The ‘plot’ is to make friends and then seek to move them on to the next level, to bring them to the point where they are ready to receive and accept the biblical beliefs which we as a people are called to proclaim in these last days of world history.

Even level three is not the end of the road for LIFEdevelopment.info. There will be seven levels in all, and when we are finished with all seven it’s back to the beginning, making contacts, making friends, because that’s what the Great Commission is all about.

If you have not got involved yet, why not start today? If you want to know more, call the LIFEdevelopment Office on 01923 672251, write to us at LIFEdevelopment, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ, or email us at ask@LIFEdevelopment.info.

What is ‘Mind the Gap’? Have you lost the plot?

by Alan Hodges, BUC Ldi co-ordinator

Maybe you are among the many who watched the ‘Evidence’ programmes in March. You enjoyed seeing familiar faces on your television screens such as Gillian Joseph, Ken Burton, Paul Lee and others. You were interested in the interviews and were moved by the inspiring presentations by Pastor Dwight Nelson. You even encouraged your non-Adventist friends to watch and discuss the various topics presented in the ten programmes. But when the series was over you thought that was it.

Well, that was not it.

• LIFEdevelopment.info started with ‘Get Connected’, level one, where we encouraged every member to make friends with unchurched secular people.

• We provided a tool in the form of the LIFE.info magazine, which could be used as a means of contact with people in our communities.

• The ‘Evidence’ series of programmes formed level two in the concept of LIFEdevelopment.info and was a series which stirred people’s thinking on such questions as: Why do Christians believe in a God? How does God communicate with us? How can we find healing for the hurt and pain we have suffered or the pain we have caused? Very relevant questions in our world today.

Now we have reached level three – ‘Mind the Gap’ – ten programmes introducing basic Christianity which is authentic and has a deep intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. These programmes will cover the topics of Faith, Bible, Prayer, Jesus Who?, Jesus’ death and resurrection, Jesus’ second coming, Holy Spirit, Human Nature, Healing, Fellowship, and will be broadcast on the Hope Channel in February 2005.

Leeds: Nothing but the Truth

by Ian Sweeney

The football team may have gone down and been relegated from the Premier League, but the Adventist church in Leeds is definitely on the way up. For the first time in its history the membership has gone up to over 200 people. This increase in membership was due, in no small measure, to the success of the fourth annual ‘Nothing but the Truth’ Gospel festival, which ran from 17 July to 7 August, with evangelist Dr Cornelius Matandiko. Dr Matandiko, a Zambian national who lectures at the University of Eastern Africa in Kenya, brought great warmth, passion, humour and a personal love for Jesus in his preaching. Telling us the story of Jesus, he also captured our attention with stories from the ‘motherland’ Africa. He called it the ‘land of milk and honey’, but told us on the opening night, ‘You will need to bring your own cows and bees!’ His refreshing and innovative style of preaching simple truths and African stories witnessed record attendances through the course of the meetings.

The powerful preaching of Dr Matandiko was complemented by the music ministry of singers from the Leeds church as well as Charles Ngandwe, winner of the ‘Stars in Their Eyes’ television programme. More than one visitor was witnessed pointing to him and muttering, ‘That’s the man off the TV!’

God blessed the church with 33 baptisms during the meetings, a record number for Leeds, which means that not only is the membership going up, the building is going up too – quite literally. Over 300 people regularly packing the church each Sabbath, the membership saw the need for additional seating. In looking up to God in prayer, they were directed to look up at their church building. The answer to additional seating was above their heads. For over forty years a sealed-off balcony has lain derelict and unused. Indeed many members were not even aware that there was a balcony in the church! The membership is now engaged in opening and restoring the balcony, which will provide an additional 200 seats.
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family responsibilities have prevented my wife and me from attending any of the camps at Aberdaron for the last five summers but that restraint cooled itself a few months ago. Being free again, at last, to go where we want, when we want, we didn’t need to take a long time in deliberation when we saw the Retirees’ Camp advertised on the BUC news. But it was a different Aberdaron we saw when we arrived. Gone were the old unpainted crayfish, a flower garden blooming in front of the cottage, the grass neatly trimmed. The oval lawn in front of the hall was comparatively level and bordered by a neat path. The hedges were trimmed and the undergrowth cleared. The building was newly painted and the car park was closed, a sign that there had been a few repairs.

