Union to place a major emphasis on LIFEdevelopment.info for that date, the first Sabbath in October. By this date we will be in the last quarter of the year of ‘Getting Connected’, the first level in the process of reaching unchurched and secular individuals in our local communities. This important concept is built on such statements as:

‘Christ’s method alone gives true success in reaching people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade [invited] them, “Follow Me.” ’

The Ministry of Healing, page 143.

Exciting things are beginning to happen, as members are ‘Getting Connected’ and devising various ways of making friends in the community:

- From Bradford Graham Allock reports that church members have distributed LIFE.info magazine very widely and that one person in nine has responded to the enclosed leaflet they inserted.

- The Norwich church has distributed 90,000 ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ cards from the Adventist Discovery Centre in and around Norwich. They have had over three hundred responses. Each of these contacts has received a copy of the LIFE.info magazine and been given an invitation to receive the magazine regularly. It is planned to invite these students to a ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ seminar. ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ is specially designed for unchurched and secular people.

- In the Welsh Mission Rosemary Lethbridge has designed a ‘Welcome Pack’ which includes discount vouchers from local businesses, a LIFE.info magazine, and a ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ card, along with a welcome letter. These are being delivered by hand to new people moving into the community. This is an excellent way of making new friends in your neighbourhood.

- ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ pack

In addition to the resources already distributed by the British Union a ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ pack has been sent to the Scottish, Irish, and Welsh Missions and to each area in the North and South England Conferences. The packs include sample cards, a set of lessons, a set of eight video programmes, plus an order form. Please contact your Mission President or Area Co-ordinator if you wish to see the pack. Packs are available at £20 (including postage and packing) from the LIFEdevelopment.info Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.

Pastors and elders will receive materials for October’s special LIFEdevelopment.info Day from the beginning of September.

Please make this first Sabbath of October a Day of Prayer for LIFEdevelopment.info. Please pray for the following:

- That God’s Spirit will empower and guide God’s people in this challenging outreach project.

- That improved methods of communicating the message may be developed so that the general public can easily hear the ‘good news’ for the twenty-first century.

- For Pastor Dwight Nelson as he prepares for ‘The Evidence’ and ‘Mind the Gap’ programmes, which will be televised by satellite in 2004.

- For the millions of secular and unchurched people in our land, that they may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We encourage all of our churches to move forward together and make this Day of LIFEdevelopment.info on Sabbath 4 October a day of commitment and dedication to furthering the work of God in Great Britain and Ireland.
The Ministry of Prayer Evangelism

Prayer is more than talking

by Heather Haworth, BUC Prayer co-ordinator

Prayer – The key
Evangelism without prayer is like an explosive without a detonator. Prayer without evangelism is like a detonator without explosives. Put these two together and the roof of hell will cave in anywhere. Wherever there is openness to the Gospel, faithful prayer has gone before. Prayer intensifies the activity of God’s love and power. Every revival in the history of the Church has been preceded by prayer. In 1860 one million people were converted in England alone. This happened after 200 churches every day, earlier that year, gathered for prayer.

Prayer and evangelism are the powerful Spirit-filled duo which will bring the Gospel to unbelieving friends and family. ‘And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.’ Matthew 24:14, NIV. When and how this will happen depends upon the active faith of the twenty-first century Christian disciples.

Unquestionably, ‘prayer is the key in the hand of faith.’ Consequently, Life Development.info evangelism will unlock human hearts when there is a prayer ministry.

God wants to talk
In fact, the basic reason for evangelism is due to God’s longing to renew communication between himself and mankind. When God called out, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9) he was longing for Adam and Eve to talk back to him. From Genesis to Revelation we read of a God constantly initiating a dialogue, not just as a faceless voice but as God in human flesh – Jesus. Why? Because he is longing to develop a lifelong redemptive friendship. That friendship can only take place when there is two-way communication – in other words prayer – which is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.

Jesus gives the key
“What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear; What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer.”

The only way we can successfully tell our friends what a friend they can have in Jesus is to listen to the advice he gives in Matthew 9:37, 38. “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’” (KJV)

As we consider the enormity of our Gospel commission, which includes helping our irreligious family and friends to talk to God just as a friend, we do not need to feel over-awed as Jesus gives the solution: “Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest.”

