‘When we exercise compassion, we change ourselves’

by Victor Plimnoo

A lodestone that set my compass is Ellen White’s foundational directive: ‘To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realised – this was to be the work of redemption.’ This is the object of education, the great object of life.’

Developing people is the Adventist way. Making disciples is not about crossing a spiritual threshold, rather the continual transformation of a living experience. When we speak of ‘changing the world’, our focus is often on changing others. But when we exercise compassion, we change ourselves. It is not enough for us to demonstrate that Christ’s coming inspires our own, be-coming. The tsunami, and the recent hurricanes, earthquakes and atrocities, made 2005 one of the most tragic years in history. By way of response, Adventists in the British Isles contributed £300,000 towards the relief of tsunami victims; £100,000 for other disasters; and £200,000 in donations for general purposes. Our Inauguration effort garnered £570,000. ADRA-UK is increasingly being recognised by people writing their wills and in remembrance tributes. This generosity enabled us to secure a further £1,344,000 from the Department for International Development and the European Union. In all we offered aid valued at more than £2.5 million to change the experience of suffering people.

- In Tungelle, Sri Lanka, livelihoods were restored through the provision of livestock for families whose economic viability had been destroyed.
- In the Ampara district of Sri Lanka we restored the supply of clean drinking water for a whole community.
- Conrad Vne, Doug Sinclair, Harry Wilby, Arlene Senior and Marc Castello from Britain gave leadership to the relief efforts in Sri Lanka.
- Visitors to Peru will be aware of children selling sweets, vegetables, water and shoe shines, often to the detriment of their long-term well-being. In Lima, young, educated ADRA workers visit schools in eight of the poorest districts developing programmes that encourage children to extend their learning experience. Parents are similarly encouraged.
- Ayacucho is a city in the Andean uplands, the centre of national revolution, recently brutalised by ‘Shining Path’ terrorists. ADRA professionals, led by an Adventist lawyer, have established family mediation services in every municipal district to curb violent habits that inhibit the development of women and children. The programme includes a national campaign to make civic authorities aware of their responsibility to uphold the rights of women and children. Beyond supporting human rights, the object is to restore the confidence of people to become economically self-sufficient.
- In the Amazon basin, Shipibo Indians live according to their ancient customs. ADRA has provided clean water wells and civic empowerment, and improved agricultural programmes in order to make their livelihood sustainable. The alternatives include the destruction of rainforests and the production of cocaine. Young Adventist engineers and agriculturists make 36-hour trips in open boats and live with village communities for weeks at a time to initiate improved life practices.
- ADRA has instituted a programme in Kazakhstan that is intended to break the cycle of poverty and criminality experienced by marginalised tuberculosis sufferers. Our contribution is to offer facilities where released prisoners can complete their treatment as they search for gainful employment, thereby ensuring a positive and wholesome reincorporation with society.
- In Nepal and Sudan, programmes that address the health and education needs of families are creating security and economic development.
- In addition to these major programmes, we have contributed, through ADRA partners, to relief in Albania, Haiti, Namibia, New Orleans, Niger, Pakistan, Peru and Rwanda.
- Our transportation team, led by David Balderton, has packed and sent tons of reusable clothing and equipment to help deprived people in the Baltic, Balkan and Caspian regions. These goods are distributed in ways that restore the dignity of people inhibited by poor economic systems. The goods are not of themselves a solution, but a bridge of hope to people in despair. While most of us can participate by contributing surplus clothing, more of us could use our influence and contacts to identify re-usable computer equipment, hospital technology, teaching aids and industrial machinery to improve livelihoods. Whether we invite contributions from our neighbours, engage in sponsored activities like the fun run, use our influence at work or make personal contributions, our investment brings meaning to our experience.

Restoration does not happen by accident. It requires each of us to be intentional and specific in our support. My prayer is that we will be the change we want to see in the world.
Newbold business studies

by Sojaya Bullock

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This is what Newbold’s business department brought to the table at the beginning of the New Year. The Way Forward meeting, held on Sunday 15 January, hosted a business focus and consisted of academics and all business people, including many Newbold alumni. Dr David Penner, college principal, and the entire senior management team were present. As one of the participants, Michael Parker from King’s College Hospital, put it, ‘There was a natural mix of education, business and members of the Choristers. It was a great day.’

The workshop leaders included Vincent and Gail Masongsong who have songwriting credits with Take 6, Maranatha Music, Integrity Music, South Africa SAC, BBC Food Channel, National Geographic, Benjamin Dube, Lionel Petersen, CeCe Winans, Dizzi Gillespie, Isilo Mother’s Cry Campaign. For the session for the residential students 24-27 August, and confirmation of the venue will be announced soon. If you would like to register your interest please visit www.newboldcollege.org/events.htm and complete the pre-registration form. Further details: Mike Johnson: 01168 231777 or 07111 877112.

