Following the earthquake tragedy that struck South Asia, ADRA-UK has launched an appeal to raise funds to bring immediate relief to the victims. ADRA-UK is co-ordinating its efforts with other donor offices and ADRA-Trans-Europe to respond to this major disaster.

The ADRA network is focusing efforts on Pakistan, which has been most affected by the disaster. ADRA has had a long-term presence in Pakistan, providing development projects in the affected regions since 1984. The ADRA-Pakistan office has already commenced relief activities with the provision of food, medical supplies and shelter.

The ADRA network was mobilised into action within hours of the earthquake, which occurred at 8:50 on Saturday 8 October, and measured 7.6 on the Richter Scale. The writer was in contact with ADRA-International and Trans-Europe (which covers Pakistan as one of its field territories) by...
**British Union Conference**

**Christmas shoebox appeal**

by Karen Plaatjes

For the last few years ADRA-UK has been sending Christmas shoeboxes to children around the world. This year the shoeboxes will be sent to Romania, it’s an exciting way to help children experience the joy of Christmas, and for most of them it will be the only present they receive this year.

Shoeboxes can be filled with clothes, sweets, toothy items, school supplies, etc. and should be nicely wrapped and clearly labelled with the appropriate age and sex. Please do not include breakable items, food products (aside from sweets), toys that need batteries, medicines, or war-related items.

All boxes need to be received by 1 December in order to reach their destination by Christmas. Boxes can be delivered to ADRA, Stanford Park, Watford, WD25 8JZ, during business hours (Mon-Thurs 9-5, and Friday 9-noon). There will be a pick-up of boxes in the UK, and details will be sent in late October. Please note that the appropriate office is not able to store or deliver boxes this year.

A poster and flyer can be downloaded from www.adra.org.uk.

We’d like to have a record of shoebox numbers, so please help us by getting involved. More information can be obtained from ADRA-UK on 01922-881723 or by emailing secretary@adra.co.uk.

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**Editorial**

It takes a great man to deal with failure and defeat. It takes the very great man to deal with success and victory. David was not that great.

Viciously over the Syrians, military genius David felt so confident about capturing Rabba (Amman) that he sent Zobael to do it while he stayed home. The Bathsheba Affair ensued. Remember?

A glamorous woman was exploited. Her husband was deliberately used by her lover. After the slaughter required by the cover-up made necessary by the affaire, David had not come clean. He thought only Jash knew that the carence at Amman and the king’s subsequent marriage to Bathsheba were connected.

He was wrong.

Surely the royal courtiers were careful not to mention the unfortunate cuckold or name the real father of the child within the earldom of King David and his new queen, but it is just as certain that the whole scandalous affair was the subject of great interest and talk among the high and mighty.

‘David’s sin toward Bathsheba became known, and suspicion was excited that he had planned the death of Uriah.’

But even had there not been suspicion and gossip, David’s sordid secret was known. ‘The king’s queen was adulterous with David her husband’ (II Samuel 11:27).” David had behaved as an atheist but, no matter how many people do that, David was still king. David was wrong.

Proving a world magazine presents some technical challenges and without the use of modern communication techniques this project would not have been possible. The editorial responsibilities fall on the Adventist Review team in Silver Spring, Maryland, with two additional editors in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adding strategic planning for the new magazine. The final publishing process involves sending electronic files of the magazine to four different printing presses, located in the United States, Korea and Australia.

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**Healthwise**

**Wolf Bite**

If you are suffering five or more of the conditions listed, you should see a rheumatologist, dermatologist or other specialist.

Lupus vulgaris — the disease, which represents excellent value for money on a per-member basis.

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**Pick up your free copy of Adventist World**

by John Surridge

This week two editions of the brand new international Seventh-day Adventist Church magazine, Adventist World, will be distributed to all Adventist churches in the UK and Ireland. Around the world more than one million copies of each edition are printed in English, with additional copies being printed in Spanish and French. Altogether it is estimated that six million or more people will have access to the magazine. The cost of the monthly world magazine is extremely low, about £1 million a year, which represents excellent value for money on a per-member basis.

According to Adventist World editor William Johnsson, the new magazine represents an attempt to bring the church and its message in England and parts of the UK, closer to the ‘front of the unity of the world Adventist family’. It comes with several elements in mind. All articles will be one or two pages in length, except for the cover story, which will run for four pages. It will focus on informing members about the world Church, while articles on Adventist heritage, Bible questions and comments on the news will also feature.

An effort is being made to bring writers from all over the world, in an effort to enhance the international nature of the magazine.

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Conference president Pastor Jan Paulsen says, ‘We think it is critical to the Church, to the church’s witness, to the unity of the Church that we have a voice that can speak to the whole world Church, with the same message to all.’

Among the international writers contributing to the October issue of the magazine is Karen Hordford, Associate director of the South England Conference Family Ministries, who highlights the work of Child Rescue, a project to which £1 million was committed to help three million children worldwide a year, which represents excellent value for money on a per-member basis.

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**References:**

1. 13, I was reading the Bible through for the first time. I went back to 2 Samuel chapter 12 one last time to make sure I had not missed reading something. No. There it was. I read as far as verse 15 where it says that Nathan ‘went home’, and I thought, ‘Right, that’s it.’ I had last patience and closed the Bible. planning never to open it again.

2. ‘The Lord has taken away your sin’. That really stuck in my mind, and I was totally astonished – and disgusted – with God! Was he fresh out of ‘fire from heaven’?

