I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.’ Hosea 6:6.

The dreadful consequences of the Asian tsunami are capturing our imagination. A seismic shift in the earth’s crust moves whole islands, causes waves that devastate the coastlines of eleven nations with the loss of hundreds of thousands lives, and the livelihood of many more, not to speak of cherished holiday resorts. In Iraq and Palestine millions are suffering the consequences of warfare. O Lord, when will it ever end? Oppression in Darfur has driven untold numbers to the limits of survival and beyond. Wasteful consumerism has accelerated global warming and exacerbated hurricanes, flooding, drought and famine. O Lord, when will we ever learn? AIDS continues to bring disease, death, suffering and poverty to millions upon millions of vulnerable people, O Lord, how will our people be healed? O Lord, our nations are in trouble!

We feel helpless. We are overwhelmed. What can we do? Can we make a difference?

The same media that brings trauma to our attention takes a commercial break to reinforce our craving for bigger houses, designer kitchens, macho vehicles, plasma screens, audio surrounds and every digital gizmo under the sun. On-screen drama is driven by a quest to satiate our every sense: agony and ecstasy, fear and thrill, humour and sorrow, vivid images, ravishing sounds, sumptuous tastes, delicate fragrance, intimate touch and, dare I say it, the best sex.

Are we really so helpless?

The prophet Hosea speaks for our time. Israel had become a prosperous, licentious wheeling/dealing nation. They had the means to ‘live it up’, to indulge every fantasy and then to absolve their puritanical consciences through repeated ritual sacrifice. The Lord’s message through Hosea to us is still simple, ‘I have desired mercy, not sacrifice.’ God is not looking for a people who perpetuate their indulgence, and regard token donations to charity as sacrifice. Neither is he saying that we can resolve all of the world’s problems. He is looking for a people who experience and express ‘mercy’. Mercy is one of those disfashioned words avoided by modern translators. They prefer terms like kindness, pity, generosity, grace, loyalty, loyal love, gracious love and relentless love. In short, they are describing a deep-seated emotional response rather than a transactional pay-off.

Israel was intended to be a special nation. The sons of Abraham were to be a people through whom all on earth could be blessed. ‘Pay attention: I’m teaching you the rules and regulations that God commanded me, so that you may live by them in the land you are entering to take up ownership. Keep them. Practise them. You’ll become wise and understanding. When people hear and see what’s going on, they’ll say, “What a great nation! So wise, so understanding! We’ve never seen anything like it.”’ Yes. What other great nation has gods that are...
Tsunami response breaks records

The instant response of ADRA-UK staff to the Asian tsunami disaster and the appeal that was launched just two days later, prompted an unprecedented wave of generosity among Adventist church members in the UK and Ireland. The country as a whole responded generously when confronted with television images from the devastated areas, but ADRA-UK’s产生者 are still giving far in excess of the nationwide average. ‘The response to the Tsunami Appeal has been overwhelming both within and without the Church,’ said BUC president Pastor Ceci Perry. ‘As of Wednesday 19 January our generous members had given over £143,000 and still more is coming in. Already 200,000 US dollars have been transferred to the ADRA Disaster Fund in Southern Asia, and more will be sent shortl...’ On behalf of the British Union Conference let me express our deep appreciation for all those who contributed and for disaster relief,’ he said. ‘This is true religious and neighbourliness to help relieve suffering and the pain of humanity. God bless you!’ There is still a great need for money and resources in the tsunami disaster area. Donations can be made by credit card on the ADRA-UK website: www.adventist.org.uk/donate_form.html. Cheques can be sent to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Please make your cheques payable to ‘ADRA-UK’ and include a donation of the same amount for the ‘Asia Earthquake Appeal’. Whether you give, if you are a UK taxpayer please ensure that you Gift Aid your donation. This can be done by ticking the appropriate box on the website, or by including a signed note with your postal donation saying ‘Please Gift Aid this donation.’ Updates relating to the work of ADRA-UK in connection with the tsunami disaster, as well as some fundraising resources for use in local churches, can be found on the front page of the BUC website at www.adventist.org.uk.