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Wonderful day at Peckham

Our one-week youth campaign, ‘It’s a New Season’, ended on 22 October. The speaker was Pastor Greg Nelson from the US, and he truly raised our spirits. At the end of the campaign the celebrations began!

No fewer than eight people were baptised – Gladys Kisekka, Yvette Wilson, Okeia Laurent, Judy Clements, Rachel Laisée, Sarah Dudt, Monique Curtis and Shanka Spence. In picture, they publicly surrendered their lives to Christ in the presence of their friends and family and it was a wonderful day for all of us at Peckham. The baptisms were performed by Pastor Blake (our pastor until 1 January) and Greg Nelson.

Each baptismal candidate had a story to tell, but all their stories ended at the same place – surrender to the foot of the Cross.

Stoke Newington baptism

On 17 December Stoke Newington church was blessed to witness the baptism of Bianca Wittingham. Our minister Dr Richard De Lisser preached a short sermon and blessing to witness the baptism as minister of our church. The service was also video-recorded so that Jean could watch the baptismal service to her friends down under!

Though Carol had been attending the Grimsby church for some time already, she was given a warm welcome into its full fellowship and commended on her love for the truth of God’s Word and for the closeness of her walk with her Saviour. A joint department NEC baptism is planned for 17-19 November in Daventry. In 2007 the women’s baptismic retreat is planned to return to the Daventry location.

Humblexs baptism

The leaking hired portable baptistry only put a dampener on the carpet, not on the day, as Carol Riggeal made her public commitment to Christ and the church in Grimsby on 23 July.

Pastor Des Rafferty (pictured with Carol after the baptism) performed the immersion after Pastor Kyriacou had spoken on ‘Love and Marriage’ – comparing the marriage covenant with the one we make when joining the church. Pastor Jason saw Grimsby church full, with many friends and relatives of Carol’s, mostly new members, and Adventist, witnessing her stand for the Lord. A delightful surprise for her was the presence of her sister, Jean Wynniatt, who had come all the way from Canada. She truly raised our spirits. The event took place at the Daventry Conference Centre’s 4-star accommodation. A fitness centre, swimming pool and golf course to occupy the hotel’s extensive grounds.

Those to be congratulated on an excellent weekend included Heather Haworth, Ellen Bryant, Silvia Ham-Ying, Claradell Morgan and the Adventist Chorale (produced by Pastor Lorance Johnson) that shook away the cobwebs from the weekend. Not only was there theoretical knowledge, but also thought-provoking and inspiring messages. The theme of the weekend was ‘You can make a difference’. Many attendees raised with a heart-warming saving surgery. The emphasis for the day was unity and a worship and praise session to serve God and a keenness to pray regularly have lower blood pressure and better mental wellbeing.

The highlight for many was the social on Saturday night, where the elegantly attired attendees enjoyed songs, funny stories and scriptural drama. The service was also video-recorded so that Jean could watch the baptismal service to her friends down under!

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Driver to be called for 17-19 November in Daventry.

What women want

Two hundred ladies from across England gathered for the annual NEC Women’s Retreat at Daventry over the weekend of 28-30 October. The North East had a separate retreat on the subsequent weekend of 4-6 November with lead speaker Carline Raftley.

The Daventry delegates were blessed with dry, windy weather and kindness. From the kick-off, the delegates were raised with a heart-warming welcome from BUC’s Women’s Ministries director Heather Haworth and a worship and praise session led by Louise Clarke (Sex and Mental Health worker for local government in Luton and member of London Adventist Chorale) that shook away the preceding week’s burdens. The theme of the weekend was: ‘You can get it if you really want.’

The keynote presentation from Silvia Ham-Ying, Leicester Central, reminded those present that spiritual aspirations to serve God and a keenness to focus on self-improvement by way of education and career progression are ways to get what you really want.

During the course of the weekend Silvia gave other Biblical, thought-provoking and inspiring messages. The women were also blessed to be able to choose from an array of well-planned workshops presented by medical, nursing, human resources and finance-trained, UK-based Adventist sisters.

They shared cutting-edge and vital information on topics: ‘How to study the Bible’ – to appreciate, in greater depth, the messages it shares with us; ‘Stress Busting’ – ways to cope, and an awareness that people who pray regularly have lower blood pressure and better mental well-being.

‘Current health issues’ – Avian flu drew a great deal of interest along with the what, the why and the how of cholesterol. Not only was there theoretical information but practical delivery with blood pressure checks, Indian head massage and hand/foot massage.