3. I took the issue to the only Bible authority on hand, my mother. She told me that her father, my grandfather, loved his own Bible – what’s more, he’d read that King Solomon had a thousand wives and concubines. ‘He’d be made to do it in his own time!’

4. She said that all would come clear if I read Psalm 51. I did it. I didn’t help, at first. I read, a psalm of confession and repentance written by David following his encounter with Nathan. The sardonic twist that I found was the found one right at first. In verse 4, however, I found something else to be alarmed about. David said to God, ‘Against you I have sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.’

5. So what about Bathsheba? Hadn’t the delayed king aged 50 sinned against the young woman whose body he had exploited? hadn’t he sinned, too, against her husband, his military champion? ‘I thought of Uriah returning to the front carrying the sealed orders that contained his own death warrant. hadn’t the whole sordid business been an outrage by a king against all the customs of society? – all of his people? Shouldn’t justice come into it somewhere?’

6. There were two verdicts. The first, David’s own: ‘The man must pay and the man must die!’ The second, Nathan’s: ‘God forgives your sin. You will not die for it.’

7. I favoured the first: God’s persistent disappointment with the failings of humankind is perhaps the single most consistent theme of the Bible.

8. I was feeling an outrage that was a pathetic reflection of what God feels when we fail him and other people, God is keeping score. He holds both leaders and led to account. God’s judgement is what makes sense of history.

9. But God’s unswerving commitment to justice meets at the cross with that other major facet of his character, grace. God expresses hatred for the damage sin does and is unable, as with David, to interrupt the cause and effect sequence to which it gives rise.

10. But God’s justice encounters God’s grace at the cross: his undoing longing to forgive, his insatiable appetite to redeem repentant sinners.

11. David’s great repentance (Psalm 51) anticipated Calvary. ‘Cleanse me with hyssop’. Hyssop branches were used to sprinkle the lambs’ blood in the Passover cross: his undying longing to forgive, his insatiable appetite to redeem repentant sinners.

12. ‘the Lord has taken away your sin’ – as opposed to David’s own ‘against you I have sinned’ – ‘the man must die’ – was Calvary. Whether David lived long or not, he was saved through the death of the sinless. One who would be born in his line.

13. What made that transaction possible was David’s heartfelt repentance, and explicit in the realization that even more than he had sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab and the nation of Israel, he had sinned against God (Psalm 51:4). Five of God’s Big Ten had been broken, and as David belatedly stood postent before the thing that boomed large and loud, he had broken the archetypal father of Bathsheba’s or the innocence of Uriah, but the judgement of the God whose wishes and existence he had ignored. David had broken the law of his God. David had broken the law of his God. David had sinned because his character. Grace.

14. The same all-righteous God would, in the fullness of time, provide his Son who ‘emptied himself’ – and humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even on death on a cross’ (Philippians 2:7, 8, NRSV).

15. As a 13-year-old, I didn’t understand that. All I could do was see the exceedence of the God I had sinned against He is too strong, too powerful. I read as far as verse 15 where it says that Nathan ‘went home’, and I thought, ‘Right, that’s it.’ I had last patience and closed the Bible. planning never to open it again.

16. Many have murmured at what they called God’s ‘justice in sparing David’. ‘Whoever under the reproof of God will humble the soul with confession and repentance, as did David, . . . will find pardon. The Lord will never cast away one truly penitent soul!’


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**With Richard J. B. Williams, BUC Health Ministries director**
A Countdown of Grace

by Pat Grant

Is your congregation a safe place for God’s grace?

assigned six tables in the middle of the ballroom. I had a great time getting to know some of the guests. It was a room brimming with authenticity.

The speaker came forward to welcome the crowd. She appeared to be in her late 30s. Her skin was tanned; deep wrinkles danced when she smiled. She possessed an affable personality and used it to command the attention of her audience. Her lavender blouse was tucked neatly into a crisp black linen suit. Her ring finger sparkled, and the delicate pearl brooch pinned to her lapel harmonised it; all her appearance and demeanour were immaculate, which made all the more impact on me when she spoke.

‘Hi, my name is Mary,’ she began.

‘Hi, Mary,’ the audience replied. ‘I’m an alcoholic,’ she announced. ‘And I haven’t touched a drink for eleven years.’

The audience applauded.

‘Eleven years ago I was homeless,’ Mary stated. ‘I lost my children and my self-respect. Now, by the power of God and Alcoholics Anonymous, I’ve turned my life around.’

‘This convention is one where we are brought together with a common purpose. We’ll admit that one time in our life we were powerless, but now through the strength in gathering together and calling on higher power we will overcome.’

The audience applauded.

‘Before we begin tonight, I’d like to acknowledge all of you,’ she said. ‘So if you’ve been clean and sober for 40 years or longer, please stand.’

Two older couples in the front row stood to their feet. The audience applauded.

‘If you’ve been clean and sober for 30 years or more, I’d like you to stand.’ Ten people stood up, and the audience applauded.

Mary then began the countdown of grace. ‘Thirty-eight years, 37 . . . 25, 24 . . . ‘ With each announcement, people stood while everyone else in the ballroom applauded. I stopped serving and just stood against the wall, reveling in this experience. The power in the room was palpable. Fifteen hundred people were together in a room where nobody judged anyone, everyone recognised how far each had come, and there was acceptance and unconditional love.

What I witnessed next showed me forever what heaven on earth is like.

Just getting started

‘Alone a year or more sober?’ Mary asked. A few people stood. The audience applauded.