We arrived on Monday 20 September. On Tuesday a full-day trip by coach was arranged through Snowdonia but our driver took us, at our request, on a very nostalgic trip down to Dinas Cross, the site of the house where Beatrix Potter lived in the 1930s and we are told that we were so well and even at our courting there! The wind blew but even that brought back memories.

Wednesday was a free day for everyone and their own thing. Thursday saw us all becoming children again as we took to the Lleyn Railway and enjoyed the wonderful views in the autumn sun with the waterfalls in full flow. Friday saw us on the coach again for a few hours in the enchantment of Portmeirion and again we were blessed with sunshine.

Pastor Derek, Beardsall and his wife Joy were not only our tour leaders but also our spiritual leaders as Derek brought gems from the book of Romans morning and evening with his great understanding and good humour.

All too soon it was Sunday morning and time to pack and make our way home. I felt myself looking forward to next year’s retirees’ camp just the same. In the meantime we made a leaving present for my first junior camp at Cayton Bay in 1947! Our thanks go to Malcolm and Loraine, who have done so much to improve the site and who made this camp possible and made us so welcome.

And what good food we had all week. The nickname Loraine ‘Eve’ as she tempted us to eat far more than we saw when we escaped Philistia, he was not back to zero. We are into minus quantities.

This is what Alan Redpath says: ‘In the development of Christian character there sometimes comes a moment when darkness seems to fall, the sun seems to set, and the man himself everything seems lost. Other people, observing his life, wonder if he is sinking beyond all hope of recovery. It is such a moment that David’s life had now come.’ Such times, says Redpath, ‘come only because you have set out on a journey that will never do if the path were always smooth’. When we’re down from hero to zero and into minus quantities – all but subtracted beyond problems and difficulties – God’s man/woman is learning lessons s/he would never learn otherwise.

Twice the narrative identified fear as the root of the fall and that followed David’s rise and fall: fear of Saul (Saul 19:10), fear of Achish (Samuel 21:12). Fear is the enemy of faith. We grow and we triumph as faith overcomes fear.

But David had not done falling yet. He was still running. His props had been knocked away and an appointment with him in the cave. That cave would prove the learning classroom that would prepare David for the throne for which he had already chosen him. It takes a moment to make a convert. It takes a lifetime to make a saint.

From the cave, says Redpath, ‘David looked at God through the threatening clouds of opposition and trouble, instead of looking down at circumstances through the rain- low of God’s love.’ David, for a time, thought he had failed. He had certainly lost 20 spiritual vision. But, despite that loss, God could work with David. Adullam, writes John Ortberg, is the ‘cave of defeat’ in which one can find, ‘David—our king of the cave. . .where you and up when your props, supports and crusties get stripped away. . .Nobody plans on ending up in the cave, but sooner or later everybody logs some time there. . .the cave is where God does some of his best work in moulding and shaping human lives.’

For ten years God had David in the cave—wilderness classroom preparing him for mission. At times, doubtless, David thought of himself as a failure. In the end he knew that, all the time, he had been a learner. In that cave David ended up surrounded by 400 other people – whiners and whiners – who perceived themselves as failures. He hit the pits when he lost their support. After that David had nothing and no one – except God. And he found that God was enough (1 Samuel 23). Could it be that his arrival at that realisation was the reason why the props had been knocked away? The reason he had been permitted to live through all those ‘failure’ experiences?

Failures come to us all. It’s what we do with them that matters. We learn from them.
Evangelism in Edmonton
by Sharon Platt-McDonald

Having accepted a preaching appointment at the Edmonton church, I was surprised to hear that I would be expected to get up at the break of day and deliver two sermons on the same day – 8.30am and 11.15am. I was aware of churches having multiple services to accommodate capacity crowds in other denominations, and a few Adventist churches around the world where evangelism was progressing at exceptional rates. Could this possibly be the case for Edmonton? I was about to find out.