Are you part of the ‘remnant of grace’? Romans 11:5, 6

In recent years few things have been more often discussed in our circles than...”
Young people baptised

In his introduction to the baptismal candidates, church elder Dave Wright mentioned that although a particular drink gives you wings, ‘Jesus gives you power.’ On 4 December at Bristol Central six candidates gave their lives to Jesus and were awarded wings of joy. Amelia Kusack, Catherine Smith, Latoya Kelly, Cindy Mahbena, Preesh Pawahi and Keris Hartley Brown - six young people - openly declared their baptismal vows to a church so full that it was standing room only. Keris, whose membership began with the newly-formed North Bristol church, spoke for all when he said it was not an easy choice, especially when there was so much expectation placed on him for baptism. The speaker at the service was Veronika Williams, a lay preacher from London, who encouraged the candidates to involve Jesus in the most mundane and routine aspects of their lives: ‘Nothing is too small or insignificant for Jesus to deal with.’ The family and friends present were thrilled that young people were taking a stand for the Gospel and firmly placing their faith in the Lord. This show of faith is a real demonstration that Bristol is not taking lightly its endeavours to be a church relevant for young and old alike.

The officiating pastor, Richard Daly, spoke of his deep joy and pride in baptising six souls for the kingdom and reminded the church of their responsibility in nurturing and supporting them.

Colchester baptism

On Sabbath 21 August Colchester church rejoiced at the baptism of three of its young people. Helen and Kailie Wilson, daughters of our elder John Wilson and his wife Brenda, are third-generation Adventists on their father’s side. It was pleasing to see their school friends attend to witness their baptism.

Watson Anandam, the third candidate, is the son of Sam and Juwanta, a fine spiritual family who have recently joined us from Bangalore, Southern India. Watson is a fourth-generation Adventist on his father’s side. He attended the Adventist school in Bangalore, being taught there by his father. His great-grandfather was one of the first to receive the Adventist message in India.

Pastor Robert Hines gave the address, encouraging them all to persevere in their spiritual life as did Elisah of old.

Pastor Hernando Lombart baptised them and Pastor Bernie Holford offered the prayer of dedication.

After a few weeks her guardians stopped her going to the church, as they wanted her to follow another faith. Being only 14 she respected their wishes. It did not stop her praying to God, and God answered her prayer. She met and married Adventist Dr Philip Ottoviani. They moved to England in 2002 and now live in Clacton. They started attending our church and Marget decided she wanted to show her love to God by being baptised.

Colchester baptism

On Sabbath 21 August Colchester church rejoiced at the baptism of Margaret Ottoviani. The service was taken by Pastor Malcolm Taylor. Margaret is South African. One of her school friends was an Adventist, and one day she went with her to church.

Langley baptism

There has been a baptism at the Langley church in the West Midlands, when three people gave their lives to Jesus Christ through a formal baptismal service.

Pastor Durcan’s Bithede is the newest member of the Galway church. He was made a member of the church by profession of faith on Sabbath 24 January, and the ceremony was performed by Pastor Ashley Kongal. Pastor Bithede has been a refugee from Zimbabwe since 2002. He is married to Thobekhosi Nkabu, also a Zimbabwean. Reunited in Ireland earlier this year, they are blessed with two children: Primrose (7) and Prince (4). Primrose is a pupil in the second grade in primary school in Galway. Her brother Prince commenced the first grade in September.

Pastor Denis has a B.A degree in Theology from Andrews University. He has worked for twelve years as a minister of religion and is ordained. His ambition is to study for an MA in Philosophy at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He also intends to do an MA in religious studies.

Brixton baptism

Eleven people were baptised as a result of the 13-23 September Brixton campaign. The guest speaker was Pastor Glen Samuel of the West Jamaica Conference. However, our local minister, Pastor Hamilton Williams, had to step in for the greater part of the first few weeks owing to the fact that Pastor Samuel was detached because of Hurricane rain.

Week of uplift

Sabbath 6 November marked the beginning of the special week of Prayer meetings at Manchester South. The speaker for the nightly meetings was Roger Duncan, a lay preacher from Trinidad. Leaving behind his wife and children, he responded to the invitation of Pastor Richard Brooks to bring the word of the Lord to our congregation for this time of special prayer.

At this appropriate time Pastor Brooks immersed the candidates and, one by one, each person had a story to tell of his or her journey to the pool. First was Jaihel Duobey, a young schoolboy who had responded to an appeal during a service some weeks earlier. Ricardo Lekold sealed his commitment to Christ next, followed by Esther Cook. Her life had been rife with problems until the moment she walked into church.