Mary counted down from six months to one month with no standing. She continued.


‘If you’ve been sober for two days, please stand.’

Mary then remained silent. She waited; all of us looked around the room.

‘I’ve been where you are,’ she said. ‘There will never be a better place for you to get help than here, among people who understand.’

Mary paused again, and all of us hung in the silence.

In the back of the ballroom a teenager stood up. He was dishevelled, haggard, and worn. His head was down, his hair mangled. It wasn’t hard to imagine how his life matched his appearance. As soon as he stood up, everyone saw him, 1,500 people stood up, and applauded his applause. The kid fell to his knees and wept. ‘Somebody tell that kid he’s going to be okay,’ Mary said. The programme taped as people surged to gather around him.

What would make a heaven on earth? What is an upright church in an upside-down world supposed to look like? It might look like the countdown of grace I witnessed that day in the ballroom.

Watch . . . till you drop

by Pastor Cyril Sweeney

More and more families are discovering the ‘square eyes’ syndrome. TV is, for many, a master of life or death. We believe Johnnie or Jack to programme the video for recording tonight’s episode of Eastenders. Families are not appreciative of the fact that the TV has more influence on them than they think. Individuals have come up to me and said, ‘Yes, I am a Christian and I see nothing wrong with what’s on the box. After all, you can find the same thing in the Bible.’

True, we can find sex and violence in the Bible, along with almost every evil that devil-inspired people could think up. So why worry about what we see on TV and at the cinema?

1. The vast majority of programmes and films leave out the Bible’s punchline. All the evil we watch and find entertaining, actually, in real life, leads to despair and pain, to physical and eternal death. TV and films stop short of God’s solutions. They rarely show God’s ways to a happy life – forever.

2. If you’ve been sober since last night, please stand.

Mary paused again, and all of us hung in the silence.

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What would make a heaven on earth? What is an upright church in an upside-down world supposed to look like? It might look like the countdown of grace I witnessed that day in the ballroom.

Pat Grant pastors the Cedar Home district in the Washington Conference. This article first appeared in 18 August issue of Adventist Review and is republished by gracious permission of Pat.
Ghana churches: rapid growth this year

The Reading Ghana church plant, which was itself organised on 6 December 2001, on 26 March 2003, the Slough Ghana church organised a day of fellowship and a musical concert in Reading to launch the Reading Ghana church planting programme. The occasion was attended by about three hundred people, including the South East London Ghana Church Choir and a large number of non-Adventist Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians in Reading.

That day, four individuals, Festus Appiah (elder), Jacob Oyere, Vera Basting and Koyo Bossman, were dedicated by the late Pastor William Ackah as the core members of the Reading Ghana church, and were charged with the task of establishing the church. The annual Church Day service was organised on 8 December 2001. On Saturday 17 September, with the task of establishing the church becomes powerful, not worship. His address was certain be felt throughout the majority of churches within Area 5. To summarise, this event was well organised and God’s presence could certainly be felt throughout the whole day.

PASTOR JON GENDLE

Women’s Ministries at Wood Green

Women’s Ministries is alive and well at Wood Green under the leadership of Don McFarquhar and her team. A Women’s Forum began in January and is held on the fourth Sunday of each month, during which we have discovered a tremendous amount of talent. Women are encouraged to invite their non-Adventist friends to attend.

Birthday parties are held in which women who celebrated their birthday in each quarter were presented with a gift. There were also social events such as a boat trip and a Rodeo theme.

The idea of having a ‘Secret Friend’ was put into action when each woman picked a name from a box and was encouraged to be friendly to that person in a not too obvious way. After months of keeping their friends secret, all was revealed on yet another enjoyable occasion.

The year culminated with a Women’s Ministries day of fellowship on 24 September. It got off to a good start at the Globe Centre, Reading. The morning was sunny and bright, full of optimism, like a arrow being rolled out from heaven. These blessings continued throughout the day as a lively and long service hosted by Pastor Steve Binnie, with a lot of interspersed with drama from Slough Ghana church, also special music from 3D.

Pastor David Spearing, the main organiser for the day, gave a very warm welcome, along with Pastor Stephen Otsuro Ebiem.

‘To God be the glory! Everything he hath done!’

PASTOR GEORGE DADEY

2,000 at Area 5 Day of Fellowship

Area 5 day of fellowship on 24 September got off to a good start at the Globe Centre, Reading. The morning was sunny and bright, full of optimism, like a arrow being rolled out from heaven. These blessings continued throughout the day as a lively and long service hosted by Pastor Steve Binnie, with a lot of interspersed with drama from Slough Ghana church, also special music from 3D.

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Welwyn: Celebration and Commitment

Sabbath 1 October was a day of celebration, commitment and change for the church at St Albans Garden in Hertfordshire. Taking part in this special worship service were Pastor David Neal, president of the Irish Mission, Pastor Victor Hubert, Executive secretary South England Conference, and Pastor Jon Gendle. Pastor Gendle was welcomed as he takes over as our new minister.

It is just two years since our small group from St Albans Church, blessed by the Holy Spirit and under the leadership of Pastor David Neal, held our first worship service in the lovely old Quaker Hall in Welwyn Garden City. Within three months we had outgrown that hall and we were blessed when a large school nearby happily agreed to rent their large hall, with use of some other rooms and a kitchen each Sabbath.

