The Bible defines our spiritual act of service to others clearly: 'A genuine Christian looks after the needs of others, especially orphans and widows in distress, while keeping himself unspotted from the moral pollution of the world. This is the kind of religion that our heavenly Father accepts.' (See James 1:27.)

The real success of the ADRA Appeal this year will not be how much we give or collect, but how much it has been driven by love and compassion for those in need. In 2005 we collected £572,853. Nevertheless the sky is the limit if, even if just for a moment, we see the needy through the eyes of Jesus. Working for the good of the needy and wretched as Christ did is a noble act of Christian service. True religion is working with Christ for the healing, feeding and restoration of fallen humanity.

The funds we collect this year can make a great difference to the lives of many as we seek to implement the eight or more worthy projects. Your help will:

- Provide water for the Tsumkwe Water Project which will help in sustainable living in Northern Namibia;
- Reduce child labour in Peru and empower parents to direct their future in the 'Working for the Working Children' project;
- Provide medical and social services to help reduce TB among prisoners in Kazakhstan;
- Alleviate poverty among women in Nepal and South Sudan;
- Promote Human and Women's rights awareness development in Ayacucho, Peru;
- Operate the Special Needs camp in Wales and ASNA programme for those with disabilities;
- Sustain current overseas projects and the sponsoring of mission trips overseas for church groups working on ADRA projects.

May I invite you to experience the blessing of being an active participant in the ADRA 2006 Appeal? Join me again on the humanitarian trail this year for ADRA-UK. Fifty years of collecting and I am not yet tired!

Hunger is not a description, nor is poverty a mere image. It is real people hurting in soul, body and spirit.
The scandal of the Church

David Marshall

The essence of Christ’s radicalism is in what is called ‘reverse teaching’. He advocated passivitiy when aggression would seem more effective. He called for forgiveness in situations that seemed to cry out for retribution. For the broken people, he held out far more hope than for those who thought themselves OK, spiritually speaking.

In our 160-year history we’ve spread to the world and built many and big institutions. But where has the radical discipleship gone? Has our multi-ranged denominational ladder become an end in itself and has it provoked us in the impulse to play political games that mirror state politics?

How connected is the triangular ladder to church mission? Does its very existence engender wrong attitudes and diminish the importance of the grass roots contacts Jesus modelled so well?

Has the ‘take up your cross and follow me’ radicalism of early Christians and pioneer Adventists lasted away?

William Johnson, editor of ADVENTIST REVIEW, international paper of our world church, thinks it has. In a message that makes even John Sentamu look like a tame lion, he says:

‘It’s time to quit playing at religion. . . . Time is too short, the night is too dark, for us to crusade along as Christians . . . .’

Discipleship is more than life-enhancing. It’s life-changing. If Christianity is anything less, it denies God’s power. At the heart of Christianity is a miracle. You are that miracle.

References:
2 Thess 1:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 20:16, 26

COMING SOON

Discipleship is more than life-enhancing. It’s life-changing. If Christianity is anything less, it denies God’s power. At the heart of Christianity is a miracle. You are that miracle.
We are delighted to report that over 1,000 church board members participated in a series of regional consultative meetings led by South England Conference officials. These gatherings are intended for local church leaders in general and were arranged as part of our Tell Southern England mission advancement plans. At these conventions our members and leaders expressed delight at the momentum this new mission emphasis is generating. It began last October when, at a general meeting, regarding the vision and purpose and calling from God. Humphrey Walters passionately shared the mission that as Southern England Conference offi-
cations, the South England Conference is, for its part, also assuming responsibility
of these global mission goals. By working together to realize the impact of the ‘Tell the World’ initiative within our territory, we are refer-
ing to this heightened expression of mission advancement as Tell Southern England. Pursuing a vision of glorifying God by proclaiming the special message he has entrusted to us for these last days, and with a view to expanding our work of disciple making, we are seeking to accomplish the following:
- Develop 226 outreach-oriented small groups to strengthen the health of the church,
- Plant 66 new churches within our territory,
- Conduct 670 evangelical meetings - 10% of which will be run by youth,
- Challenge 5,400 members each to reach one person for Jesus,
- Connect with unreached people, postmoderns and people of other faiths, and bring them onto a discipleship path.
- At least 45% of our members to be nurtured by daily Bible study and prayer.
- Train and equip 660 leaders, pastors, and church planters for effective mission and witnessing.
- Retain 70% of all our children and youth by intentionally enhancing the impact of the Christian family, church and school.
- Creatively employ technology such as television, radio, the Internet and the new generation of tools to share our faith within our conference territory.