Prayer ministry is the key to success
When Jesus’ followers obeyed the command to assemble together in Jerusalem to await the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4–9), they did so, continuing ‘with one accord in prayer’ (Acts 1:14; 2:1). This resulted in thousands praising God (Acts 1:46, 47); ‘And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.’ Every form of evangelistic outreach will be nothing more than another programme unless a fervent prayer ministry envelops the present-day disciples with the Holy Spirit’s gift of evangelism as it did in the first century. (See Colossians 4:2–4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1.)

1 Steps to Christ, by E. G. White.
2 Words by, M. CROFT, New Advent Hymnal, 722.

Coming soon
Debut CD from Mark Bunney

It’s here at last . . . introducing the newest, funkiest, talented jazz-gospel musician Mark Bunney and his debut CD album ‘Coming Soon’. Featuring the sweet, sultry sound of the saxophone, Mark Bunney fuses together the genres of jazz and gospel, creating music that will take you to a higher level.

Reviewed by Abigail Murphy

It dropped onto my desk this morning to exclamations of ‘Oh fantastic, let’s have a listen.’ Mark Bunney’s (eagerly awaited) album ‘Coming Soon’ had arrived, and has been on repeat ever since. For all those people who have heard him and thought ‘Why can’t I take him home?!’ now you can! Yay! It’s just as good as you would hope. Mark is certainly at his best, and, accompanied by David Francis on keyboards, has gone and done an album which will stay in your hi-fi a long time to come. Just put it on repeat, turn it up loud, and enjoy. It’s that good, trust me, go and get it!

Coming Soon is stocked by the Adventist Book Centre and can be bought at book sales or by phoning (01476 539900) with your credit card details.

£13.99
Mark visits his website http://www.markbunney.com today where you can listen to his music and own it on CD for yourself!

Healthwise

Fashion Martyrs

The time was when health educators found corsets to be the object of their condemnation. A typical comment by Dr J. H. Kellogg made the matter very clear: ‘We scarcely ever met a lady who would admit that her corset was tight . . . .’ We read the other day . . . of a young woman who actually broke a rib in the attempt to gain another half-inch on her corset string.

Suffering for the sake of fashion reveals an ambivalent attitude to the human body, an attitude which has fascinated writers down through the years. I wonder how we might feel about Augustine of Hippo’s speculation that, since nothing will be hidden from the Lord, we shall have to be prepared to exist in his presence without the aid of our corsets.

Over 80% of women surveyed said that they would have to add martyrdom to fashion to the burden! 

For all those women who wear painful shoes of a type to please their partners or employers. Another study conducted by a clinic in Oxford says that one in ten women are pre disposed to foot problems, and one in six women believed that compressed toes indicated a correctly fitting shoe. It should come as no surprise in the light of such disregard that women in the United States are opting to have their second toes (on each foot) amputated in order to fit their feet into new slim-line fashion shoes. The research concludes: ‘Improvements in woman’s foot health are only likely when healthy, well-fitting shoes become a norm for society, within or without the realms of fashion.’ Shoe manufacturers have not given foot health priority.

How we regard the body is of prime importance from a physical as well as a spiritual view of life. We might have to be martyrs for our faith, but there is no necessity to add martyrdom to fashion to the burden!
Spin, lies and – hey! – shall we try truth for a change?

The politicians get themselves into a terrible trough by – how shall we put it? – giving themselves a certain latitude with regard to the truth. You’ve noticed! It’s not, of course, new. What is fairly new is making a sort of science out of it. Newspapers self-righteously call it ‘the science of spin’ and political parties call it ‘news management’.

Spin and lies are not the same thing. ‘Spin’, in all probability, has its origin in the expression, ‘He spun me a yarn’. That means, ‘He told a long, involved story.’ But spin has come to mean: telling a story in such a way as to make one character look good. I’m beginning to fear that before long it will mean: manipulating the details of a true story for the purposes of deception.

When I was at university the Prime Minister of the day was a character who had little support from undergraduates of any shade of political opinion. Hence it was especially hard to take when our teachers told us, ‘A country gets the leaders it deserves.’ Looking back on those days I think that statement was, broadly speaking, true. It probably still is. Hence the ‘spin’ approach of politicians almost certainly reflects a cavalier approach to truth in society in general.