Week by week our congregation grew, so much so that by our second birthday the time was right to organise into a company. So on Sabbath 1 October Welwyn Garden City Adventist Community church celebrated. A very special service was arranged for the occasion. There was a lively and joyful praise time, solo items and a very special item by the children. Through the service many of the members were asked what the church meant to them. The sentiments most often repeated were: ‘I feel at home here’, ‘I feel loved here’, ‘I like the friendly atmosphere’, ‘I love the Sabbath School discussions’, ‘I come for the hugs’, ‘I like the way people notice if I am not there’, ‘I always go away feeling uplifted’, ‘I love to see the children taking part’. There were also messages of support from friends as far away as Canada and Australia.

Although David Neal has already moved to Ireland to take up its duties as president there, we were all delighted that he returned to be with us on this special occasion. Pastor Hubert gave a short but very inspiring address in which he challenged us to look in more depth at the diversity of characters and professions of the team of workers chosen by Jesus and how they were changed through knowing him. The Charter Commission was read by Pastor Neal and Pastor Gendle lead the congregation in prayer. This day of celebrations for WGCACCC was rounded off with a wonderful fellowship lunch.

STEPHEN VALLISON

Dublin baptism

On Sabbath afternoon, 10 September, Dublin church was privileged to celebrate the baptism of five people. All were blessed as the church worshipped and praised God for the dedication of all five candidates – in English, Russian and Romanian. Pastor Douglas McCormac gave a rousing sermon on the importance of baptism and commitment, as well as a frank confession in regard to his life before Christ. The church was blessed when the candidates told their stories and testimonies. Maxim Chitanchi told of his ten-year search to find Christ and the joy he felt as he entered the waters of baptism with his mother Galina. It was wonderful to see two generations come to Christ together. Eugene Chiasovski was baptised as well, and Theresa Kiss & Ndiyoy, originally from Zimbabwe, gave her life to Christ. She told how she went to church as a child with her grand- mother who wanted her to be baptised when she was old enough to understand. Thembul’s journey took almost forty years, but she is grateful to God for his patience with her.

Ward McGuire recommenced his life to Christ after moving far from him. He was joined on the day by his sister and brother-in-law in London, who read a letter of joy from Warren’s family in Cape Town, wel- coming him back into God’s family. The baptism was conducted under the careful watch of the chil- dren who gathered close around to see, and the smiling eyes of the church. With lots of flowers, hugs and even some tears all five were warmly welcomed into the church family and we look forward to seeing them work in the most wonderful service in the world, fulfilling the gospel commission together.

STEPHEN VALLISON

Committee for Area 5

PASTOR DON McFARLANE

The baptism was conducted by Newbold Drama Group, High Wycombe, Slough, Reading, WAC, Russian Fellowship group, Oxford, Guildford, Reading community Sabbath school group, and Areas 4 and Area 5 Youth Federation.

The number of people attending was said to be more than 2,000, which is an increase on last year and is testament to the recent church growth within Area 5.

To summarise, this event was well organised and God’s presence could certainly be felt throughout the whole day.

ALAN MUSCHER

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ALAN MUSCHER

All were blessed as the church
New president: Pastor Humphrey Walters, elected president of South England Conference in August, has shared his vision for the work of God in this field. Pastor Walters was the driving force behind the strategic plan that was voted by the delegation at the SEC Session in 1993. 'The Whole Church Taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole Community', and it is evident that he wants this to become a reality.

Pastor Walters believes that one of the ways the Church can become more mission-driven is for the ministry and the laity to work together more effectively. He has stated several times over the past weeks that ‘everyone is a minister’, and he is passionate and excited that we are ‘workers together with Christ’. The method of outreach that is a key part of his vision is church planting, in particular the holocentric model. According to Pastor Walters, this model of ministry has not yet done away with the tradition-

Drug training awareness for Youth leaders

On Wednesday 21 September Martin Perry, Deputy director of Hope UK, came to the BUC office in Watford to bring his fourteen years of knowledge and skills in drug education to the Church’s Youth directors and sponsors. This training in drug awareness is part of the ongoing strategy of the BUC youth department to help keep the knowledge of the youth team up to date, and their skills sharp and focused.

Issues addressed ranged from the reasons why young people take drugs, to being able to identify some of the various substances that young people are using out on the street, as well as identifying signs of usage and abuse. For obvious reasons synthetic samples, rather than the real thing, were brought along for the training.

After the bombing: Holloway’s August strategy leader

The Holloway and Muswell Hill outreach programme came to a glorious climax with thirty-two new converts being joined to Christ and his bride – the Church. Most of the new members will be attending the Holloway church while others will be members of Muswell Hill, Stoke Newington, Chingford and Haringey churches.

The evangelistic thrust had been in its embryonic state for several months when Pastor Emmanuel Osei first informed the church board of his desire to evangelise for the month of September. Although the board agreed without any hesitation, the Lord initiated a turn of events that dictated that the month of evangelism would be August. The Lord further placed it in the heart of the Personal Ministries leadership to hold the campaign at Finsbury Park under a marquee, from 6 to 27 August when the local community would be invited to attend.

Can we testify to the many obstacles we faced before and during the programme, aimed at preventing the meetings from taking place. However, with nearly a third of the church leadership engaging in prayer and fasting, the Lord caused us to surmount every obstacle. This included the Sabbath of 14 August when the Lord stopped the rain, allowing the Pathfinders and members to march around the park. The fact that this was a campaign to build and restore good relationships made it especially sensitive to any hesitation, the Lord initiated the meetings from taking place. The women were not nagged by the womenfolk and vice versa. Also, to know and understand what body language is saying in relationships.