One of our elders, Carmen Liburd, took Esther under her care and prepared her for baptism. Last was Kepha Keengwe. Subsequent to coming to England a few weeks before, Kepha had decided to give his life to Christ, his Doctor, his Isaac Keengwe, who is also a member of the church, accompanied him to the pool.

Following the immersion, Roger Duncan concluded his final sermon, making a special appeal to the youth.

ADRA at Evidence Reunion

On Thursday 13 January, an up-to-date report of the work done for tsunami survivors and others was given by the aid agency ADRA-UK. ADRA-UK’s four local offices visited the ‘Evidence’ reunion at Stanborough Park church and each spoke on different aspects of the aid agency’s work.

Mark Castellino, ADRA’s project manager, said the agency has five basic areas of work. All are helped by the fact that ADRA personnel are present in 150 countries, including trouble spots. The basic concerns are response and preparedness for natural disasters and war; people security – making sure there is access to food; health, especially child survival; economic development – ‘helping individuals with business activities; and basic education where opportunities do not exist.’

Karen Paaljes, ADRA’s local secretary, showed a video of children in a mental hospital in Serbia receiving shoeboxes full of gifts sent from Walesford in time for Christmas, 1,085 shoeboxes were sent out to Yugoslavia orphanages. David Baldestone, ADRA’s Volunteer Transport manager, reported that nineteen containers full of humanitarian goods, all packed by volunteers, were sent out to Cape Town. He said, ‘If you’re in a rough situation with children there and you know that, because of your contacts, you can help them, it’s a thrill. I go to these places because I like to see the people on the receiving end getting a little bit of hope.’

He went on to say that on 26 January a container would be going to Latvia, where flood damage had wiped out half the country’s electricity.

People are asking for clothes, shoes and bed linen because so many have been evacuated from their homes. ADRA-Latvia has no more money to give them.

The final speaker, ADRA-UK’s director, Raafat Kamal, said, ‘Disaster on the present scale caused by the tsunami we call a “negative” disaster and people are called from all over the world to help.’ He mentioned that Newbold ministerial student Conrad Vine, the son of Pastor and Mrs. Robert Vine, had been sent to Colombo in Sri Lanka to prepare proposals for governments – necessary before donations can be spent. He said, ‘Conrad is working eighteen hours a day. The office, normally staffed by five, has thirty-five volunteers. We have been told the priority is supplying water. One of the volunteers is the Director of Water Supplies for Cape Town. Conrad asked a supplier (REDII, a German company) the cost of a machine to clean polluted water. Normally costing from £25,000 to £100,000 ex each, of these 12 were given free! They clean 10,000 litres an hour. The first water disinfection unit is now serving seventeen camps, providing constant clean water and enabling cooking, drinking and washing with clean, safe water. Because dead bodies have polluted natural sources of water, graves need to be relocated. One advantage is that it is no longer so difficult to get aid because people have hospitals in many countries so doctors and nurses have been volunteering and have got to the right place quickly.’

By 5 January, ADRA-UK had sent £50,000 directly to the disaster area, and at the time of writing over £130,000, donated by British Adventists and their friends, has gone out.
What Women Really Want
by Heather Hawthorn, Women’s Ministries director, BUC

All roads led to An Giang for the weekend of 17-19 September. From the west, north and south, the ladies drove to Vietnam’s Women’s Irish Mission Retreat. For the first time they met at the Irish Women’s Country Association headquarters near the village of Tomlak on the north-east coast of the Irish Republic. Not only did the usual ladies come from across Ireland, but new daughters of the Irish Mission also came whose former homes were in the hotter climates of Africa and the Philippines.

On arriving at the 4-star bungalow, the women made themselves at home before finding their friends and mouth-watering meals at the comfortable, cheery hall.

The women in the Irish mission do not have to kiss the Blarney stone in order to have the ‘gift of the gab’. The whole weekend revolved around verbally sharing, sometimes seriously and at other times with great humour, on the theme of ‘What Women Really Want’. The presenters, Betti Sisson, Vickie Murphy, Inge Vermeulin and Heather Hawthorn – spoke in response to the top priorities listed by those attending, the first being that their family members would have a loving, caring relationship with Christ. Heather shared what resource Women’s Ministries department had to reconnect those who are ‘taking a break from church’/job satisfaction, coupled with appreciation for doing it well, was another priority. Vickie opened up the story in 2 Kings chapter 4 of two very different women, the starving widow and the childless prosperous woman. In doing so Vickie pointed out that these women’s wildest dreams came true as they gave to God the financial aspects of their lives.

