Hurricane Ivan
Immediate response from ADRA-UK

Hurricane Ivan has swept through the Caribbean islands killing at least 68 people, flattening homes, and knocking out power supplies. Hurricane Ivan is the worst to hit the Caribbean in a decade. Our ADRA offices in the region reported people clambering on to rooftops as waist-high storm surges propelled by 160mph (260km/h) winds swept across the islands.

BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry, who has just returned from Jamaica, spoke of the deep concern that is currently being experienced by thousands of our members here in the UK. ‘The majority of Adventist church members here in the United Kingdom have at least some family members living in the Caribbean,’ he said. ‘We are all very concerned for their safety at this time and we have had many members telephoning us to ask what they, and the Church, can do to help. It is at times like this that I thank God for ADRA-UK, but also for the administrative structure of the Adventist Church and the wonderful network of support that we have around the world. We are already receiving donations from members and they can be assured that their money will very quickly be channelled directly to the disaster areas. As well as your financial support we would also ask that you join us in praying for those who are hurting in the wake of this disaster. We extend to them our great sympathies.’

On hearing of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ivan, ADRA-UK’s immediate response included the following:

- committing money from its disaster fund to support the victims;
- submitting two applications to the British government’s Department For International Development (DFID) for a total of £839,286;
- sending three 40ft containers filled with relief supplies donated and collected by church members in the UK.

ADRA-UK has launched an appeal for the victims of Hurricane Ivan and donations can be sent right now to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Make your cheques payable to ADRA-UK, and if possible Gift Aid your donation by including a signed note saying ‘Please Gift Aid this donation’. Alternatively, you can make a donation on the ADRA-UK website, www.adra.org.uk, or send your gift through the regular church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the ADRA-UK Caribbean Hurricane Appeal.

Glimpses of suffering reported by ADRA offices (15 September 2004)

Cayman Islands: The island looks like a war zone, where the storm flung huge pleasure yachts up on land and toppled trees three storeys high. Half of the 15,000 homes on Grand Cayman have suffered significant damage that has made them uninhabitable. Some houses have been reduced to piles of splintered wood. Governor Bruce Dinwiddy has described the damage as ‘very, very severe and widespread’.

Jamaica: Stores and shelters are filled with more than 22,000 people who are running short of food. About 90% of the island is still without power, and 40 roads are blocked by debris. Some people are gathering water from floodwater ponds, others are cutting open coconuts for their water. Some are bathing with buckets of water taken from a broken pipe. ‘Everybody’s sleeping on the floor,’ said Lera Williams, 38, an unemployed woman. ‘No clothes to wear. Everything is gone.’

Grenada: ‘I have nobody to give me help,’ Verna Alfred, 53, said while crouching under the foundation of her ruined home with several grandchildren and a neighbour. The fierce winds pulled apart most roofs and left an acute crisis in Grenada, where more than half the 100,000 residents are homeless and in desperate need of shelter, water and basic supplies. Many areas are completely dark during the night. A few use oil lamps or candles. Glimmers of light flicker from fires lit on distant hills. Grenada’s Prime Minister Keith Mitchell reported that the island was 90% devastated. UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said that virtually every major building in St George’s had suffered structural damage.
The Olympics represented an enriching experience for me. I was able to combine my vocational role as a pastor with my recreational joy of sport, in particular athletics, to be a volunteer sports chaplain. As a volunteer I was assigned to the spectator services at the Olympic stadium. My role as a sports chaplain involved being available to those among the tens of thousands of spectators who might need someone to be listening ear, offer words of encouragement, or any general help needed. It was my joy to talk to people from all over the world. Wearing the official volunteer uniform but with a clerical shirt and collar, I hoped that I would be recognisable as a chaplain.

Indeed the Olympic Games has many spiritual connotations. The Bible, through the writings of the apostle Paul, often uses words of an Olympic nature. Run the Race, Press towards the mark of the high calling, Run with Patience, Endure to the end, Crown of Life.

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The Olympics are round. The Olympics are round. The Olympics are round.
**Christian Aid director addresses ADRA-UK board**

On Tuesday 14 September Christian Aid Executive Director Dr Dalek Mrakaj was the guest speaker at the quarterly ADRA-UK board, held in the BUC office. Dr Mrakaj had been invited to speak at the meeting by ADRA-UK director Mr Raafat Kamal as part of a broader process of networking with other charities.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the forty member denominations of Christian Aid and thus a special relationship already exists between ADRA-UK and Christian Aid.