As I stepped onto the platform at a little after 8.30, I was thrilled to find an engaging congregation expressing their joy in a lively singing service. The atmosphere was so charged with the presence of God that my nerves and tiredness I was feeling were taken away. The evangelistic fervour was palpable!

Focus on lay evangelism
In keeping with the theme of Lay Evangelism 2004, Rodger Duncan, a lay preacher from the Junior Union Conference, was invited to speak for two weeks, but the zeal of the members and the response from the community with a capacity audience six days a week was so pressing that the campaign was extended for a further five weeks.

Raymond Hilton (a theology student from Northern Canadian Adventist) assisted on occasional nights and led the daily Bible studies and community visits. His work with the Enfield church is still bearing fruit. Six more candidates were baptised on 16 October.

Campaign reflections
Among the numerous comments which the members made on the campaign were these: Evangelist Rodger Duncan gave us a solid doctrinal base; I could see the power of God at work; I found the speaker very inspiring; ‘Fantastic’, ‘He appealed to all groups’; no one was excluded; ‘Often at campaigns we offer standards and regulations; we need to offer Jesus. Pastor Hilton offered Jesus in such a way that no one could walk away from it.’

The newly-baptised members were eager to share their testimonies with me and as I documented them, I could hardly keep up! As I sat in the circle of members new and old, I caught a glimpse of what it must have been like to belong to the early Church.

As the testimonies were shared we realised that this was not just another event in the annual church calendar, but that this campaign had an indelible mark on Edmonton. It had significantly impacted lives. The leaflet we distributed contained a summary of our beliefs, and we distributed a leaflet on The Road to Salvation and several copies of Steps to Christ in Welsh. None of these things would have been possible without the growth of church membership and churches world-wide. The leaflet was translated into Arabic, and we distributed a leaflet on The Road to Salvation in all languages.

We were grateful for the number of helpers on the stand and would particularly like to thank Cliff Tomos and Michael Sammons for their support throughout the week.

We gave out a large quantity of literature: around one thousand FOCUS magazines, a large number of these on Celtic Christianity, and, in less than two days, over 500 LIFE info magazines. Because we were in a city known for its anglicised Welsh, we gave out these English magazines with an up-to-date Welsh leaflet providing good access of the growth of church membership and churches world-wide.

Your story is your story, so tell it. An inspiring experience: ‘If I could give up my job and work for the ministry, I would be the happiest person… There is just so much to learn and so little time to do it… I wish I could invest all my time into searching the word.’

Campaign preparation
The planning prior to the campaign was exceptional. A home visitation group was formed, but it was a team with a difference. The group members undertook a personality profile to ascertain whom they were best suited to work with. In order to match individuals interested in Bible study with the visitation groups, their age range, gender, social class and race were matched with that of the group members. This was felt to be beneficial in order to establish communication and bonding. Group members were also taught the elements of effective communication.

Ministering to needs
Another unique approach was that the professional roles of the members were utilised in the campaign, in particular within the visitation group. This was especially successful with the social workers, who were able to address some of the social issues that visitors and Bible students faced.

with this type of service.
A number of prisoners were crying at the altar, overcome by the occasion. Many thanked the team for the opportunity for this life-changing experience. Afterwards many confessed their grief for the impact of their crime. Prayer requests were made for their children, wives and especially their mothers.

Baptism
The five-week campaign from 26 June to 7 August culminated in a baptism on 7 August when thirty-three individuals gave their lives to Jesus. A further baptism was undertaken on 16 October with eight candidates, six of whom will be attending Enfield church.

As part of the Edmonton evangelism outreach, Pastor Roy Chisholm and the evangelism team took the campaign preacher to the Edmonton prisoners. Scrutinised prayer (regularly visited by the Edmonton church). There they ministered to 140 inmates in two services. One of the unique features of this service was the special prayer and anointing done for each prisoner who came forward following an invitation to receive Jesus. The prison wardens were amazed and in awe of the calmness and sobriety of the service.