Perhaps the greatest need of every woman is to feel loved. Betti Sisson emphasised that God wants to be there for those whose love experiences have been abusive, while the writer shared how prayer power and opening up to the Father God could meet the need to be loved. Besides talking and eating, a good Sabbath walk to the beach was on the programme. Everyone set off in the sunshine only to be soaked by a tremendous shower. After sheltering in the foyer of a golf club, the women were drawn out by the reappearing sun and dried on their journey back, all of which gave them an extra large appetite for the evening banquet.

In led out in the evening’s vespers. On the Saturday evening she was given a standing ovation for her presentation. Sunday morning went too quickly. Those from Derry and Dublin who had come for just the Sabbath were missed, but not forgotten, as their needs were included in the discussion on how to minister to the Irish women including those in smaller churches such as Derry.

Baptism at Fulham

A baptismal service was held at the Fulham church on 16 December when six people finally and fully turned over their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Preparations for baptism were sustained, serious and deliberate, both on the part of the pastoral team and the candidates themselves. Rarely had the church seen such desire to be right with God and to pursue an active and ambitious and diligent as they commenced their spiritual journey. Vickie emphasised that God wants to be there for those whose love experiences have been abusive, while the writer shared how prayer power and opening up to the Father God could meet the need to be loved.

Sisson emphasised that God wants to be there for those whose love experiences have been abusive, while the writer shared how prayer power and opening up to the Father God could meet the need to be loved. Besides talking and eating, a good Sabbath walk to the beach was on the programme. Everyone set off in the sunshine only to be soaked by a tremendous shower. After sheltering in the foyer of a golf club, the women were drawn out by the reappearing sun and dried on their journey back, all of which gave them an extra large appetite for the evening banquet.

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Congratulations Department, Fulham church
The first was awarded jointly to Adrian Blake and Riton Santree from the Hackney church. They are winners of the ‘2004 Film Competition for Evangelism’ with a film titled, ‘A Witness From Above’. The second award was for ‘Talent of Excellence 2004’ and this went to Rebecca Lindo from the Walthamstow church.

Overall, it was a grand day, well timed and truly appropriate for the youth. An important part of the concert, though not in the original plan, for the day was a special presentation for the ADRA-UK Tsunami Disaster Appeal. A total of £1,534 was collected. Youth pastor Robert Hines concluded with, ‘An excellent day; everything went according to plan. ‘To God is the glory.’"
Discovering a distinctive voice

Newbold’s new partnership with University of Wales, Lampeter

Newbold’s long tradition of excellence in the study of theology enters a new phase this year as the signing of an agreement to offer theology degrees in partnership with Lampeter, University of Wales, Lampeter (UWL). The following interview with Dr Laurence Turner, Head of Department at the University of Wales, Lampeter, begins at the time, initiated discussions with UWL explains what this new partnership means for Newbold and the Adventist Church.

Why should theological and pastoral education change? The academic world is always looking for new ways of offering ministerial and lay education within cultural contexts. UWL opens some new possibilities in this area.

What change from Open University accreditation to Lampeter? Twenty-eight full-time lecturers in its reputable Department of Theology and Religious Studies make Lampeter a leading centre for the study of theology at a time when the training of European theologies is being concentrated in fewer academic centres. Partnership with Newbold gives Lampeter the chance to offer a degree accredited by a reputable European university, the flexibility to create content appropriate to students and context, and the independence to continue to develop training with a solid Adventist identity.

In what ways will the Lampeter curriculum differ? Basically the curriculum is the same as the Newboldian moment – the change is not in the subject matter but in the flexibility with which it can be offered.

How much influence will Lampeter have on the content of the curriculum? We still determine the curriculum as we have always done. Content is developed in church context and arising out of the church’s perceived needs.