Prior to his addressing the ADRA-UK board Mr Mrakaj attended a one-hour meeting with Pastor Cecil Perry, Pastor Eric Lowe, and Mr Victor Pilmore, the three officers of the British Union Conference. Pastor John Sumridge, Adventist representative on the Christian Aid Board, and Mr Kamal, Dr Mrakaj was particularly keen to emphasise the fact that Christian Aid is primarily an agency of its member Churches and expressed his thanks to the many Adventists who take part in the annual Christian Aid week. He was also interested to learn more about the history and growth of the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Following a light supper with the ADRA-UK board Mr Mrakaj gave his main address and outlined some of the past history and the aims of Christian Aid. He highlighted three main reasons for the charity’s existence: to expose the scandal of poverty; to contribute to its eradication; and to be prophetic in challenging the rich and powerful that contribute to its continuation. However, Mr Mrakaj was also very clear about the Christian foundations of the charity. Christian Aid is rooted in the work of the Churches, he said. ‘We have a Christian world view and we are biblically based.’

Dr Mrakaj justified Christian Aid’s emphasis on combating poverty with some hard-hitting statistics. ‘Every eight seconds a child dies from a preventable disease, he said, and “over a billion people live below the poverty line. What does it mean to be a Christian in a world of death and life? Does it shock us?”

Christian Aid’s approach to tackling poverty is often political, and sometimes brings it into conflict with governments, Dr Mrakaj pointed out that some of Christian Aid’s political campaigns had been very successful. Jubilee 2000, for example, had contributed pressure which led to a pledge by the richer nations of the world to reduce ‘Third World’ debt by 100 million pounds. Moving on, however, Christian Aid is now promoting fair trade. ‘People in donor countries tell us that they don’t want aid, they want trade,’ said Dr Mrakaj. ‘If the world markets were opened up to these people much of the poverty that we now see would disappear.’

Dr Mrakaj’s address went down well with the ADRA-UK board members, who all gave him a standing ovation. Speaking after the meeting Naftali Kamal said, ‘It was good for us to hear about the work of other agencies are doing. We each have our own specific roles to play but if we can work together we will.

Christian Aid is already well supported by the Adventist Church and we hope to work more closely with members to get even more involved if they can.’

For more information about Christian Aid see their website at www.christianaid.org.uk.

**Newbold in live broadcast with the GC president**

When Newbold student Robert Sand talked to General Conference President John Paul in front of a live, worldwide audience on Monday evening 13 September, it was one Newboldian questioning another about the difficulties facing the Adventist Church in Europe.

Dr Paulin, a former theology teacher and president of the World Mission and, now leader of the World church, took questions from young people from Newbold university and around the world in a live televised session on Hope Channel’s Let’s Talk.

Robert – a Dane in his second year of Newbold College theology programme – expressed his concern about the decline in membership in the Adventist church in Europe. He asked Dr Paulin what risks the church was willing to take to foster growth among European congregations.

Dr Paulin said the church should promote ‘Bible-based’ risks. ‘The church needs to find a way in the secular, Western world, to communicate, to convey to the men and women in the street, that the Christian option, the life of faith, is a good way to go into tomorrow,’ he concluded. ‘It is better than what we have today.’

After the twenty-five-minute session in the campus church to watch the live broadcast Newbold principal David Penner watched with them and said, ‘It was encouraging to see church leaders giving meaningful and powerful witness to the life-changing message of Christianity.

There were crises of recognition when a former Newboldian, Heather May, asked a question soon after Robert. A former member of Newbold’s church congregation, Bjorn Corneliusen, said that he was not able to share his perceptions of communication. We were encouraged to listen to one another – no interruptions, lots of eye contact and plenty of verbal nods.

Those who have a hard time verbalising feelings were encouraged to share more. Helen talked about knowing your own wound and taking responsibility for your feelings. You don’t have to justify what you feel, she said. ‘They are your feelings. There is no need to explain, validate or ask permission to feel what you feel.’

There was discussion on the difficulties of seeing God as Father – especially in the light of the fact that parents can have a rather tarnished reputation. That can be a barrier to closeness with God for men and women.

We ended our wonderful weekend with some tips on how to do our homeworks for a confrontation. For many women this is a really painful area and one to avoid.

We had never been to a women’s retreat I would encourage you to go to one as soon as possible. The Scottish ones are the best but others are just as good too. The spirit of sharing, caring, honesty and friendliness was very much appreciated.