As the campaign drew to its close, it was said to see the frankness of evangelism, the joy of an evangelist and pineapples drinking Dr F. Will’s delivery on his last message on the need to keep the church message sharp – the final one as he prayed for those who took their stand for Jesus Christ and especially for the Pathfinders of the Sabbath service, the morning of 27 August. It was then that Pastor Emmanuel Osei thanked the last twenty-three or so candidates, fruits for the Kingdom of God.

Yvonne performs on Queen Mary 2

Fifteen-year-old Yvonne Bauwens, who attends the Creif church, recently had the honour of playing the grand piano on the boat’s maiden voyage. He was able to sign prints of his painting and also received another commission.

Yvonne has also used her talents as a composer and performer to produce a CD of some of her compositions and arrangements of well-known Scottish music. She sold over £1,000 worth of the CDs and was able to sponsor her brother David who went on the Project Romeria. She was also allowed to advertise the CDs at a school concert and on an Adventist church website. She sold £300 worth at the concert. Project Romeria was organized by the Scottish Mission to help rebuild two houses almost destroyed in the April floods. Twenty-six young people went, each one having to raise £650 for their travel and building materials.

Golden Wedding on QE2

Ron and Dorothy Logan were given a wonderful surprise Golden Anniversary present by their four children, who paid for them to go for a cruise on the Queen Elizabeth 2. The Norwegian cruise was a requirement to dress formally for dinner on the ship, and Ron looked very sharp and focused.

The BUC, in partnership with Hope UK, has organised further training for members seeking to become drug educators. This will commence in November and will run on Sabbath evening and all day Sunday once a month for four months. For further details, please contact Pastor Des Boldeau on diboldeau@adventist.org.uk. Phone 01923 472231.

Everyone loves a story! Get a friend, relative or neighbour you want to win! Give them a book. Make perfect gifts.

Early Bird Reflections by Tony Spearing is beautifully illustrated and contains wise stories and humour of a soul-winning kind.

Home from the Sea by Bob Smith tells the exciting story of how he was twice torpedoed in WWII but lived to minister the Gospel in Britain. This book is also extensively illustrated. Both of these hardback books are truly inspiring, yet modestly priced at £7.95, and can be ordered via the ABC Sales line: 01947 579000. Moon/Thurs. Have your credit card details handy!
Stokey’s ‘From Conversion to Discipleship’ Week of Revival

As is customary in Stoke Newington, every year we have a week of revival. This year’s was no exception, so from 27-2 September how we were blessed and privileged to have Dr Ganeou Diop, professor of Biblical Languages, Exegesis and Theology at Oakland College, spend the week with us. Dr Diop began by asking the question, ‘What is discipleship?’

Over the course of the week he proceeded to tell us exactly what discipleship is and how we can achieve it in our daily lives. ‘Discipleship is simple,’ he began. ‘Discipleship is to focus on Jesus Christ. How do we do this? By being like Christ. Take Christ, walk like Christ.’

Every night Dr Diop presented different ways for us to fulfill our role of being disciples of Christ. He acknowledged that so many of us may be baptised (converted) but do not necessarily live the life we have been baptised into. One thing that was made clear each night was that we must spend time with God daily in worship, prayer and reading the Bible. Much focus was given to spending time with God’s Word. Dr Diop once or twice a day invited us to read, read and re-read, dissecting the passage that we are reading till we understand what it means. Since we do this it will help us to understand fully what God is saying to us,’ he said.

The whole week was a teaching session, not just for us to sit and hear someone talk, but interactive, with opportunity for all to ask questions. Dr Diop would also ask questions. You could see that God had given him the gift of teaching. He was able to explain things so that all who attended understood what he was talking about from the youngest member to the oldest.

At the end of the week a baptism was held and five individuals were baptised and received into fellowship (1 Pet 3:21). Mark Fredericks, Tamarion Douglas, Maxine Ford, and Matthew Joseph. On the right of the picture is Pastor Richard De Lisser. Soya Pau received into fellowship was Maxine Ford, and Matthew Joseph. On the left is Pastor David Parker. Dr Diop was talking about from the youngest member to the oldest.

It is forty years since Shrewsbury church members had to contend with the small smattering of bologna and freshly cooked chips waiting through sermons on Sabbath mornings. Last month the congregation celebrated their move, in 1965, from a meeting place above a chip shop to a beautiful, purpose-built church. But members still remember the tantalising aromas that once wafted through the services before the establishment of the new church.

They had a chance to share their memories as pastors, families, regulars and old friends marked a near-half-century of service on 17 September. Beautiful flower arrangements by Veronica Hill adorned the church from sanctuary to youth hall. Sister Hill used two new flower stands donated by the Thompson family from Erdington, who gave them to the church as a gift to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year. ‘Flowers’ seemed an appropriate Sabbath School theme that morning, and it was even more appropriate that the lesson should be taken by Pastor Paul Lockham. His return brought back happy memories of his marriage to Helen Chambers who also attended the anniversary. The divine service saw Pastor Richard Vine, Shrewsbury’s minister between 1999 and 1995, serve up a delicious snappy dog story for many visiting children before using the book of Isaiah to illustrate the Bible’s case for Creation.

Shrewsbury is the birthplace of Charles Darwin, but the sermon illuminated God’s mastery over his own creation as set out in the book of Isaiah. Pastor Vine went on to show how this was an act of creation to build a house of God in the town where Darwin was born and lived.

