Ingathering funds make a difference in Madagascar
by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director

Over the past two years, and as part of our Annual Ingathering Appeal, over £1 million have been collected by our committed church members in the United Kingdom supporting 27 development and relief projects in 18 countries.

Two of these projects were in Madagascar. The first project promoted basic health, agricultural and environmental knowledge to an estimated 10 million Adventist World Radio (AWR) listeners in the rural areas of Madagascar. Surveys conducted by AWR proved that an estimated 85% of the listeners understood what was broadcast in the weekly radio programmes. One of the immediate tangible impacts of this project is reflected in the increase of AWR listeners from 10 million to 14 million. This also led to better recognition of the work of AWR and ADRA by government departments and some national and international development agencies.

The second project helped improve the quality of education of approximately 9,000 children (Adventist and others) in Adventist schools in Madagascar.

At the beginning of January the Adventist Church launched its new 24/7 satellite channel for Europe. The ‘Hope Channel’ began test transmissions from the powerful Hotbird 6 satellite on Thursday 18 December and right from the start the signal was clear and stable. Up to thirty million homes across Europe now have the potential to receive the channel, with receiving dishes as small as 60cm in diameter in the south-east of England.

At present the programmes being broadcast on the Hope Channel are mainly traditional Adventist programmes such as Amazing Facts, It is Written, Breath of Life, and Faith Alive. These are familiar to thousands of Adventist members who have bought the videotapes in the past, but there are also programmes dealing with creationism such as Fingerprints of Creation, and the Young Age of the Earth, and programmes which have become familiar to Adventist Television Network viewers over the last couple of years, such as Sabbath School University.

Future programming is still being planned but it is hoped that it will include new titles such as Freedom in Focus which will challenge viewers who are pondering the issues of Church and state. There will also be fast-moving mission documentaries to inspire the young and adventurous; personal stories of faith depicted in a reality TV series called Escape aimed at secular people searching for meaning and purpose; travel programmes that will take viewers to ancient Bible lands, and professional health presentations which will open the minds and hearts of viewers to listen to the spiritual messages from the preaching ministries of the Church.

Although there are already a handful of religious channels being transmitted to the UK and Ireland by satellite, it is unusual for a channel to be operated by a single Christian denomination. However, the worldwide structure and organisation of the Adventist Church, coupled with a great deal of faith and work by a large number of people, has enabled this to become a reality for us.

‘This is a great day for us in that we have finally combined our efforts and our resources to bring Adventist programmes into the homes of the public,’ says BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry. ‘It was back in 1844 that our Church had its beginnings and it was also in 1844 that Samuel E. B. Morse invented the telegraph. The Church and communications have both come a long way since then and we must thank God for opening this door of opportunity for us.’

Life Development

The Hope Channel will play a vital role in LIFEdevelopment, the largest evangelistic strategy ever embarked upon by the Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Monday 1 March 2004 will see the first of

Continued on page 2
Continued on page 8
The Sexual Health of Young People

A recent collaborative study conducted by the Pacific Northern America Region (PNAR), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Centre for Health Communication at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis has shown up some very disturbing facts.

Nineteen of the Caribbean Community and Common Market countries (CARICOM) conducted a study. Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and St Lucia, which involved 15,035 students aged 14-18 years. The good news is that of every 100 young people, half did not have intercourse. They gave the following two reasons for their abstinence: the first two of which were the main ones: waiting until marriage, waiting until they were older, not wanting to risk pregnancy, fear of disease, and, not being ready emotionally. The survey did not ask what role, if any, religious views had in shaping their responses and attitudes. The abstaining 65% should be praised. The news from here on does not make for pleasant reading. Of those who had ever had intercourse, 22% were below the age of 12, 34.6% between 13-15 years, and 27.0% aged 15-18 years. What is particularly shocking is that 42.8% below aged 12; 37.9 % from 13-15 years; and 51.6% of the 16-18-year-olds the first time they did so was under 16 years old. Seven per cent of the girls across the age range became pregnant, and 11.6% of the boys thought, or knew, that they had made a girl pregnant. Around 35% of the girls said that they always used birth control, and 75% of the boys stated that they did. There is a misbelief in faith communities that it cannot be encouraged to sexual promiscuity. It is rather a recognition that some people cannot control their desires which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the communities. Nevertheless, ‘We can do all things through Christ who’ not only can do all things, but has also given us the power to do what we are able to do.