**Chapel Porth Family Camp**

Family camp is invariably a tale of love and sharing and worship, but this year was extra special. Our camp theme was ‘The Olympics’, and Pastor and Mrs Berrie Holford, SEC and EnglandVic personnel, reminded us of God’s love by teaching us about our wonderful bodies; reminded us of ways to worship God, using our hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, mind and heart.

As if that was not enough, they enjoyed the ‘Camel Trail’ cycle route, the family boftyrie, crafts for the children and a special time of sharing mums, for whom we got to know each other better.

We held Olympic games, taught the Adventurer Olympic award to all the children, and even the bannet had an Olympic theme, with delicious Greek food beautifully prepared and served by the catering staff.

The whole week was very much indeed a family event with birthdays and an anniversary being celebrated and participation by all ages in the worship and the music.

But the climax of the week was the baptism of Joel Holford in a Chapelport beach rockpool. We are so proud of Joel and his decision to commit his life to Jesus. He was an excellent witness to every child and adult on camp; of some whom have expressed their desire to be baptised when they are old enough.

As always, we are very grateful for the tireless ministry of Karen and Berrie Holford and the way they create an atmosphere of fun and excitement for us to enjoy.

If you would like an information pack on attending Family Camps 2005 please contact Janet Guthrie on 01293 237278, or email guthrie@secadventist.org.uk.

**Golden Wedding anniversary**

Retired Pastor Royal Hubert and his wife May celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Monday 12 July. However, they wisely spread their celebrations over several days, which included visiting the church where they were married in 1954 (Derby, Chester Green), a trip to Watford, and spending time with their son Gordon and his wife Anita.

Roy and May are able to look back on a lifetime of service. In 1957 they received a call to ministry service in Calabar, Nigeria. Later they served briefly in Northern Nigeria, Enugu and The Teachers’ Training College. Gordon was born in 1969 and still speaks warmly of his time in West Africa.

Between 1964 and 1967 Roy and May served in Sierra Leone. Roy as district leader in the Freetown area, and both as full-time teachers at Waterloo Secondary School. Together they spent ten years in Africa, then seven years in Northern Ireland until they were asked to come to New England in 1974.

Pastor Hubert’s last area of service before retirement was in Northamptonshire, and we were pleased when Roy and May decided to stay in the area after he retired in 1993. He is a regular preacher at the local churches, all of whom appreciate the quality and content of his preaching, and it was not without a little幸奋that he accepted a preaching appointment at Kettering the Sabbath after their anniversary. Following the service, May was presented with a lovely bouquet of mixed golden flowers. They also received a rather large cake, beautifully decorated with sugared flowers, and it was therefore only right that those present, including some members from the Wellington church where the Huberts attend regularly, should help them on their way.

**Jesus is the Answer!**

There were ballrooms, there were puppets, there were thunderstorms, and a few tears of joy, and about a hundred people who enjoyed an afternoon of praise, worship and fun in Wyndham Park, Grantham on Saturday 10 July.

This was the first organisa- tion, the Grantham Adventist church. The theme of the afternoon was ‘Jesus is the Answer!’ and 500 bal- loons bearing the event logo and the church website were given away, along with LIFE.info magazines and cards advertising the Discover correspondence. It had been a wet week and we had concerns about whether the event could go ahead, but we were very pleased and very joyed and enjoyed a friendly dry afternoon. As a result of the pre- vious wet weather, the park was not as busy as we would have liked, but it was wonderful to see the church united and supporting the pro- gramme wholeheartedly. We were joined by some families and a group of teenage boys for the majority of the programme and we pray that the afternoon helped them to understand a little more about Jesus.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Picture and text by HEATHER HANNA**

**LYNDSAY RITTMANN**

**JGUTHRIE@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK**

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Picture and text by HEATHER HANNA

**Newfoundland**

**GILLIAN DE VILLIERS**

**Picture and text by HEATHER HANNA**

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Picture and text by HEATHER HANNA

**NewsBreak**
July 2004 saw a change to the children's legislation, outlawing smack and bullying in England and Wales if it causes harm to a child. Parents could now be prosecuted if smacking causes the following:

- Bruising
- Scratching
- Reddening of the skin
- Mental harm
- or if an implement is used to hit the child.

When this decision was reached, I had visions of a well-meaning, well-intentioned law that was hand in hand quoting the text: ‘Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the root of correction will drive it far from him.’ (Proverbs 22.15, NKJV)

The raging debates leading up to this announcement made many parents as well as Ministers concerned that this new law could lead to the criminalising of parents trying to undertake their right to discipline their children.