Over recent weeks we have spent significant time in consultation with a range of various denominational church leaders, church members in general, regarding the vision and objectives of Tell Southern England. Such envisioning and consultative meetings have been held with all our conference departmental directors, all office support staff, all pastors, and church board members - to date, over 1,000 of them. It has been truly magnificent to witness the interest and excitement these mission-centred consultations have generated within our conference.

In keeping with the clear mission emphasis within the SEC, we continue to receive encouraging progress reports from all sections of our territory. (A sample of such reports is featured in this issue of Mission for your information and interest.) Almost on a weekly basis we are informed of various church activities and initiatives being proposed, small groups being launched, outreach campaigns being planned, lay evangelistic activities gathering momentum, and much more besides.

While Tell Southern England will undoubtedly be concerned with numerical growth within various areas of church life, significant attention will also be given to fostering our spiritual development as God's people. One notable indication that a spiritual focus will be at the forefront of our endeavours is the unprecedented proposal by our London ministers to conduct an all-night prayer meeting within the next few weeks. Although we are accustomed to hearing of all-night prayer meetings that attract a general cross-section of our members, so far as I can tell we have never before had an all-night prayer meeting in which the participants have been exclusively pastors. In many ways this is indicative of a recognition that Tell Southern England is rolled out across our conference, it is a call for praying pastors and leaders mobilising praying, Spirit-anointed members who are ready to reach for themselves in the mission work entrusted to us by God.

Right now, we can only begin to imagine what God will be able to accomplish in us and through us as we make ourselves available to him for the salvation of the last within our territory.

On 14 February the 15th annual meeting of the board of trustees of the Adventist church for the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (BUC) was held at the Stanborough Centre in Watford. The conference, which is the governing body of the BUC, received and accepted with approval the reports of the ecclesiastical leaders of the BUC youth, BUC women, BUC north-west, and BUC north-east regions and the report on the operations of the BUC. The conference adopted a number of resolutions and审议通过了这些问题。

The church secretary reported that in the past year the BUC has continued to grow, with membership increasing by 5,000 members. The church has also continued to expand its outreach efforts, with new churches being planted in various areas of England and Wales. The BUC youth and women’s departments have also continued to thrive, with membership increasing by 10% and 15% respectively. The conference also adopted a number of resolutions on important issues, including the importance of prayer and the need for greater emphasis on mission and outreach.

The conference concluded with a call to all church members to remain committed to the mission of the church, and to work together to see the church grow and expand in the future.
The Plymouth church hosted the 3rd SEC Church Leaders’ Conference for members in the Cornwall Area. Around 40 people joined SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters to discuss ways in which the church could be more mission-minded. The day ran in accordance with the previous two sessions, but with two exceptions. Area 1 is blessed to have several retired ministers from both the North and the South England Conference, who truly understood that evangelism is key to the growth of the church.

Not all the directors from the SEC were able to be present at this event. The departments of Youth (Nathan Stickleand), Communication (Catherine Anthony Bohdziec), Family and Children's Ministries (Bernie & Karen Holford), were represented, as was the Secretary (Victor Hulbert). Instead of Departmental training sessions, the directors gave an overview of the work accomplished during the past two years, their plans for the future and answered questions. Watson Scourcett, retired Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference, offered thanks on behalf of the attendees for ‘taking time out to envision and empower the Church leaders in Area 1.’