Singles Conference

planned at Newbold College for Sunday 28 March 2004

Presenters, keynote speakers, musicians, poets, workshop leaders required.

If you want to make a contribution to this singles event contact Val Berrland on 01344 407468 or email vBerrland@newbold.ac.uk

In this year of Evangelism

We have this hope that buries within our hearts, Hope the coming of the Lord.
We have this faith that Christ alone imparts; Faith in the promise of His Word.

Can we as a Church truly sing this song in a strange land? This world with its grim tales of political, moral and social degradation is the place of our temporary habitation. The patriarchs of old—men of faith—found out that they were aliens and strangers in their earthly country. Their Christian, moral and ethical values were inconsistent with those of the world. However, they did not spend time looking down at the mud but rather at the stars. Their eyes twinkled with the reflection of the Hope of the Coming of the Son of Righteousness. They looked for a better country, a better nation, and a better world. We too share that hope as we begin to walk the first mile of 2004. The message we hope may never change social, oppressive governments, relieve poverty, stop terrorism, crimes, sickness or death – but it can point men and women to God’s future.

The vision in Revelation of the descent of the Holy City and the description of God’s New World for the saints is a glorious picture that should send ecstatic shivers up and down our spines. What is to be and what was done already has been done by Christ is enough of an incentive to tell us the story of his redeeming love. Let us preach, pray, teach and sing of optimism. In the winter darkness let the light of his word shine. Be a spark if you cannot be a candle. For Christ’s sake, ‘Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.’

Peter, the outspoken apostle, entreats us as friends, ‘Dear Friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world to abstain from sinful desires which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that though they accuse you of doing wrong they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.’ (1 Peter 2:1, 12.)

In this world there is no shortage of people who must be comforted, with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the primary task entrusted to each of us. In this Year of Evangelism God has promised to be with us to help us to work in the British Union Conference. The Life Development initiative and many other forms of evangelism have struck an upbeat note. God has opened up the airwaves for the Evidence programme by Dwight Nelson to enter the homes of those who have installed satellite dishes. Our vision for broadcasting 24/7 has become a reality through the co-operation of Adventist Television Network (ATN).

Our team here in Britain has been working night and day to make sure that our church members have access to the Church’s vast resources of plans and ideas. As a result of this development the Church in the UK will have to give serious thought to our building a viable media centre for the producing of quality programmes. ‘To God be the glory great things he has done.’

We are pleased for this, the test pictures from the satellite are better than those sent back from the recent scientific mission to Mars! Rejoice with us by becoming involved in the use of this evangelistic tool. Your generous co-operation and financial contribution will ensure our reception for many years to come.

Another piece of good news is that the ingathering programme will continue through ADRA as it was last year. There are regulations from the Commissioners which could change the way we are doing it at present, but we await the outcome.

When I consider the faithfulness and love of our member in the tithes and offerings and their service to God’s Church I see hope in and for the Church’s future.

The Church is growing by conversion and transfer accessions, and many have joined our congregations from overseas because of the unsettled situations in their countries of origin. We thank God for the open door policy of our churches to embrace all.

There are challenges and much work to do for our families, church-related institutions and our ministries to the local congregations and communities. Nevertheless, ‘We can do all things through Christ who’ not only provides but strengthens us’. ‘Look up and lift up your heads’, says Jesus, ‘for your redemption, your hope, draws nigh.’

Can the Church truly sing this song in a strange land? We are pilgrims and strangers embarking on a New Year in which many in our world do not believe in most of our Christian, ethical and moral values.

The members of the twenty-first-century Seventh-day Adventist Church in Western Europe are called upon to sing this song. ‘We have this hope’, in a strange land, it is in this strange land that we must make friends with the unchurched. Give hope and not despair. We must heal the broken spirit, set at liberty the captives of sin and declare the triumph of God’s grace. Let us again thank God for the way he has led us in the past and for the plans he has for us, plans to give us hope and a future’ (Jeremiah 29:22).

March on, Church, through the dawn of the New Year and never rest until the task is successfully done at its sunset. Watch and pray. Study his Word. Let the Holy Spirit of God empower you to reach out to someone in your strange land. God bless you. with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director
They all decided ...  

There was joy in heaven, and on earth peace going off all around the Wesleyed church, Wolverhampton on Sunday 8 November when three boys and one young lady were preparing to enter the pool for baptism.