The young women in attendance were given an exclusive access to Angela Purkiss’s ‘Truth Track’ workshops which focused on choices that affect them – ‘getting what they really want’.

The many highlights for the social on Saturday night, where the elegantly attired attendees enjoyed songs, funny stories and scriptural drama.

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The next BUC Women’s Ministries retreat is planned to take place in autumn 2006. On this occasion it will be held in Finland. A joint department NEC retreat is planned for 17-19 November in Daventry, in 2007 the women’s retreat is planned to return to the Daventry location.

Halifax outreach, friendly vicars – and St Hilda’s

Twelve months ago the Halifax congregation had to vacate its building in Coleridge Street for refurbishment. After prayer we were offered the use of St Hilda’s (Anglican) church next door. Indeed, they told us we could use the main sanctuary if it was required.

The length of time the builders took on Coleridge Street meant that our stay at St Hilda’s was an extended one. The writer had known the vicar elsewhere, and Mansel Jones had known her since she was a girl. Consequently, when one of our speakers brought an African choir with him we took the opportunity to ask the vicar if they could sing at a special service. She said ‘yes’ and, with us, prayed for God’s blessing on the occasion.

A superb programme of Gospel music was provided. St Hilda’s choir joined the Adventist choir in singing the wonderful hymn, ‘Seeking the Lost’. The service began at 10am and took the form of a celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The choir items took the place of the sermon, much to the delight of the vicar, Revd Pauline Millward, who had just had lifesaving surgery. The emphasis for the day was unity and a worship and praise session to serve God and a keenness to pray regularly have lower blood pressure and better mental wellbeing.

The service was also video-recorded so that Jean could watch the baptismal service to her friends down under!

Though Carol had been attending the Grimsby church for some time already, she was given a warm welcome into its full fellowship and commended on her love for the truth of God’s Word and for the closeness of her walk with her Saviour. A joint department NEC baptism is planned for 17-19 November in Daventry. In 2007 the women’s baptismic retreat is planned to return to the Daventry location.

Banbridge baptism

It was a very special time for the Banbridge church in the run-up to Christmas. On 17 December two young people were baptised. These decisions were made as a result of the work of Banbridge student missionary Erik Andersson. Erik gave Bible studies to both teenagers during the autumn period.

Laticia Andrews moved to Banbridge from South Africa with her family during Christmas 2004. She is the middle child of three, has integrated into the youth group and is a real blessing to have around.

Tom Neal, having moved in the summer from England to Banbridge, made his own decision to commit himself to the Lord. Pastor Russell Mortage flew over from England to baptise Tom, and Pastor Kin Papairosoumou, the local minister in Banbridge, baptised Laticia. Christine Andrews, Laticia’s mother, read from scripture and played a violin piece dedicated to her daughter. Pastor Roger Neas, Tom’s grandfather, also read a scripture reading, and Pastor David Neal (Irish Mission president), Tom’s father, gave the sermon. The church was full, with friends travelling from Dublin and Belfast for the service and lunch that followed.

Stoke Newington community and Uneek Media

On 31 December our member ship increased further when three new members were given the right hand to fellowship. These members are mother and daughter Marica and Davina Oulton who joined us from Jamaica, and Jennifer Smith who came from the Kings Cross church. Stoke Newington wishes these people God’s all-abiding blessings in their new lives.

In Zimbabwe and now renewing their baptismal vows, entered the waters of com-
For one week, from 9 to 13 January, students gazed on in admiration and listened intently to the speaker who was once in their shoes at Stanborough School. Mr. Randy Preston travelled all the way from America to share his testimony, his perspective on life, and his love of Jesus with the students of his alma mater.

“What he said touched me on a personal level. It was fun, exciting and original,” said Michael Lee.

Randy Preston (Loius Randolph III known as Louis to family and friends) is the oldest son of Pastor Louis Preston Jr. and Janice M. Preston. Born in the USA, the Preston family moved to England in the summer of 1979 where Pastor Preston served in the South England Conference, and Randy’s schooling began at Stanborough Park Primary School, later continuing at Stanborough Secondary School.

By telling stories of his life in his life with stories from the Bible, Randy Preston taught the students the importance of obedience, the significance of a name, and the value of being ‘real’ to themselves and to God. With his animated personality and the beautiful music he provided, Randy’s voice and guitar, Randy made his presentations so clear that even the group of Korean students who were at Stanborough to learn English were able to understand.