Interview, say, four participants in a crisis situation after it is over. Each one will ‘spin’ his or her account of what happened so as to make himself or herself appear to advantage. The problems arise with overspin: when an individual becomes so concerned with his image (how ‘good’ he looks) that he actually falsifies the details of the story. Thus, ironically, through being over-zealous about his reputation, he forfeits that reputation. He becomes a liar. And, as someone said recently, ‘Liars are hard to work with and impossible to live with.’

The age of the Internet permits us to verify to a remarkable degree the accuracy of statements made to us. For example, my computer’s memory tells me exactly (to the second, as well as to the hour) when ever a piece of electronic mail was received. In the imbroglio following the suicide of the Government scientist, electronic mail provided a hard-to-argue with witness.

For those with a preference for truth there is something very comforting about the primacy of facts. Remember Churchill’s comment? ‘I pass with relief from the tossing sea of Cause and Theory to the firm ground of Result and Fact.’

‘Jus’ gimme the facts, Ma’am; all I want are the facts.’

Dum-de-dum-dum-duuum! Remember that one? It was one of those American TV detectives. I can’t remember if it was Kojak, Rockford or Columbo. It was one of those

Discipleship breaks the chains which bind us to them and enables us to be the persons we ought to be.1

Warren Wiersbe puts it this way: ‘When we obey his word, we grow in spiritual knowledge; and as we grow in spiritual knowledge, we grow in freedom from sin. Life leads to learning, and learning leads to liberty.’2

What can we learn from this? My mother used to say, ‘Tell the truth and shame the devil!’ That’s not a bad dictum. Another I have heard recently is, ‘Truth, like honesty, will turn out in the end to have been the best policy.’ Lies are Satan’s natural medium.3

So, having sorted out the politicians of every shade and hue, we can feel mightily righteous. Right? Wrong! The majority of people behave politically. We all need emancipation from the thraldom of other people’s opinions. And that emancipation comes from discipleship. In turn, discipleship comes from:

Believing – and ‘holding’, ‘abiding’ or ‘continuing’.

It comes from acting on the truth of Jesus.

That is what brings the freedom promised: from fear, from self, from other people’s opinions and from sin.

The bottom line? It all comes down to relationship. But relationship has got to make a difference. It’s got to show in the way that we live.

References:

1 This quotation, and these four freedoms, come from Barclay’s commentary on John 8:31, 32. William Barclay, The Gospel of John, volume 2 (Revised Edition. St Andrew Press), pages 20-22.
2 W. W. Wiersbe, Be Alive. (John 1-12 (Scripture Press), page 102.
3 Bruce Milne, The Message of John (IVP), page 133.
The man from Walla Walla

On 5 July Balham church welcomed Dr Clinton A. Valley as guest preacher for Education Day. Now Associate Vice-president of Walla Walla College, Southeast Washington, Pastor Valley delivered a sermon full of insights and sound advice.

Speaking to a congregation that included many school teachers, among them the head of John Loughborough School Mrs Edwina McFarquhar, and the deputy head Mrs Phillip (wife of Pastor James Phillip), and the headteacher of Theodore McLeary primary school, Mrs J. Thompson, Dr Valley spoke with passion. Speaking as a black man and before a black congregation he warned his young listeners that despite the ideals that Adventists hold and indeed Christ himself held, there are some in society who still judge persons by the complexion of their skin and the texture of their hair. This, he advised, meant that many of the young black men and women would need to become twice as good simply to be considered good.

Fittingly, three young students who had just completed their studies at Theodore McLeary School – Rebecca Francis, Rianna Parker and Nethan Cameron – spoke of their time at the school fondly and thanked Dr Valley and the school for everything they did to make their school experiences so memorable.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

Further help is needed.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

YVONNE L. BAXTER

Fruits of evangelism at Balham

Evangelism at Balham is a very serious matter and members are always looking for new approaches in spreading the Gospel. On Sabbath 2 August Balham held its visitors’ day and a baptism in the afternoon. The following day, 3 August, they held the hugely popular Community Health Fair.

The visitors’ day gave visitors an opportunity to hear Pastor Colin Stewart, cousin of our lady associate pastor Mazlin Stewart, deliver a simple but effective message on the Gospel.

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SOPHIA NICHOLLS

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60th Wedding Anniversary

What a place to meet! In the operating theatre of the Bristol Eye Hospital where Beryl (of the Combridge Adventist family) was theatre nurse and Ken (then a Methodist with youth leadership experience) was to have an operation. As a result of this meeting, Pastor I. M. Dorland studied with him for two years during which time Ken was unofficially Youth leader and choir leader in the Bristol Arelly Hill church.