A steady stream of friends, family and members began flowing into the beautifully decorated church by the canal. The car park was overflowing into the nearby streets as more and more people came.

Leon Ferguson (3), Jonathan McColl (3), Alex Williams (11) and Kimberley Turton (14) sat at the front, clothed in white robes except for Gervase who sang first then changed later. They had all decided to follow Jesus and requested baptism.

Local minister Pastor Richard Jackson welcomed us. Evangelist Edustin Auguston, visiting from St Vincent, delivered a timely tailor-made message to the candidates. He combined the story of the three Hebrew boys with the story of Esther, so none of the candidates was left out. He stressed the importance of standing up for the right in a pagan environment.

The baptism of Alex and Leon brought joy to the speaker, Edustin Auguston who is related to them, Brother and Sister Johnson from Great Brickhill Street — grandparents, Clive and Maxine Ferguson and Sonia and Gavant Williams. Friends and family came from London and Coventry to witness the event and the delight of Grace and Alrick McColl was obvious. Kimberley was most relaxed, and as a member of the Wolverhampton Youth Choir, she sang before the immersion. Max Thompson, the local poet, read a special poem. Sandra Turton and the rest of the family were happy for her. Pastor McIntosh immersed the candidates and they were welcomed into the Wesleyed fellowship. Refreshments were served in the youth hall afterwards. 

Grianach House play  

The guest of honour at the Christmas play at the Irish Mission’s Grianach House school was the Mayor of Galway, Councillor Terry O’Flaherty. Councillor O’Flaherty expressed her appreciation of the wonderful performance by the students of the school in the Christmas pageant. There was a large attendance of parents, family and friends as the students demonstrated through music, song and drama the true spirit of Christmas. School principal Esther Robertson thanked all who had taken part and especially musical director Gerry Gough and teacher Norm Jackson. The Christmas play was a marvellous showcase of the talents of all the students from the youngest to the oldest. It highlights the powerful witness of Grianach House School in the Galway area.

ASNA speaker at Princess Royal Trust  

by Sophia Robinson

In November 2003 Mrs Olivia Robinson, one of the trustees of the Adventist Special Needs Association charity was invited to be the guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Princess Royal Trust. As an active member of ASNA, she was asked to speak about her involvement in the association with specific reference to recope care and the needs of parents living with children and adults who are disabled. Olivia was pleased to receive an invitation from the Trust to speak again at other events planned for 2004. She also looks forward to providing the link between the work carried out by ASNA with the Princess Royal Trust.

Santa’s helper  

One of Stanford Park church’s main outreach programmes of the year took place on Sabbath 13 December. The annual Toy Service has been a tradition for forty-three years, and, over the years, many of Watford’s mayors and mayresses have attended the services. This time the special visitors were the Chairman of Watford Borough Council, Councillor Ellie Burtschen, and her husband Counsellor Alan Burtscben. During the service boys and girls were encouraged to give presents to Watford’s underprivileged children. After three large sacks had been filled, they, Joy Ellis and the youth were given the opportunity to do something for themselves. This they did with great enthusiasm and a friendly welcome. The presentations were the work of the Woodcote School, the Woodcote trainees and the Woodcote centre that the St Albans Borough Council have given to the younger children.

Martin Anthony, conducted a short card service and blessing for each group, after which Santa (aka George Primmer) handed out presents, followed by a table full of party food. The loud squeals of delight came from the youngest group, the older group being able to participate more thoughtfully in the service.

The Sunlight Club’s founder, is pleased to report that one of the mothers has been attending weekly, and has begun to change her little boy for two years, and regularly takes a leading role. Also several mothers are now attending periodically. Every mother has commented on the warm, friendly and caring way the church is managed, expressing special thanks for the Christmas, Easter and birthday cake and presents given to each child.

Sleep-out for the homeless  

by Gillian de Villiers

The casual passer-by the scene around the prescincts of the Abbey Cathedral was amazing — and wonderful! A group of young people from Albania church was part of the 433 caring participants who sprawled around the Abbey and prepared to bonnous under a clear, freezing, starlit sky. Shepherded by Pastor Bernie Hofton, our eager youngsters were sleeping out in support of Centre 33. This is a drop-in centre for homeless people who are members support by donating food regularly. Some of our church members also cook and serve meals to the homeless people who call in to warm and friendly reception, a meal, and a shower should they choose to have one.