It was a moving and joyful occasion, with the presence of the congregation, the music of the worship team and the message of the day from Isaiah.

Shrewsbury’s 40th Anniversary

WEST IRELAND NEWS

Green Flag for Granich

The final day of the school year took place before the summer holidays at Granich House School, Galway. It was also the day for two important events, the graduation of ten students from sixth class and the presentation of the second Green Flag to the school. The ten students, who are going on to secondary school next year, were given a certificate by Mr Richard Maguire, Environmental Officer for Galway City Council. Four students were also given awards for not missing a day at school over the previous year; these were Sarah Trench, Joshua Fapohunda, Gloria Fapohunda and Dillon O’Malley.

Mr Maguire presented the second Green Flag to the school in recognition of its work in conserving water and power. The Green Flag is an international award which recognises schools’ work in conserving the environment. Granich House School has an extensive environmental conservation programme which involves many other students, growing plants and vegetables from seed, looking after the garden in the grounds of the school, having a worm farm and separating waste.

Outgoing school principal Esther Robertson said of the Green Flag programme, ‘The whole idea is the training of children to look after the environment’. Energy conservation involves the replacement of the light bulbs in the school by long-life, low-wattage bulbs. Presentation were made to Miss Robertson who returned to Australia in July after many years working at Granich House School. Her replacement is fellow Australian Bob Flynn who started teaching in the school last spring. Also in attendance was the outgoing president of the Irish Mission, Pastor Curtis Murphy and his wife Vickie. They gave gifts and a bouquet of flowers to Miss Robertson in recognition of her work in the school as teacher and principal over the past number of years. Pastor Murphy closed the proceedings with prayer.

Irish Country Shows

This year, in four county shows in rural Ireland, the Adventist Church has had a free booklet, ‘Love Wilson, a member at Ballinasloe, then again organised the witness in conjunction with the church in Ballinasloe and with support from Dublin church.

The stall contained a large variety of Adventist literature, many on practical issues such as the Adventist School, home- bervation and books for children. Once a person showed interest in a book they were given a pack containing an ADRA-Ireland pen and brochure, a magazine about Adventists, a VOP card, and a LIFE info magazine.

The shows were a success again this year, leading to many conversations and leaving something practical and useful in people’s homes where the Spirit can continue to work on hearts and minds.

The first show this year was in Laois. In Athlone, Co. Westmeath, where 45 packs were given to the public. There was a similar show in Co. Offaly, which attracts about 30,000 people, where 165 packs and over 500 books/magazines were taken to people’s homes. Then we visited Tullamore in Co. Offaly with 45 packs and Pittstown, Co. Kilkenny with a further 65 packs. In total 360 packs were given to interested people and over 1,000 books distributed.

WEST IRELAND NEWS

Adventist meeting in Ballinasloe

Around ninety people who came from twenty different countries in the world gathered on Sabbath 16 July at Hayes Hotel in Ballinasloe in a meeting organised by Pastor Ashley Kongari, the pastor of the Adventist Church in the west of Ireland. The principal speaker was Pastor David Cox, head of Personal Ministries at the BUC. He spoke of the importance of church shows and showed a video about Andrea, a young Brazilian girl who has started up an Adventist church herself and works to help poor people in Brazil. Fourteen young people who have been baptised so far in Andrea’s church. The video was in Portugal, but it was also translated into English by 13-year-old Eudrwin Santos da Silva, a Brazilian member of the Ballinasloe church. Eudrwin and his parents Francisco and Gilmadina and sister Franciana are founder members of Ballinasloe.

Pastor Cox spoke also about the Kingdom of God. He said to those assembled, 15-25% of whom were non-Adventist, ‘Our message should be the same as Jesus preached – the Kingdom of God is near.’ He added, ‘One prayer that Jesus asked us to pray was, ‘Pray your kingdom come.’ There is a new Adventist church in Ballinasloe which meets every Sabbath. Most of the members of this church are Brazilian and they are delighted to be able to meet for worship in the west of Ireland. Many Brazilians attended the meeting in Hayes Hotel and they brought a special Brazilian food for the meal after the morning service. There was also spiritual music at the meeting with the Divine Inspiration Choir from Dublin church, led by Edin Samambawa, and a Ghanaian choir who sang gospel songs, some in their native language.

The meeting lasted from 10.30am to 4pm and greatly encouraged the worshippers who came from Adventist churches in Ballinasloe, Galway, Longford, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Limerick, Ballinaclough and Dublin. Pastor Kongari hopes to organise a similar meeting in Longford later in the year.

STEPHEN WILLSON
Busy year for Oxford Street
Wolverhampton

The last two years have been busy for Oxford Street, Wolverhampton with many comings and goings. If you have ever visited us, you will have noticed two things. The first is the friendly greeting you get as you enter, and the second is we always have visitors, whether family, friends or people curious. As a result of this fire, we have held three baptisms of such friends and family. On both occasions the already expanded church was filled to capacity as the first baptism saw eight souls won for the Lord, the second saw eleven souls and the third twelve.

If you want to know why such growth in Wolverhampton, why not come and visit?

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Spreading your wings – and fly

“You raise me up like an eagle was the theme for the Preston Youth Day, Sabbath 9 July, at the Plungington Community Centre, Preston. Part of the Sabbath School presentation was in the form of a sketch which outlined certain issues that young people face in today’s society (partying, drinking, peer pressure). It highlighted the importance of making the right decisions in life and tied in well with the lesson study, ‘Lord of our Priorities’.