The four Church Leaders’ Conference was held in the newly-revived arts and community college campus. Two hundred people from Areas 2, 3, and 5 shared their vision for evangelism with the administrative team from the South England Conference.

Over two hundred and eighty officers convened on the Britton church on Sunday 22 January for the 3rd SEC’s Church Leaders’ Conference. In its dual agenda the event focused on reporting and assessing the work of the Conference over the past two years and planning the way ahead to achieve the evangelistic goals. Each attendee received a comprehensive pack detailing the events of the day, information on the strategic plan for 2004-2007 and a new publication entitled Brief — an Adventist Leaders’ Newsletter.

The morning commenced with a devotional and prayer session led by Aris Vontalidis. Recognising the call to prayer as the bedrock for success, Pastor Vontalidis stated: “It’s our ultimate need. Without God all our endeavours would be futile.”

In a heart-warming address South England Conference Assistant Director Pastor Humphrey Walters reminded us of the privilege we have to ‘Go and Tell,’ to recapture what it means to be an Adventist, to remember the former days, revive our first love and reclaim the mission of God.

Setting a challenge to church leaders, Pastor Walters stated that the work of the board members needed to be repositioned and a new sense of responsibility captured in order to transform minds and ensure optimum success in the mission of evangelism. He also highlighted the importance of spiritual renewal not effective leadership.

Under the caption ‘The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole Community,’ the Strategic Plan for 2004-2007 was presented with an implementation model of key strategic endeavours. These were detailed as Spiritual renewal; Outreach; Witnessing people to Christ; Church planting; Christ-centred, inspiring, culturally-relevant. Services; Spiritual growth; Families; Youth; Children’s Ministries; Welcoming and thinking climate; Training for all leaders. Outlining the new perspective for Church Growth Conference, conference secretary Victor Hulbert unveiled the evangelistic goals to be entailed in the following six objectives:

- Develop 220 smaller groups to strengthen the growth of the church
- Plant 50 new churches
- Conduct 670 public evangelistic meetings; 10% of which will be led by laypeople
- Connect with unreached people, postmoderns and people of other faith and bring them into a discussion
- Challenge 5,400 members each to reach one person for Jesus
- Train school, college, pastors, church planters for effective mission

A break-out session was held which facilitated group work, with each local church putting together a synopsis of the key outreach and mission achievements they had realised over the years. This was reported on in the afternoon via a feedback session entitled ‘Tell Southern England.’ It was very encouraging to hear the variety of initiatives which were operating successfully with active input from church members and good community response.

The SEC departmental leaders led the workshop sessions for the church officers. These focused mainly on training the officers on key aspects of their role and the responsibilities they hold as leaders. The workshops produced a lively exchange of information and advice from the facilitators, and seeking questions, experiences, accomplishments and concerns from the church officers. Departmental packs and information sheets were distributed during the session, which the attendees found an excellent resource.

The following departments and their facilitators were represented:

- Family & Children’s Ministry: Bernie and Karen Holford
- Youth: Pastor Williams
- Pastors: Pastor Mapp
- Women’s Ministries: Daniela from Watford, Raymond and Shiloh from Peckham, Kindred from London, Sunbeam from London, Shiloh, Peckham Children’s Community Choir, Jackie Gill, Resurrection and various support groups
- Pensions: Pastor Staple
- Staff: Victor Hulbert
- Administration: Bernadette
- Deacons, deaconesses and other officers: Pastor Walters

In the final session for the day, the question and answer spot revealed an intriguing interchange of questions from the floor on aspects relating to church life, conference responsibilities, and our impact as a church in the face of societal and political changes. The Conference directors were challenged to respond to some thought-provoking questions which they did with clarity, honesty and wisdom.

The day concluded in an act of worship with the call for active and deliberate involvement in mission. Representatives from each church were called to the platform where they were encouraged by the pastors and a prayer of commitment was prayed for the success of the evangelistic work.

Our gratitude goes to God for the wonderful success. For more information about ASNA events or to support the ministry, log on to the ASNA website www.secanadventist.org or email asna@special3fnet.co.uk.