After his baptism Ken and Beryl married on 2 August 1943 and had two daughters. They then went to Newbold College. Subsequent to graduating, Pastor and Mrs Gammon have served the Lord and his cause in three continents – Europe, Southern Asia and West Africa.

Beryl was in much demand as a soloist in evangelistic campaigns, including the one associated with George Vandeman. For some years she sang on the Luxembourg VOP programmes, where she and the late Phyllis Bonney were duetists. In India, Beryl was head of the Health Education Correspondence school; in West Africa she served in the Accounts department, and finally, at home in the UK, her services were required in the Stanborough School, and the British Union Treasury.

Pastor Ken was called very early in his ministry to head the South England Youth department. After seven years he was called to the NEC in a similar capacity – serving with equal enthusiasm – but this was cut short when he was made the organising secretary of the New Gallery Centre. His next appointment was Southern Asia Division director of Communications (Bible Correspondence Schools and Radio Broadcasts).

After returning to the UK he served as leader of many of the departments in the SEC and the Union, and was responsible for introducing the church to the Deed of Covenant Plan (now called Gift Aid), and initiated Trust Services.

He has been Executive secretary for the West African Union and also the British Union Conference, as well as president of the South England Conference.

Ken and Beryl both feel privileged to have been entrusted with such a variety of responsibilities, and now in their retirement they have the pleasure of living near their two daughters, a granddaughter and two great-grandsons – and the occasional pleasure of meeting up with the grandson who lives in Denmark. They still keep busy.

FRANCES R. JOHNSON

Addendum. Pastor and Mrs Gammon wish to record their real appreciation to the Hemel Hempstead members for the sumptuous banquet they provided in celebration of their day.

Under-fours

The youngest members of Stanborough Park Sabbath School put on their 13th Sabbath programme on 21 June. They were a week early because of the Flower Festival planned for 27-29 June.

All the children are under four years old. They have been learning that God is with us; that we should worship him because he made us and that we should treat others as God treats us.

The youngsters sang songs, including actions songs, used clappers and felt and other attention-keeping devices, and the older ones recited their memory verses. Slides were used so that the congregation could sing along. Then we discovered the surprise element!

The last but one song was, ‘If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.’ As the Cradle Roll members started to sing on the platform, suddenly older children sitting in the front two rows of the gallery joined in with great enthusiasm. They were the members of the Primary Sabbath School forming a fan club for the young ones. They clapped; stamping of feet came from the platform and the gallery; turning around happened in both places; and everybody nodded their heads in unison. What made it more special was that all those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The official performers were: Paula Blewitt; Amy and Ethan Cornwall; Charlotte Cunningham; Joshua de Oliveira; Benjamin Elias; Daniel Jenkins; Anjali Moser; Eva Papaioannou; Laurent and Estee Vitry; Allana Ware and the babies. Their leader is Lydia Dean.

BRONWEN ATKINSON

Whitley: Reclamation and revival

Whitley church in Reading was blessed with a special Revival/Reclamation campaign that yielded a record number for baptism. On Sabbath 31 May, 23 precious souls were baptised climaxing the two-week campaign.

There were two speakers for the campaign. Pastor Harun Kuyenga, an elder of Whitley church, spoke for the first week of the campaign. Dr Herry Mnando, coming on the back of the campaign in Holloway, continued in the second week. Dr Mnando is an international evangelist from Tanzania.

For the baptism, the speaker Pastor Aaron Turyo, an elder at Whitley church, preached and baptised the candidates along with the Reading district pastor, Everett Picart.

The campaign was planned by Pastor Picart, and managed by the church board. ‘The South England Conference’s emphasis on reclamation for 2003 formed the purpose of the campaign,’ said Pastor Picart. ‘We marshalled the membership to “reach-in” and “move-out” to claim our young people, and reclaim lapsed members.’

There was much excitement and enthusiasm for the programme. Many visitors attended the meetings each day, with an average attendance of 200, but on Sabbath 31 May the attendance was over 1,000. The evangelistic meetings were held in a school hall where we normally worship each Sabbath. On the last day of the campaign the members and visitors gave cash and pledges amounting to over £45,000 towards our great need of a church building.