In his presentation, Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Youth director, narrated the story of a farmer who found an egg’s egg and took it back to his chicken farm to look after it. Eventually the eagle hatched and the farmer treated it like one of his chickens. The eagle adopted the habits of a chicken and believed he was a chicken. A visitor enquired from the farmer why he was treating an eagle like a chicken and advised him to release it into the wild. Several attempts were made to release the eagle but when the farmer scattered chicken seed for his birds, the eagle swooped back down to the ground and started scratching the earth once again like a chicken. The visitor never gave up on trying to free the eagle. It took some time, but eventually the eagle spotted another eagle and spread its wings and flew off into the sunset. He reminded us that God has a plan for us to ascend on eagles’ wings. Sin keeps us from God just as gravity prevents flying. Always seek to overcome gravity we need lift, movement, trust. God has high expectations of us. He has given us the ability to fly, high spiritually, mentally and socially. Pastor Hush asked the question, ‘What do you see? Horizontally, you see peer pressure, drugs, crime, sickness, death. Vertically, look high, point to Jesus.’

He continued, ‘Eagles want to trap you and get you into a lifestyle that prevents flying. Always seek your direction from God. Time is short. Spread your wings. Distinguish between the wholesome and the unwholesome. Make God Lord of your life. Without you he can do nothing, without him you will struggle. We are not eagles, but in Exodus 19:4 God says, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings.” The Lord is the eagle! In God’s strength we fly. God wants men, women, boys and girls who do not fear to call sin by its name and who will stand for the right.’

JERRY JEFFERS

Historic Day for Long Eaton

A historic day dawned on Sabbath 23 July for the Long Eaton church. For the first time ever, the church held its own baptism locally. This was due to the kind permission granted to us by the Station Road Baptist Church, when they allowed us to use their beautiful church and its facilities.

Our baptismal candidate was Sue Waterall, a friend of John Kirk, one of our members. She has been attending church for the past two years. It was during our Bible worker Noeby Medley’s evangelistic series held in November 2004 that Sue made her decision to be baptised. So it was with great joy that Dr Patrick Herbert baptised her as her family and church brothers and sisters looked on. We pray by God’s grace it will not be too long before we have another baptism in Long Eaton.

JERRY JEFFERS

Images of Praise – Life Changing TV

by Paul Weekes

In May, Milton Keynes church launched out in faith and produced a brand new evangelistic television campaign, Images of Praise. The programme was designed to introduce the non-churched to Jesus Christ in a new and relevant way. The programme featured sermons from special guest speakers Pastors Dalebert Elias, Stephen McKenzie, Don McKean, Stefan Burton-Schnull, and Colin Stewart. The programme was also blessed with music from the wealth of talent within Milton Keynes and guest singers including Paul Lee and Ilanna Alexander.

One of the aims of the programme was to give the viewers answers to some of the most common questions about Christianity with the vox pop ‘A Question of Faith’. In addition, Images of Praise introduced the health message with Christianne Best in Health Matters. The most remarkable thing was the way God warmed the hearts of the general public and opened the doors so the film crew could record the programme in Morrisons Supermarket and Burton Mall Leisure Centre. Many members of the public asked questions about the project: ‘When would it be aired? Could they receive copies of the series to send relatives? Could they take part in the filming?’ To see the Holy Spirit move on the hearts of people was truly amazing.

The presenter of the programme, Maxine Brenner, made this comment, ‘While working on Images of Praise I discovered a lot about the filming process, a lot about my strengths, my weaknesses and myself. I also had the privilege to be involved in what the team were delivering and found the series enlightening in terms of the things I did not know about the Bible, inter esting to hear the views of people of all ages, colour and religions on the most common issues or questions raised when talking about religion. I also learnt about food and how it can not only satisfy your hunger but also enrich your quality of life. I found food for the soul in the encouraging words and realised the joy of religious through song with the music from the project possible. Few had any experience working in television but they were willing to allow the Lord to use them to create a wonderful series that will change people’s lives.

The programme began transmission on Saturday 3 September at 8pm on Sky Channel 876.

Golden Wedding

On Sabbath 2 October, Bourneom house church celebrated with Daphne and Charles Richards their 50th Wedding Anniversary. During the service, which emphasised the God-given blessing of family and marriage, Charles and Daphne were presented with flowers and a card marking the occasion. Following the service their daughter Deirdre and family surprised Charles and Daphne with a lovely anniversary cake, which was enjoyed by all present, along with drinks and a finger buffet. The actual anniversary date was 2 October, when the happy couple left for a holiday. Daphne and Charles continue to be very active members of the church, and we appreciate their bell-ringing performances at events throughout the year.

JUDITH CASSIDY

Generation of Praise

Generation of Praise was the theme of Hackney’s music day on 28 May. Male voice group Finchy from the Stoke Newington church performed, and the Hackney praise team - who had participated in a music seminar in North America – led out. Special speaker for the day was Pastor Steve McKenzie who said, ‘God desires the whole life of his people to be a life of praise.’

Neville Bennett
Long Eaton Golden Couple

Victor and Gwen Speak celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on 11th June. They were married at the parish church in Stapleford, after which they settled in Sawley. Long Eaton. They have been dedicated members of the Adventist church since attending Pastor Alex Cooper’s campaign in the People’s Hall, Long Eaton. They were baptised on 27 March 1965 in the North Sherwood Street church, Nottingham, by Pastor K. A. Elas, who was then president of the North England Conference. Since then this golden couple have been a part of the church family and indeed a blessing to the church family. On 23 July they were presented with flowers and best wishes as their church celebrated this achievement. We trust God will continue to bless them as they were presented with flowers and best wishes as their church celebrated this achievement. We trust God will continue to bless them.