The weekend of 3-5 September was spent with the newly-baptised members in Chapel Port, Cornwall, for nurturing and discipleship. Fifty-five people attended, over thirty being new believers.

The weekend entailed a series of activities ministering to the temporal, spiritual and social needs of the group. These included early morning devotions, prayer sessions, seminars, group study walks to the beach, canoeing, sightseeing, etc.

Accompanying the new members and sharing their caravan, were the prison guards elected to nurture them on an ongoing basis. The weekend was a phenomenal success. Since then, repeated requests have been made for similar events and for them to be included annually in the calendar of church events.

Impact
Pastor Chisholm reports that the co-operation of the members, the willingness to be engaged, the changing of attitudes and the calibre of services has improved dramatically since the campaign. Testimonies of restored relationships, conversions and recommits are abundant.

A keen visitor from another denomination has chosen to pay her tithe through the Edmonton church as a direct result of the power of God demonstrated during the campaign and from the contact she encountered with the visitation group prior to the campaign.

Equally impressive has been the development of new initiatives. Two new divine services continue in order to facilitate the growing church membership and visitors.

Pastor’s Bible class on Sabbath morning is overflowing. It is used as a platform for nurturing believers and training potential teachers.

Sunday evening Bible class has been established as a means of nurturing and as an extension of the evangelistic arm of the church.

As a direct result of the project and the oversight of the membership in the fellowship hall, the church has voted to have the Edmonton church plant with emphasis on continued nurturing of new members and community evangelism. The Edmonton church has seen the leading of the Lord in this venture in that the Edmonton Salvation Army has extended their warm welcome to the Edmonton church. They have offered the use of their church building in addition to the hall for worship on Sabbaths and Tuesday evenings at a very reasonable rent. Edmonton was a popular place to be, especially for any new believers.

Thank God for the positive witness and community engagement that the Edmonton church has been privileged to experience and that churches have demonstrated through tireless service to God.
Life without a will

by Patrick Boyce

It is a common misapprehension that only the very wealthy need to prepare a will. It is the family of average people who are most likely to have a greater need for a will.

By a strange economic quirk, many ordinary people make a fortune and yet when they die they arequeased to the state as there is no will to distribute the estate.

The excessive number of people who die without a will is a sad phenomenon. It is a common misapprehension that only the very wealthy need to prepare a will. It is the family of average people who are most likely to have a greater need for a will than the families of the wealthy.

A will is a legal document that allows you to leave your estate to those you wish to give it to. Without a will, your遗产 will be distributed according to the laws of your state. However, if you have a will, you can specify exactly who you want to receive your estate.

A will also allows you to appoint someone you trust to act as your executor. The executor is responsible for administering your estate according to the terms of your will.

Making a will is not only important for people with significant amounts of wealth. It is also important for people who have less money, as it allows them to ensure that their loved ones are taken care of after they pass away.

There are many reasons to make a will. It is not just for the wealthy. If you have assets such as a house, car, or bank account, you should consider making a will to ensure that your family is taken care of after you die.

In addition to leaving money to your loved ones, a will can also be used to specify how you wish to be buried or cremated. It can also be used to designate guardians for your children if you have any.

It is also possible to include charitable donations in your will. You can leave a percentage of your estate or a specific amount to a charity of your choice.

There are many benefits to making a will. It can ensure that your family is taken care of after you die, it can give you peace of mind knowing that your affairs are in order, and it can benefit your loved ones.

However, it is important to note that making a will is not a one-time event. You should review your will periodically to ensure that it still meets your needs.

The first step in making a will is to identify your assets and determine how you wish to distribute them. You can then consult with a lawyer to draft a will that meets your needs.

It is also a good idea to update your will periodically as your life circumstances change. For example, if you have a child or if you become divorced, you should review and update your will.