GEORGE DE SOUZA
**Another good year for Credit Union**

The London Adventist Credit Union (LACU) has inched its way forward again this past year. In an independent report of a sample of 143 credit unions across Britain, the LACU has emerged favourably in five of the six categories of comparison. The statistical report was compiled under stringent guidelines from the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The report gives the LACU interest for the year to be 0.87% lower than the average for the 143 credit unions, and 0.4% lower, that the bottom threshold of the target figure. Our withdrawal ratio is 62.93% against an average of 70.03% (the average is higher than the target of 75%). Once again we are strong in the liquidity category where our 66.33%, against an average of 42.79%, is 66.3% better than the target of 10%.

Administrative costs are a problem for all organisations. The LACU, however, has managed to contain this at 43.4% below the target figure, while the average is 39.2% in excess of the target.

An area that all financial organisations have problem in is delinquency. We have experimented with debt collectors, but find our methods to be more effective, producing a 239% better result than the target of 1% while the average for other credit unions is 196% worse than the target figure.

The one category that we have not done well in is ‘growth’. While the average growth among the credit unions is 20.90% against a target of 25%, the LACU growth rate during the period was only 9.97%. Nevertheless, the LACU is among the 2 out of every 3 of the 143 credit unions that have paid a dividend, which was 3.5%. Chairman Dr Albert Waite said, ‘It was not easy, but it was worth it. So celebrate, plan for tomorrow.’

ANNETTE ROBINSON (secretary)
DR ALBERT A. C. WAITE (chairman)

‘Though he slay me’

On 16 August Oxford church members and friends were pleased to welcome Pastor and Mrs Danforth Francis and their daughter Davern. Pastor Francis is currently president of the West African Union Mission and so soon to take up the position as Field secretary of West Central Division in Abidjan. The sermon presented by Pastor Danforth was preceded by the inspirational song ‘My life is in your hands’ sung by Caroline Alaine. This song set the scene for the message brought to us from war-torn Liberia. Pastor Francis related his experience of losing members of his team in Liberia to rebels who took their lives without question. The message encouraged us to understand that God is in total control even when the situation or experience is as traumatic as the deaths in Liberia. He pointed to the experience of Job and admonished us constantly to renew our relationship with God so that, like Job, we will be able to say, ‘Though he slay me, yet will I trust him?’

We pray that God will continue to guide and protect the Francis family as they continue to lead the church in West Africa.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

**Corby Poooh Party!**

Six residents of the Danesholme estate, where Sister Gaye Shaw lives, have raised £104 for ADRA mini-project Eco-bio toilets in Nepal.

Bert, Rhod, Gaye, Veronica and Angie heard of the tremendous benefits of the toilets at a Poooh Party in Gaye’s house held back in March, when Tony Welch gave a talk on the work of ADRA and his own experiences.

The eco-bio toilet costs in the region of £100. The toilet has a cesspit which decomposes matter back into the most excellent quality fertiliser for the fields. Meanwhile it gives off a gas which is tapped and led into the home for cooking. The knock-on benefit of this is that housewives don’t have to spend their time collecting firewood, and thus the forests are regenerating themselves.

Further, the homes are not now full of smoke so eyesight is improving; and overall health has improved because flies have no longer random sources of decomposing matter to feed on.

PASTOR BRIAN ROBINSON

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**Oxhill Road Church Organises**

July 19 was the day the Oxhill Road church in Birmingham was recognised and organised as part of the NEC sisterhood of churches. A landmark day in the history of Oxhill Road!

This special Sabbath day service was a celebration with a difference. Visiting members and friends from nearby congregations were welcomed, and guests of honour were Pastors Egerton Francis and Paul Lockham, and Mr Marcus Dove - president, secretary and treasurer of the NEC.

After Sabbath school, divine service allowed for the organisational formalities to be completed, and an encouraging sermon was delivered by Pastor Francis. After a special multicultural lunch, the afternoon programme consisted of various talented Christians celebrating and praising the Lord with music.

The church started as a small group in 1993. Recently, the families of nurses and doctors that have come to the UK from the Indian sub-continent to fill the NHS vacancies in the Birmingham hospitals have increased church membership significantly.

People have also moved their membership from other churches. The founder members of the church felt proud to be present and part of this long-awaited day. As another church was officially formed in the Birmingham area, a new challenge was given by Pastor Francis to all the church officers to be faithful and serve our Lord as part of the body of Christ. Pastor D. Masih is the serving church minister, and Brothers Legah and Bacchus the church elders who will now carry through the responsibility of building the church up further.