Preston’s Festival of Faith

As part of their festival of faith, the United Reformed Church, Leyland, invited the Zion Singers from Preston church to present a Gospel concert on Tuesday 7 June. The choir master, Albert St Louis, decided to extend the invitation to the whole church so that a varied programme could be presented. The witnessing programme included songs by the Zion Singers, various youth groups and the children using the Bible as a guide and some special items. “Proud Man’s Progress” was the sketch that was performed. Although comic in parts, it conveyed a special message. The atmosphere was one of joy as churches of different denominations joined together in a rousing song service praising the name of Jesus.

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GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

LEICESTER – Our full range of flat pack furniture, fully fitted kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms etc is available to purchase for cash or credit. Phone: 0116 222 2222.

STAFFORDSHIRE – We are offering a variety of furniture and electrical items at very competitive prices. Phone: 01785 666 777.

STAFFORD – Our comprehensive range of home improvements is available at unbeatable prices. Phone: 01782 888 999.

WALSALL – A wide selection of quality furniture and electrical items is available for cash or credit. Phone: 01922 777 777.

WREXHAM – Our range of home improvements is available at very competitive prices. Phone: 01978 888 888.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

EVELYN-EASTMAN.

Stretford, Manchester.

November 2004. Reg is a widower and originally passed away. She is survived by her husband, Doris, who was a lifelong friend of the family. As well as being known for her style and elegance, she was a caring mother who also always worked hard for the young people in the church. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Swann, assisted by Pastor Debbie Smith and Enda Jones.

DONALD PEARSON (1922–2005) d. 9 August. Donald died on 21 January 1942. He was a short man who lived at the hospital. His body was found near the hospital on the morning of 21 January. He was 20 years old.

For use in connection with Christmas events. Door-to-door distribution. The day after tomorrow.

Elizabeth Communion – CF

The South Asia Quake, Hurricanes Katrina, Tina and Wilma, the Tsunami... For use in connection with Christmas events. Door-to-door distribution.

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Has your church received a FREE Ldi DVD pack? by Alan Hodges, Ldi co-ordinator

What plans and strategy does YOUR church have for reaching the unchurched? Are YOU making the maximum use of the LIFE.info magazine? Have YOU developed friendships among the unchurched in your community? Do YOU know what the LIFEdevelopment.info concept is? Are YOU serious about playing your part in hastening the coming of Jesus?

Why not give LIFEdevelopment.info your serious consideration? It is one way of introducing the Christian lifestyle and beliefs to your non-Christian friends. This concept is based on Friendship, Process and Nurture. Connect with people through friendship. Accept the fact that converting a critical thinker takes time. If you believe conversion takes time and is ultimately God’s work, you can be less anxious and hurried.

Faith-builders must start right at the bottom, and that takes time, to bring the unchurched to the place where they can receive and accept the fundamentals of our faith. The programmes deal with the following themes: Faith, Bible, Prayer, Jesus, Death and Resurrection, Second Coming, Holy Spirit, Human Nature, Healing, Community. Mind the Gap – a series of ten one-hour programmes hosted by Dwight Nelson, where a panel of people from all walks of life discuss the following themes: Faith, Bible, Prayer, Jesus, Death and Resurrection, Second Coming, Holy Spirit, Human Nature, Healing, Community. Mind the Gap Study Guide – a 261-page study guide for you to use in connection with the ‘Mind the Gap’ DVDs so that the discussion can continue. Resources for Level 4 – complimentary DVD pack, call the LIFEdevelopment.info Office, Stanborough Park, Wafford, Herts, WD25 1JZ on 01923 672251 or email ask@lifedevelopment.info

If you wish to order your own personal pack for just £30 (inclusive of postage and packing) then contact the number above or order on line at www.adventistresource.org.uk

ADRA-UK South Asia Earthquake Appeal

Due to the nature and location of the South Asia earthquake disaster, ADRA-UK will not be sending containers filled with aid supplies to the region. The supplies that are needed are available locally and it is far more cost effective to send funds and then request the local ADRA offices to purchase these items. This procedure will save money and, more importantly, will enable the victims to receive aid as quickly as possible.

ADRA supports are therefore being requested to collect any aid items or send them to the ADRA-UK office or warehouse in Watford.

Donations

For those unable to use the web donation system on the ADRA-UK website www.adr.org.uk, cheques for the Asia Earthquake Appeal can be sent to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Wafford, Herts, WD25 1JZ. 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 send your gift through the regular Church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the ADRA-UK South Asia Earthquake Appeal.

Job Vacancy - ABC Sales Manager

The STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED, is based in Grantham, Lincolnshire, is seeking to appoint an Adventist Book Centre Sales Manager at its Grantham-based office. Key responsibilities include the marketing of its UK sales portfolio which includes the overnight and hands-on management of new and existing products, its ABC outlets and its regular weekend book sales. The successful applicant will have proven marketing background preferably with a Marketing degree, experience with institutions of staff in a relatively small but challenging environment, strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills, and a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary and allowances according to contractual scale. Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Manager, Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Email stanborough info cem. Deadline: 20 November 2005.

Interviews for suitable candidates will be held in December.