The reason for the sleep-out was twofold. Firstly, to experience a little of the discomfort and hardship suffered by the homeless and, secondly, to find sponsors for the event. Two other charities, from Watford and Dissom, were also beneficiaries, and the mayors from all three boroughs, together with the Bishop of Bedford, demonstrated their solidarity for the causes by sleeping in sub-zero temperatures that night. Most of the young people were from church groups and various youth movements, and one group presented a meaningful programme in the nave of the Abbey that included contemporary Christian music and drama. Their message was about the hope that there is in the cross, and how by coming to the cross one’s life is transformed.

Our young people slept fairly well, or hardly at all, depending on their preparation. Two of our young ladies talked until 2am before dropping off! One young lady managed to move from the car park protecting her from the cold ground. And as it had rained lightly during the night, she got her sleeping bag and universe pants wet. No joke! A few said she and her siblings listened to the warmth of the Abbey for hot drinks. (Volunteers had stayed up through the night serving soup and hot drinks.) The others of our party still slept soundly for a while longer. The question on everyone’s lips as they passed poor or uprooted beings was, How long did you sleep last night? The usual reply. Not very much. Comments from the various members of our team. ‘I’m glad I’m not homeless!’ It was very cold! ‘It is not too bad being homeless if you have your friends around you.’ A week later, when they were asked: Would you do it again? everyone’s response was yes. Some added: But I will be better prepared! (There’s a moral here, somewhere.)

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Pastor Osei at British Council Carol Service

On Sunday 12 December Emmanuel Osei, pastor of the Hounslow church, was invited to be the guest speaker at the British Council Christmas Carol Service.

This annual event has hosted speakers such as Paul Booth MP, former MPC in 2002, who was expected to be the speaker but unfortunately he was ill. The talk was delivered by speaker Rev. Stephen Adjei, a member of the London Ghana Adventist church who has been working for the British Council for the last ten years.

Special music was supplied by the Willeston-based group, Blessed Voices, whose singing was greatly appreciated by the workforce. The Christmas of messages was the message of love, as Christmas is the season of unconditional love was the motivation for Jesus’ coming to this earth. Pastor Osei encouraged his hearers to love their fellow man.

Pastor Osei is the son and wife of.Logf

DORIS MAUD MORRIS (1908-2003) 9 December

Doris attended Snatchwood School, Miners’ Hospital and later in her career became a member of the Caerphilly General Hospital Nursing staff. She died in Caerphilly General Hospital on 9 December at the age of 95.

The funeral was conducted by Pastor Nicholson. He looked forward to the hope of the resurrection of his wife and children, and the resurrection of all who are in the Lord. The service was conducted by Pastor Nicholson.

Do not hallucinate.

Communication News

If you wish to join Adventist Writers & Editors and/or receive the quarterly newsletter, please email

Editor of the

in association with

Continued on next page...

NewsDigest

Please note that the fundamentalist church’s position on same sex marriage and all related topics is not consistent with the values and ethics of the Adventist Church.

‘God co-operators for good’

Happy 2004 to all of you, did anyone of you have that New Year’s resolutions? I didn’t this year because I usually find myself too busy or too emotionally off centre to commit to anything in the ways to live for the better. I find Easter much easier in that respect, probably because it is warmer and there are blossoms blooming everywhere you look.

Pastor Osei is a good speaker to show me that there is hope, or at least I find it easier to hope when there are signs that my hope is not misplaced. Six weeks ago, though, on 17 November when the weather was cool and dreary and I had no reason to believe that any of my long-term prayers might be answered, one of them was. My husband has been smoking for some 25 years, and over the back over the previous twenty-four hours and midstains that he hasn’t thought about smoking once – and I really hope that will be sooner rather than later.

Nicotine, I have heard, is the most addictive substance known to man. I don’t know whether that is true, but I know that giving up the drug is very difficult and painful and it is really a miracle when someone decides that they want to face life without it. Of course, it was not an easy decision for him, but we (that is Ore and me) were praying that he would give up just for over nine years – since we first started dating. You can imagine how excited and thankful I am to my husband that I now he is ready to kick the habit.

My husband and I thought it would be worth telling you this story because we know that probably all of you have prayed that you will lose weight for a year or two, and in that, you have almost given up of ever having answered. Alan still struggles from day to day with the cravings for cigarettes, but now I pray with certainty that it will happen. As Alan moved back over the previous twenty-four hours and midstains that he hasn’t thought about smoking once – and I really hope that will be sooner rather than later.