Mr. Preston is a musician, poet, and speaker. Randy is a member of the popular Christian band jakob’s Night, which has recently released its second recording, titled Epic Journey. He has shared his experiences as a young man, the hardships he faced, the trials he overcame, and the power of God continuing to bring him through on this amazing journey to this day. Grace was born the youngest of five children on a Cornish farm, met a young Bob Bainbridge, who was training as an Evangelist, and was rebaptised into the Church. He was the youngest of 10 siblings, and was reared in the Southland area. After graduating from high school, he entered University of Otago, where he met his wife, Margaret. They were married on 1 November at Birmingham’s Witton Cemetery. Eventually, they moved to England, to join the family in Stanborough Park College, and later continuing in the youth work and ministry. The Preston family is a member of the popular Christian band Jakob’s Night, which has recently released its second recording, titled Epic Journey. He has shared his experiences as a young man, the hardships he faced, the trials he overcame, and the power of God continuing to bring him through on this amazing journey to this day.

Grace Baugh (nee Tamblin) was a Torquay church packed with family and friends. She came to Stanborough for a short time, in order to be saved through Christ’s redeeming sacrifice. The Stanborough Student Association will be sponsoring an Albanian art and music competition for the students of St. John’s, where the young artist has performed sculptures and paintings, in order to be saved through Christ’s redeeming sacrifice. The Stanborough Student Association will be sponsoring an Albanian art and music competition for the students of St. John’s, where the young artist has performed sculptures and paintings, in order to be saved through Christ’s redeeming sacrifice. The Stanborough Student Association will be sponsoring an Albanian art and music competition for the students of St. John’s, where the young artist has performed sculptures and paintings, in order to be saved through Christ’s redeeming sacrifice.
Adventist Football League, as the New Year unfolds

Established in the year 2003, the Seventh-day Adventist Church Football League (SDACFL) is well into its fourth season and things are looking good.

As one would expect from a new organisation, we had our baptism of fire and struggles with discipline and organisational efficiency but, through our collective efforts and the abiding grace of God, we have weathered the early storms and are now poised for great things.

As we start the new year, the SDACFL wishes to thank all its well-wishers, supporters and the church for their prayers, hard work, dedication, participation and general support that enabled us to progress this far. We hope that with God’s continued guidance and blessings and your continued support, we will make greater strides towards achieving our stated aims.

These are as follows:

- Enhance inter-church communication and interaction.
- Improve fellowship, establish and develop new friendships and relationships between church members.
- Equip the youth of the church with sporting skills, while assisting with their social and spiritual development.
- Encourage and facilitate greater interaction between the church and the community, effectively bridging the church/community gap, and thereby developing a more balanced community.
- Develop more effective role models by setting good standards, both on and off the football field, by adhering to true Christian morals and principles.
- Draw people closer to Christ by demonstrating genuine Christian values and morals in all our endeavours.

As stated, the League has been making steady progress in its development, and the following are a few of the notable upcoming events.

Sponsorship

The SDACFL has secured a partnership with the Jamaican National Building Society (JNBS). This partnership is currently focused on the set-up, management and administration of a new competition within the SDACFL, called the J Cup. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the JNBS and hope our relationship with them will bring other benefits to the League.

Benefit Event

The SDACFL proposes to host a benefit event in April for the purpose of raising funds. We are asking all our friends, partners, supporters, etc. to gather all the talent we can for this great event. Please co-ordinate your efforts with Newton Reid and Ryan Hastings.

Jamaica Trip

The SDACFL will be taking an all-star team of footballers, drawn from the best of our League, to Jamaica. We will play three games against teams selected by the East, West and Central Jamaica Conferences. We hope to have an enjoyable time while promoting and generally raising the League’s profile.

We aim to host three huge concerts after each game, so the best acts from the above benefit event will be travelling with us. Planning for these events started in earnest in January. It is our hope that these events will assist us in achieving our ultimate goal.

League at a Glance

The League is in its fourth season, and the winners of the previous three seasons were as follows:

Season Winners Runner-up
01/03 Wofford Adventist Church Brixton Church
03/04 Brixton Adventist Church Balham Church
04/05 Brixton Adventist Church Kennington Community Fellowship

The League recognises that as servants of the living God we are all winners in his sight and even in losing we win. Therefore the League recognises and acknowledges the efforts of all the churches who participate. There have been two baptism of fire, and numerous members from the community have been coming to church more frequently. One of the trademarks of the League is the ring that is formed around the centre circle with opposing teams holding hands as they lift up the Lord in prayer.

As we approach the challenges of this season it is our hope that as we endeavour to establish the League to reach its fullest potential of winning souls for the kingdom, we may all continue to work together diligently and in harmony to this end.

For more information about the Adventist Football League, contact Trevor Young, 07988736365, email: tayoung2001@yahoo.co.uk, or Dennis Bennett, 0783836194, email: Dennis.Bennett@RPMmedia.com. Thank you all for your continued support, and we trust that with God as Guide we will seek the highest.

TREVOR YOUNG