The academic quality of the qualification will be assured by assessments from academics both inside and outside the University. Lampeter’s quality assurance function is to maintain high academic standards. They will be particularly concerned about the qualifications of lecturers and the process of external marking and scrutiny. Their concern, however, is not to alienate the rest of the family from a Church which separates their faith from their work and families returning to home countries (especially those with a lower standard of living) at the end of a training session abroad, for Newbold considers these problems. We need to find new ways of addressing European issues from a European perspective. So if a PhD student wants to research outside the UK, as long as they have access to appropriate resources in their own country, they are encouraged to do this.

The Lampeter arrangement means we can offer training within the European Seventh-day Adventist Church context. Areas of Research would include Biblical, Theological, Pastoral and Adventist Studies.

Do these opportunities offer off-campus training mark the beginning of the end of Newbold as a seminary? This is a reimagining of seminary. The professional formation of ministers has always involved thinking, being and doing. The Lampeter partnership will allow us to combine training in these four areas in a mix of creative ways. To continue this process where appropriate in a variety of locations with different models of delivery – that is a challenge for our UWS staff. Our task is the theological rejuvenation of the Adventist Church.

What is your vision for the future of Adventist theological education? The Adventist Church has a problem with its identity. At one time we were both distinct. We neglected our Adventist roots. Now that we have shown others Adventists how much we have in common, we need to find our distinctive voice again. In a language that they can understand, we need to be able to say to both Christians and the wider world, the benefits of Adventist belief and practice. It is to this end that all our theological education is directed.

Hein Pearson

An edited version of this interview appeared in The Newboldian – the magazine for alumni and friends of Newbold College. If you would like to receive The Newboldian; please contact Pat Bholford at bholford@secadventist.org.uk or email phyllycoff@newbold.ac.uk.

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Christian Home & Marriage Week

A love letter from God to a married couple

by Karen and Bernie Holford, Family Ministries directors, SEC

To the two of you,

You have been married for a while now and I just want to write and say how happy I am that you have chosen to be together for life. I want you to know that we will be with you both, through the good and the bad. We ask you to remember that we will always be with you, even if it’s just in the background, always supporting you.

To give you the gift of marriage I had four main things in mind. Firstly, I wanted you to be able to experience incredible closeness and oneness that I share with my Son and my Holy Spirit. We are three beings and we are one. We have been created and yet we are one in purpose. And I wanted you to be able to experience the power and passion of my love for you both, for the whole world, through the power and passion of your love for each other and other ways in which I would show love for you if I were in your home, being together, serving the earth and seeking each other’s happiness. Strive for closeness as friends, lovers, and spiritual companions. It can be hard work, it will hurt at times, but it will be worth it all the effort.

Secondly, I knew that life on earth would hold many challenges and struggles and that it would be easier and less frightening if you could share those with someone who cares for you intensely. You are very different from each other, and sometimes this drives you crazy! But if you give each of you various talents, ideas, ways of communicating and thinking about things, so that you would have more resources, skills, and abilities to support each other, you can multiply the love and commitment of your marriage relationship.

Thirdly, I want you to each have a desire to grow and develop in the mature love of Christ. A loving and committed relationship can help you both to grow in your ability to be patient, kind, and unselfish, so that you can meet each other’s needs before the other has even noticed that they have a need. I want you to learn how to for give each other, and accept each other, just as I forgive and accept you. It’s a high goal, I know, but if you make these efforts, and Christ is with you, you will learn to develop your spiritual maturity through your intimacy with each other. For your loving relationship with me and with each other is the greatest witness to my love for you, and the difference my love has made in your relationship and your lives. If you have children, they need to experience the love I have for them through the way they come to them. This world is hurting and hungry for love, and as you both grow in my love for each other, I need you to show this love with others. I want them to see that a Christian marriage is a positive experience. I can only be served as others serve me.

Karen Holford

Bernie Holford

The Newboldian, please contact Pat Bholford at bholford@secadventist.org.uk or email phyllycoff@newbold.ac.uk.
Friends for Jesus posters

Heather Haworth, BUC Prayer co-ordinator

by E. G. White:

‘...to win others to the saving knowledge of the truth that is Jesus Christ.' (Romans 1:15, KJV)

Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful.