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Pastor Dwight Nelson’s Evidence series being broadcast from Newfield College and it is hoped that thousands of Adventist members, together with their friends, will watch these programmes with the comfort of their own homes. Churches that have satellite reception facilities are being encouraged to run LIFEdevelopment evenings where guests can share food and fellowship as well as watching the programmes.

The style of these shows, where possible, mimic the café style that will be used at Newfield, with guests seated informally around tables.

Although thousands of Adventists will watch the Evidence series, the programmes are primarily aimed at secular people. Secular people aren’t interested in hearing about God—at least not at first,” says Sally Saldino, Content Producer for the Evidence series. They are more interested in trying to make sense of things like injustice, suffering and death—so the programmes we have put together deal with those kinds of issues. We’ll also be looking at love, relationships, meaning, peace, forgiveness and hope. Of course Dwight will be guiding his audience to the ultimate answer to all these questions, which is God, but he’ll be doing it in a way that is sensitive to the secular postmodern mind.

In order to maximise the number of homes where the Evidence programmes can be watched it is vital that as many church members as possible install satellite reception equipment in their homes before March. If you already have the equipment (or will have it installed by March) and are willing to become part of this history-making evangelistic venture by hosting group meetings in your home, please let your pastor know as soon as possible.

Technical information

Already hundreds of members have satellite equipment installed in their homes for watching 3ABN, all they need to do is search for the Hope Channel using their digital receivers. Those who don’t have a satellite dish should contact a satellite installer as soon as possible. A few satellite installation businesses are listed on our Hope Channel web page at <www.hope.org.uk> but those outside the catchment area for these businesses, or those who may find installers already fully booked, should simply find a local installer to do the job. The total cost for installing and setting up a basic satellite dish and receiver should be around £250, including the equipment. Difficult locations and more advanced equipment will, of course, cost more.

It should be noted that members who have Sky digital dishes and receivers will NOT be able to receive the Hope Channel. Sky broadcasts from the Astra satellite at 28 degrees east, and the Hope Channel broadcasts from the Hotbird satellite at 13 degrees east. It may be possible to fit an extra dish to an existing Sky system, but this would need to be done by a qualified satellite system installer.

Parameters for the Hope Channel are as follows: Frequency: 12577, Polarisation: Horizontal, SR: 27500, FEC: 3/4.

If you do not have access to the website or would like more information please contact Pastor John Surridge at the BUC office. Phone: 01203 672251. Information has also been sent to all pastors, elders, and LIFEdevelopment co-ordinators.

**Messenger**

Volume 109/2 – 30 January 2004

**EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL**

COPY 700 No. 5 – 4 February 2004

Corrigenda: Muslim Awareness article: Missouria (vol 108/26), Pastor Oscar Giftzi requests that we make it clear that he is not Director of Islamic Studies at Newfield, as given, but leader/co-ordinator of the Muslim work in the South England Conference.

In Missouria (vol 109/1) we wrongly credited Brother Joshua Mupunga with the title of ‘pastor’. Apologies.

New Address for Notting Hill

CLARENDA The Baptist Church, Gower Street, Notting Hill. Gower School 12pm – 3pm

Conferences in Blackpool on gaining full HRM from Human Resource Management from the University of Bedford in July 2004. He will have a continued success in his future career. Janet Savard

**ABC Book Sales**

Feb 2 John Laughlin 10am-2pm 29 Feb 12 NEC Workers’ Meetings Swanswick 29 Feb 10am-2pm

**Time out**

Steve recently joined a football team for evangelism.

He read that 70% of Christian conversions happen through friends. Steve house-shares with Christians, spends Sabbath and two weekly small groups with church friends; he wanted to get in balance by making more time for unchurched friends.

This week Steve’s skillful tackle prevented a definite score. The opposition player spun round and swore loudly in Steve’s face, then shoved him, fists ready. Steve stood there quiet and calm, hands resting by his sides. The ref sent the aggressive player off and his coach muttered, ‘Don’t fight, you expletive, and shove him!’

Steve is watching his team perform. ‘You’re busy. You’ll never find time for unchurched friends. So make time.

‘My father sent me into the world. In the same way I am sending you.’ John 20:21.