Some parents, therefore, rejected calls for a complete ban on the smacking of children. Ministers feared that any government attack on a free choice might lead to a flood of prosecutions over minor offences. A compromise was tabled by Lord Lester which was approved by 226 to 91. This allows for ‘moderate smacking’ without the abuse of force.

The Bill puts into effect recommendations from the inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbie, who died after being battered by her foster carers. The report stated that the ‘rod’ must not be used if it causes the child to cry unnecessarily. The ‘rod’ must not be used with force that will cause physical harm.

The final approach and discipline seen in the Bill is a behavioural approach as advocated by Sharon Platt-McDonald in her book ‘Don’t smack or not to smack?’

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The Essence of Woman symposium
by Julia Smith

The Essence of Woman symposium took place 28 May-6 June in Watford and central London, with over 700 people attending throughout the week. Dressed in black and white, and adorned with red roses, each woman (and a few men) who attended the opening communion service at Stanborough Park church, attended to the beauty of the programme that was made even more special by the high quality music and singing of Louise Clarke and Susan Watt. The deaconsness at Stanborough Park assisted with the planning of the programme and Vivienne Vine, wife of the local minister, gave a special welcome to all. Pastor Michael Hamilton, SEC Ministerial secretary, officiated in the blessing of the bread and wine, and Dr Rosa Banks, a credentialed commissioned minister, and ordained elder, delivered the message on the only Bread that women need in their lives - Jesus Christ - whose body was broken for our sins.

On 29-31 May the programme continued at Stanborough School. On the Sabbath, Dr Bank's challenge, 'Come, see a Man', was told from the perspective of the woman of Samaria. The women were challenged to redefine their roles and perspectives of themselves - knowing that they can only be truly whole when they meet Jesus and 'drink from his well' - not their own. Our other guest speaker on Sabbath included Dr R. David Muir, Chair of the Black Christian Alliance and prominent member of the Church of God church in South London. Dr Muir gave a most inspiring and thought-provoking presentation, 'Christian commitment and civic responsibility'; basing his presentation on Genesis 2:28, where God pronounced man's dominion over the earth. Other presenters for the day included Julia Smith in her role as Head of Race and Diversity at the Metropolitan Police Authority in London, and Dorna Dias, a local councillor and a potential parliamentary candidate. A most beautiful meal was served and the high' day culminated with excellent music from the Willesden Women's Ministries choir and cultural poetry by Alan Charles. Dr Bank's message, 'God will make a way' focused on faith in God and our far-reaching responsibilities as women in our homes and in society. A series of presentations and seminars dealing with issues of interest and value to women were presented throughout the weekend. Presenters included Michael Smith, who made a well-researched presentation on 'Education and Black Boys'; Cathy Boldeau, SEC Communication director, on Presentation Skills; and Eve Ricketts, Watford Town church and colleagues from Hertfordshire University, on domestic violence. Presentations were also made on health issues, personal presentation and dress by Pat Joseph, Croydon church, and 'Women and Money' by Edwina Apaw, Fulham church and member of the Women's Ministries Council.

Chiswick church choir, excellently led by Lynda Saunders, carried on in the tradition throughout the week's programme of delivering high quality music and singing throughout the day. They also provided a mini-concert to conclude the programme on Sabbath afternoon. As a pioneer of Women's Ministries, Dr Banks spoke of her deep confidence in God as she had witnessed the tremendous effect that the work of her ministry was having on women and men throughout the world. She was deeply impressed by the growth of the ministry in the UK.

Each woman was committed into the service of God and challenged to minister for God in the work that is done through the ministry. Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries director, took part in and fully supported the programme. Dr Banks was accompanied during her visit by her daughter Kamaria, and by her sister Carla and her husband Jimmy Prince. All took part in the programme throughout the week. Dr Banks is director of Human Relations and Associate secretary at the North American Division. She was the first female officer and Vice-president at Oakwood College, the first female General Field secretary for the General Conference and in her current role as director of Human Relations. She has written and edited three books and articles in numerous magazines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT
24 SEC Women's Retreat
31 NEC Women's Retreat
10 Newbold School 10am-2pm
7 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
29 West Midlands 10am-2pm

WHO
Pastor Bruce Flynn
Pastor Don McFarland and colleagues
Pastor C. Creighton
Pastor Don McFarland and Pastor Bruce Flynn
Pastor Calvin Prentice from USA

Where
Highgate House Conference Centre
Adventist Church
Watford School, South, Birmingham

The Essence of Woman symposium

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