At the end of the decade a prayer ministry has been growing in our Union. It has been given an extra boost by being an integral part of our LEAD Devotional evangelism. The main thrust of this style of evangelism is to help us view people as Jesus did which means seeing the most unlikely person as a candidate for God’s kingdom:

• The couch potato who lives for TV

• The person who is swearing like a sailor

• The person who is brave enough to say ‘God’

It was these types of people with whom Jesus especially took the time to contact, and of course, was criticized for doing so. Perhaps it is time for us, his modern-day disciples, to go outside our comfort zone when we pray, and include those we consider the least likely to enter the kingdom of God. To help us remember in their prayer, your churches should receive a gift set of beautiful prayer posters last Christmas.

The wording on them is from the hymn, ‘What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to Him...” They are also available on the BUC website. (The pictures on the posters cannot be used commercially, as they are copyrighted ©.)

We hope you are displaying the posters at church and during the main prayer, ‘Come to God in faith and pour out our supplications before him, believing that he will work on our behalf and on behalf of those we are seeking to save. We are to devote most of our deepest prayer. Prayer, page 39. Remember: Prayer is more than talking — prayer is ministry.

Myanmar

ADRA-Myanmar is planning to distribute food to 10,000 people for about six months.

Indonesia

UNICEF has asked ADRA-Indonesia to take over the WATSAN component in rebuilding the school buildings, constructing housing for teachers, and providing supplies for students in the area of Meulaboh.

Sri Lanka

ADRA-Sri Lanka is flying in face masks and bacterial filters, body suits and blowers for the disinfection of areas where corpses and dead animals have been lying.

ADRA-Sri Lanka has installed a water disinfection unit in a camp near Trincomale. The unit produces 5,000 litres of water an hour.

India

ADRA-India is making final arrangements for the shipment of relief supplies to the Andaman Islands. The shipment will contain tents to provide shelter for 200 families, and provide blankets, mosquito nets, water containers and health education in the relief camps.

ADRA-India also plans to build 30 schools and health clinics on Great Nicobar Island. The project will enable the displaced families to access education, health services, and water and sanitation facilities.

Thailand

ADRA-Thailand visited Ban Tung Nang Dom, an island where two children were killed as a result of the tsunami and all the property on the island was totally destroyed. ADRA-Thailand has committed to helping the village with the re-establishment of their water supply system and is also looking to work with the villagers on community and household rehabilitation.

The ADRA-Thailand water team has also received requests from local government and village officials to work in other villages affected by the tsunami.

The NEC will miss his incalculable contribution!

The NEC will miss his incomparable influence of God’s grace; his faithfulness; his perseverance; his love; his tenacity; his unflagging influence of God’s grace; his tenacity; his remarkable consistency. Every year up to the year of his death. He was out in the field — at his death. He was out in the field — at his death.

ADRA-Thailand has submitted a proposal for a project that takes a comprehensive programmatic approach in two different phases: Phase 1 focuses on water system rehabilitation, community recovery, household recovery and health intervention. Phase 2 will focus on a long-term development plan, which will be supported through vocational training and microfinance activities to restore the affected villages and their populations to sustainable vibrant communities.

Maths teacher

This month Tamzin Line, the second daughter of Pastor and Mrs Robert Vine, was outward bound to help children at the other end of the world who are finding life difficult. Tamzin is a qualified and experienced mathematics teacher, having taught maths for five years.

On Thursday 20 January she flew out to New Zealand from Gatwick. She will stay eleven months, and will go around different schools, one of a team, encouraging young people aged 11-16 to do activities designed to bolster their self-esteem. She will work with small groups, and use equipment such as the climbing walls used in outward-bound situations.

Take it to the Lord in prayer

The Voice He gave me

The astonishing story of an African village boy who had one asset: a remarkable singing voice.

‘A truly inspirational story. How God led from the first in the life of Charles Ngandwe, winner of “Stars in Their Eyes”.

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Newbold Week of Prayer

The pastor of one of the biggest Adventist churches in the United States came to Newbold College in early October for last year’s Week of Prayer.

Randall Roberts of Loma Linda University Church in California presented a week-long series entitled ‘Twice Told Tales’. He chose the topic for Newbold’s annual event, and in two-daily meetings on campus he intertwined stories from the gospels with stories from his own life.

“The thing people thirst for most has to do with Jesus,” Roberts said about selecting the theme. “Finding something about what he lived and said was important.”

“It’s been a wonderful week here,” he added. “The students have been very attentive in the meetings and I’ve been really impressed by them.”