In conclusion, it is important to make a will to ensure that your family and loved ones are taken care of after you die. It is a simple but important task that can provide peace of mind and help to prevent unnecessary legal disputes among your loved ones.

If you need help with making a will, you can consult with a lawyer or use a will-preparation service. There are many resources available to help you make a will that meets your needs.

By making a will, you can ensure that your family is taken care of after you die, and you can provide peace of mind for your loved ones.

STOP International Project 2004

The meeting place was London Heathrow, Terminal 4, for the volunteers of STOP International. The time, 7.30am on Sunday 25 July 2004. For these the ceremony was about to begin. This enthusiastic group financed their own airfare, living and transportation expenses to travel to India for two weeks to finish two projects funded by STOP International. One was the establishment of a new orphanage building on an almost half an acre of land. The second was the establishment of a new orphanage building on an almost half an acre of land.

In the little village of Athilvadi, the volunteers went to help build a new orphanage. They were asked to paint the walls of the new orphanage and the old flat for the children. There was a large crowd of local people for the dedication, primarily because five volunteer workers (the orphanage director) was going to marry Shani, his bride-to-be by arragement. The ceremony took place in the village marriage hall to which all STOP International volunteers and special guests.

The reception that followed was at the orphanage, and it was a memorable occasion.

On our last Sabbath the volunteers drove the thirty kilometres to the Captain Azariah home for the dedication of a new home for ten orphan boys. The Captain is a respected Adventist family in Nairobi at a time when the funds they had raised were not enough to build the house. It was a matter of pride for Maurice that both Denise and Maurice (Jnr) were commissioned to serve in the African Union and the British Army from 1939 to 1945 and was de-
United Bible Societies World Conference
by Dr Brian Phillips

A meeting of the World Assembly of Bible Societies took place at the Celtic Manor Convention Centre in Newport, Wales, 23-27 August. Time was also taken to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the mother of all Bible Societies. Honour was also given to Mary Jones, whose story inspired the establishing of the Society.

Today there are 140 Bible Societies working in over 200 countries. In 1932 the idea was put forward that it would be good for the Bible Societies to join together so that expertise could be shared. For example, the British Bible Society has a department that advises printers who use thin paper. Others have expertise in language or distribution. Today a total of 25 million Bibles and 600,000,000 portions of Scripture are printed every year by the Bible Societies! That is why we are here, and why there is an unfinished task in every language group – the whole Bible in print in each language.

One of the projects initiated at a previous assembly came out of a desire to produce the Bible in a medium other than the printed page. ‘Faith comes by hearing’ came out of this initiative, and audio tapes of the New Testament have now found their way into many languages. The director of Hoiana, a working partner of the Bible Societies, told the writer that Adventists have distributed many of these tapes in some areas of the world, but more could benefit from hearing the Word. It was a privilege for me to be asked by Pastor C, R. Perry to represent him and the Church at this gathering. When I was identified from the platform as an Adventist, it seemed that everyone around wanted to tell of their relationship with the Church in their part of the world. José López from Havana, General secretary of the Cuban Biblical Commission, told of the excellent support he is given by Adventists in his work. Roman Vovk, General secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society in Kiev, came with his wife, both Adventists, and told me of their work in producing Bibles in print in Ukrainian and Russian and the New Testament on CD. The Board chairman of the Latvian Bible Society, Ojars Incernbergs, is also an Adventist, as is the General secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, Henry Kalule, and another Adventist is the Executive secretary of the Bible Society of Lesotho - Inshanele Tsokana. One thing that could be noticed at this World Assembly was the respect for the Adventist Church’s work in many countries. Several made the statement that we are ‘to be found everywhere’.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>Love Connects - Marriage Enrichment for couples who want to deepen their spiritual intimacy</td>
<td>14-18 November</td>
<td>Highgate House, Chingford, London N16 9AA</td>
<td>Ronny and Karen Hollett, SEC Family Ministries</td>
<td>Tel: 01923 232378 or email: rjgeke@s spiritualimpact.org</td>
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