Anyone wishing to visit the church is very welcome, and should be able to find us easily at St Andrews Church, The Good Shepherd Hall, Oxhill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WILFRED MASIH

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**Prayer Feature**

Behind all our present experience of prayer lies the uncomfortable truth that our prayer lives show more clearly than anything else what we actually believe about God, says Paul Bunday in his book, He’s Listening So Talk to Him (page 11). I know that for me this is certainly true.

Recently I have been praying for God to help me find work using my counselling skills. I telephoned several charitable organisations over and over again but they only wanted my services if I was offering them free of charge. Although, in theory, it would be lovely to be able to do that, in reality if I did provide a free service I would not be helping my family and after training for four years I would be underselling the level of skill that I have developed over that time period.

I continued to pray about the situation, not feeling that God could really help. After all, if the charitable organisations have not got the money to pay me, what could God do? Well, what he did was, he opened up a vacancy for me at a further education college near where I live, so that I could teach counselling to Post Graduate Diploma level. I can therefore use both my teaching and my counselling skills to teach people a skill that they want to learn and that I will enjoy teaching and which will provide my family and me with the extra income we need. If I’m honest I didn’t really trust God to give me everything that I needed and wanted. I kept asking, though, albeit half-heartedly, and God has given me everything I needed and more.

This gift from God came to me during the same week that a lady for whom our prayer team had been praying wrote to me explaining that the ‘shadow’ on her lung, detected only weeks before, had completely disappeared. She was even able to carry out all the plans she had to evangelise in her home town. This week’s experience has reminded me that even if our prayers lack faith or enthusiasm, as long as we are still praying and keeping our needs before God, he does hear us and he wants to reward us for the little faith we illustrate in continuing to pray even though the outlook is bleak.

Send prayer requests to: TEilizbethDixon@aol.com.
STOP International's Ranchi Project

S TOP (Save the Orphans Please) International has previously reported on projects completed in India. STOP International is a registered charity. Some members of the Board of Trustees meet at Stanborough Park church, while others are close friends of the church. All are committed to the work of bringing relief to orphans. This year saw another group, comprising 8 members (6 from the Watford area, 1 from Romania and 1 from Scotland), leave for Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand on 16 February.

The project scope was to:
1. build 3 classrooms for the 45 children of the Prabhudas Orphanage;
2. furnish the classrooms with basic equipment; and
3. establish a play area.

The volunteers began work every morning at 7:30: biting concrete reinforcements, emptying lorries, carrying bricks, mixing and carrying mortar and concrete, levelling ground for a play area, digging holes in the ground and painting. At the end of two weeks the work was almost complete. Sufficient funds were left and at the end of July we received word that the project was successfully completed with three classrooms built, a new recreation area for the children, with a slide, seesaw and swings, and the classroom furniture which were largely donated by well-wishers in England.

While on site Dr Gerald Barham, an elder of the Stanborough Park church, from where most of the team originated, conducted medical checks on all the children assisted by his wife Romy and the team nurse Mrs Ana Theanne. Since the members of the team lived with the orphans, they enjoyed worshiping, playing, singing round a bonfire and eating with the lovely children. The team took cardboard boxes of toys, clothes and books for the children which were largely donated by well-wishers in England.

This is the project STOP International has now completed, helping in excess of 124 orphans in three orphanages in India. It is a small but blessed contribution to the work of the Gospel. If you would like more information or would like to join us on the next project in July 2004 please contact STOP International as follows:

David Burgess, Chair (email: david.burgess@stenia.co.uk) or Kish Poddar, Executive secretary (email: kishpoddar@onetel.net.uk).

WILLIAMS, Kathleen (Kitty) - d. 5 March. The funeral of Mrs Kitty Williams took place on 13 March at Croydon Crematorium. Her parents became Adventists at the end of the First World War and lived in the Watford area of Hertfordshire. There Kathleen (Kitty) Williams was born on 31st July 1921 at Stanborough Park church and in 1938 she was baptised. From the age of 7 she knew the person who was to be the love of her life, Leslie Whilding. He was the son of the Medical director of the Stanborough Sanatorium. They were married in 1947. Their daughter Diana was born in 1949 and son Richard in 1954. Dr Leslie Whilding, M.D. went to Kodaik in 1946 and Kathleen went with him. Kathleen and her husband had some difficulties with the staff and her family would like to thank one of the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received.