Tristram Ford, Public Relations assistant

Special tribute

The North England Conference wishes to pay special tribute to Brother Sydney Oliver Denham, a star Inquirer who passed away on 23 October 2004.

On behalf of ADRA and the NEC, I wish to recognise the sterling contribution that Brother Denham made to the annual Inquirer appeal.

His name was posted on screen at the 2002 NEC Camp Meeting as one of the outstanding collectors for that year, because at the age of 90 he collected £62!

Brother Denham continued to collect for ADRA right up to the year of his death. He was out Inquiring in April, and he died in October. The impressive thing was his consistency. Every year you could count on him, no matter what. It seems clear that only death could stop him! Surely, this uncommon dedication demands that the Personal Ministries leader of the NEC acknowledge the invaluable work of Brother Denham, albeit posthumously.

Could it be that the Church should not wait until the deaths of members who make invaluable contributions, before we pay special tribute to them?

Brother Denham and his wife have been long-standing members of the Westfield church. Both have been among the pillars in their church. Brother Denham’s life has contributed to the spiritual growth, not only of his local church but also of the NEC. No way could you be associated with him and not feel the heat of his passion for personal evangelism. The NEC will miss his incalculable contribution! The rise of someone to fill the vacuum will go some way to offset this loss. So my question will be the Lord’s: Who will go for us?

PASTOR RIZ MORGAN, Personal Ministries director

See page 14 for Sydney Denham’s obituary.

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ADRA-UK

The Voice He gave me

The astonishing story of an African village boy who had one asset: a remarkable singing voice.

‘A truly inspirational story. How God led from the first in the life of Charles Ngandwe, winner of “Stars in Their Eyes”.

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More on the tsunami
In early January the editor asked thirty Adventist thought leaders - in Britain and overseas - to attempt an answer to the question 'Where was God?' in connection with the tsunami. Most of the responses were published over pages 2 and 3 in the last issue. Here are two final responses:

Dr Bryan W Ball:
With the passing of the years I have learned at least two things. 1. Not all the questions life throws at us can be answered easily and completely. As a Christian, I must be prepared to live with the tension of some unanswered questions because my world view is shaped by other certainties. One day not too far distant, God will stand by our side and reveal to us the reasons why we find certain aspects of life so difficult to understand. At present, however, we can only speculate about the meaning of the events that have taken place.

2. The usual things we say about Satan, the great controversy, the watching universe and the eventual triumph of good over evil may hold, but no thinking person would claim that they can answer the question completely. Many years ago I came across a little story that in my youthful ignorance and lack of experience I would have taken as true and unassailable. The story told us that the final victory of good over evil will come when Christ returns. But there are likely to be more sooner rather than later – can nullify or mislead the historical events which are God's way of leading the world towards the ultimate triumph of good over evil. We may not completely understand tragedy, pain, suffering and disaster, but we can have confidence in God's love and mercy through Jesus Christ, who died for all who have ever lived. We may not completely understand Heaven, but we will probably be able to see quite clearly the joy and beauty and love and peace of God.

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Dr Harold Vivian Satherley Baker:
The Lord is with us (Luke 22:61). The March 11 earthquake and tsunami is a great reminder of God's power and providence. It is a time to recommit ourselves to God in prayer and praise. It is a time to share the comfort and peace of God with our hurting brothers and sisters. It is a time to reflect on the significance of the events of March 11.

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Second ADRA-UK consultant leaves for Sri Lanka
by John Surridge

By the time you read this report a Second ADRA-UK consultant will be working in Sri Lanka. Miss Arlene Senior, who attends the Birmingham Camp Hill church, has a great deal of experience in communication and she will be joining the ADRA-Sri Lanka team to serve as their Public Relations and Communication officer.

Speaking before she left the UK, Arlene told of how the phone call had come to her from ADRA’s Command Centre in Thailand. ADRA-UK had my CV and, as it happened, to match the profile of the position ADRA was looking for in Sri Lanka, they made the connections and put me in touch. That was on Thursday 13 January and I decided pretty quickly that I would like to go. However, the appointment is for six months, which is a long time to leave your family and friends. What finally clinched my decision was a sermon from Pastor Roy Morgan in Camp Hill on Sabbath 13 January. His theme was, ‘When God opens the door make sure you go through it’, which was just what I needed to hear. My flight was booked and I’m pretty quickly that I would like to go.

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