D.B. PHILLIPS

WHILDING, Ronald Ernest - d. 5 May. Ronald Ernest Whilding was born in 1920 in the village of Little Torton, Hampshire. His father was a soldier invalided out of the Great War. When Ron was 14, he had to work part-time for six children with my mother during the depression. He got work he could – in a hardware furnish became one of the boys, and his town's youth. Ron's city's life was very rich, denominational. Ron's Sunday evenings were with the Quakers, the afternoon with the Plymouth Brethren, and Sunday evenings with the Baptists. His mother joined the Adventist Church through an evangelistic mission in Hampshire, led by Pastor Arnold Cooper. However, Ron did not join her in her faith until thirty years later, when, at the Baptist Chapel, he sensed the voice of God asking him to worship him on his chosen day. The result was a complete change in his life. Ron came to work at Granose Foods and was baptised at the Park church after studies with Pastor A. K. Armstrong in 1957. In 1963 he married Joyce King as a direct answer to prayer and they are remembered with love at their chosen church – Watford Town. By this time Ron was working at Peace Memorial Hospital as an engineer. Moving their membership back to Stanborough Park, Ron became a faithful deacon and helped Joyce to lead the Nourishing Senior's Club. He led his two steppsons, Harry and Malcolm, and had holidays following their careers in Africa, Canada, Sri Lanka North Wales and Indonesia. Harry is an engineering consultant and Malcolm is chairman of the North Wales Police Authority living near Wrexham. Though Ron had many medical friends, like Dr. Eric Moor (Peace Memorial Hospital), he preferred his own herbal remedies plus an abstemious diet and days in the garden and allotment growing his own food. In fact, he had been gardening on the day of his passing. Coming in, he felt unwell and was ringing the hospital from his bed when he collapsed, bringing Joyce to earth beneath his consciousness on the day of his passing. Coming in, he felt unwell and was ringing the hospital from his bed when he collapsed, bringing Joyce to earth beneath his consciousness.

PASTOR ROBERT G. VINE

WOO, Olive May - d. 24 May. Olive May Woo was born on 21 May 1934 and died on 22 May 2010. Her mother came from the celebrated Booth family founders of the Salvation Army. Olive carried on their enthusiasm for missions, evangelism, herself joining the Adventist Church in 1952 through a campaign run in Gravesend, Essex, by Pastor Ken Garrmann. Olive had two sisters, Ethel and Kathryn, the latter now living in Stormarkt, Suffolk. When Olive was 17 she had rheumatic fever which affected her ability to work in later life. However, she became a skilled secretary in Selfidges, and later in the offices of Grange Foods. Her enthusiasm for evangelism led her to share the faith in Grays to such effect that people continued the company there through her witness. She supported the preaching of George Sandeman and T. J. Bradley in their ground-breaking church meetings in the Coliseum, the Stoll Theatre and the New Gallery and Regent Street. On a personal level, although Olive had marked spiritual gifts, she was unwell and was many times a great comfort to her loved ones, carers and visitors. In her sermon, Pastor Robert Vine focused on the assurances contained in the story of the raising of Lazarus. He said goodbye to Olive at West Herts crematorium in bright sunshine amid the trees and flowers of that day.
Adventist Discovery Centre

It takes a team
by Eric C. Lowe, Executive secretary, British Union Conference

Team Talk
In the last six years your Adventist Discovery Centre received:
- Enquiries from a staggering 25,000 members of the public
- Of which 7,500 became active students
- Of which at least 155 made a personal commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in baptism
- Of which hundreds more remain active students

No wonder each year one Sabbath is designated as ADC Rally Day - this year 27 September. A time to celebrate what has been achieved by team effort - the team members in the ADC office, on the ADC board, ‘friends’ of the ADC and in the local churches.

Earlier in the year the MESSENGER carried the story of how ‘team’ effort had resulted in the purchase of a colour laser printer capable of printing A3 paper size, thus multiplying the capacity of the ADC to print more of its lesson material in-house. (See issue 108/8 for more details.)

As a team member alongside other Adventist Correspondence Schools around the globe, the ADC appreciates the benefits of sharing ideas, and initiatives, and new materials. I was, therefore, pleased to be invited to participate in the Bible Correspondence Schools Advisory hosted last month at the Stanborough Centre by Trans-European Division Personal Ministries director Pastor Paul Clee. Representatives were present from most of the TED’s European countries and in the USA. While a number of technical issues were handled, discussion also focused on how the various correspondence schools could play a role in the world church’s initiative to distribute 1 billion invitations to study the Bible within the next ten years. It has been recognised that one of the two critical issues behind this initiative is for the church to find creative ways to strengthen its capacity to offer Bible studies through its Correspondence Schools and local churches.

To this end attention was focused on the development of the special HopeTalk website which will offer correspondence courses in up to 100 different languages. All local Bible Correspondence Schools will be able to link up with this special site, enabling courses to be completed online. Software will allow the website to refer participants to an Adventist centre near them.

Experimental team initiative in East Anglia

For many years the Norwich church has distributed Adventist Discovery Centre cards throughout Norwich and other parts of Norfolk. The whole of the city has been systematically covered at least three times, and four years ago we had the joy of seeing two students baptised, but in recent years the response rate to card distribution has dropped.

However, in the autumn of 2002, Pastor Mike Stickland encouraged the church to try the new card advertising the ‘Take Charge of Your Life’ course. This course, developed in Australia, and covering topics such as Purpose, Relationships, Feelings, Addictions, Success and Choices, is designed to appeal to the secular unchurched in the community.

Pastor Stickland helped to organise a distribution, through the Post Office, of 39,000 ‘Taking Charge of Your Life’ cards, and the local church was delighted to have a response rate of almost 4 replies for every 1,000 cards delivered. Wishing to capitalise on this success they arranged for TCYL cards to be delivered to the rest of the city of Norwich earlier this year. With a total of 90,000 cards delivered a list of 323 TCYL contacts was gathered.

The challenge was then how to keep in contact with these people, and an obvious choice was the LIFE.info magazine, since the church knew that many of these contacts were unchurched. Initially they had planned to deliver every magazine by hand, but this proved an impossible task for the small team in Norwich. So they had to send some of the magazines by post while hand-delivering to selected people.

It was decided that the next stage in building friendships with these contacts would be to invite them to a screening of the ‘Take Charge of Your Life’ seminar videos, which feature the author of TCYL, Pastor Peter Jack, presenting the lessons in seminar style to an audience. (These videos are available through Pastor Alan Hodges, LIFE.info coordinator at the BUC.)

Pastor Ian Lorek writes, ‘In Norwich we are at an exciting stage in the evangelistic process, having found a way of gaining unchurched contacts. We now need to develop our friendship with them, and draw them towards faith. Please pray that God will continue to bless.’

Team Support

The income of the ADC arrives from two main sources: an annual purchase by the BUC and gifts and donations. Each year it looks to the generosity of church members and students to balance its budget. Regular gifts go into the general budget while special gifts are set aside to be used for the special projects that you have indicated.

Please remember the ADC on Sabbath 27 September and earmark a special donation. But just as importantly, please continue to pass out our updated cards. Please share your personal recommendations for our courses with your friends as the Spirit provides opportunities. Let’s continue to play as a team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>ASNA Disability Ministry training and awareness programme</td>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>Reading church</td>
<td>ASNA</td>
<td>For further details Tel: 01491 833395 Anne Marie Wright, Reading.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASNA Disability Ministry training and awareness programme</td>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>Winchester Church</td>
<td>ASNA</td>
<td>For further details Tel: 01491 833395 Pastor Barry Allen</td>
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<td>Turning Water into Wine - Special retreat for married couples</td>
<td>10-12 October</td>
<td>Woodside Conference Centre, Kenilworth, Coventry</td>
<td>Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford</td>
<td>Karen Holford, SEC 25 St John’s Road, Welwyn, WGE7 1PZ Tel: 01923 225728; <a href="mailto:kholford@secadventist.org.uk">kholford@secadventist.org.uk</a></td>
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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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<td>Sept</td>
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WANTED: Live-in Nanny plus required for busy London household with 4 children. Must have a mature Christian attitude and a genuine interest in working with children. Start end of October. For further details, please ring 07946 892853.

Congratulations to Melos McFarlane, who has graduated from the University of Cardiff, Wales, with her Masters in Medical Law (LLM), and the LPC.

MESSAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6. Single copy subscription by post £12. Overseas annual £27.50

Visits the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

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