Mrs Lesley Noakes, the senior elder for Bolton church in Lancashire, was ordained on 21 January this year. Pastor Fred Mapp, Ministerial Association Secretary at the North England Conference, led the service, recounting Moses’ encounter with God to illustrate how God chooses leaders.

Leadership in church, Pastor Mapp told Mrs Noakes and the congregation, was all about the power of God’s presence in the lives of men and women who are willing vessels in his hands.

Reading her testimonial, Bolton’s Pastor Felix Jack said Sister Noakes was brought up in a close and loving Adventist home in South Wales. She is one of six children, and has been a teacher for over 25 years.

Pastor Jack said that Sister Lesley became an active Christian in the last four years. She drifted away from Christianity during her university days in Manchester, spending thirty years with different perspectives, but the church heard how Sister Lesley met her husband Andy during that period. Their son Stuart attended the ordination service. One of the latest blessings was the birth of a beautiful and healthy granddaughter.

The trigger that caused her return to God was the death of her brother-in-law Vince. Seeing how God cared for her family and her friend made her re-evaluate her own beliefs. God has developed the confidence of this faithful lady from being shy and reserved to today she can stand in the pulpit with only her knees knocking
‘Get on board as we tackle this issue of Booze Britain together,’ says Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director

What is Thirst for Life?
Thirst for Life is a positive campaign encouraging people to go forty days alcohol free from 1 March, promoting thought and discussion on the use of alcohol.

Thirst for Life came about because one person was worried about the binge and drink fever that is sweeping across the UK today. He wanted people to become more aware of alcohol and the damage that it does to individuals, families, friends and society.

Imagine . . . 
. . . thousands of people going alcohol free for 40 days.
. . . spare beds in casualty departments.
. . . police with time to solve crimes.
. . . down centres that are in the evening.
On board as we tackle this issue of Booze Britain together.

Facts and Figures
- In developed countries alcohol is one of the ten leading causes of disease and injury. Its use is responsible for nearly one in ten instances of ill health and premature deaths in Europe.
- The World Health Organisation found that drinking is the third most important risk factor after smoking and raised blood pressure. This places it ahead of high cholesterol levels and obesity.
- Alcohol lowers resistance to disease. In the United Kingdom at least nine million people drink so much that they run the risk of serious long-term health problems.
- The Government’s Alcohol Strategy for England states that between 78,000 and 1.3 million children are suffering because of parental drinking.
- Alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people have risen by 15% in the past 8 years, from 4,173 in the year 1996-70, to 4,899 in 2004-05 for under 18s. Over the same period there was a 30% increase in the number of adults admitted to hospital for drink-related disorders, up from 33,740 to 46,299.
- In 1992 young women (aged 15) were drinking approx. 4 units per week and in 2004, they were drinking at least 12 units. (Trust for the Study of Adolescence)
- Marriages where there are alcohol problems are twice as likely to end in divorce (Government Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, March 2004).
- 32% of 16-24 year old males had drunk over 8 units of alcohol on at least one day in the previous week (defined as heavy drinking) compared to 24% of 16-24 year old females. (General Household Survey 2004/5)
- Half of all violent crimes are alcohol related. Alcohol misuse is associated with 150,000 hospital admissions each year. Around 70% of Accident & Emergency attendances between midnight and 6am are alcohol-related.
- 5.9 million people in England drink above the Government’s recommended guidelines (for the avoidance of health harm). (Choosing Health – Department of Health 2004)
- Did you know that all the time that alcohol is in the bloodstream, it will affect the brain’s performance. You can still be under the influence the morning after.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU, YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILIES ARE DRINKING?
Calculating the Number of Units
1. Note down the % of alcohol by volume on your drink.
2. Work out the amount of liquid you have consumed in millilitres (ml). Then multiply by 0.035.
3. Divide the result by 1000 and this will give you the number of units you have drunk. For example, a 35 ml shot of Vodka with a strength of 37.5% ABV, 3.75 x 35 ml = 13 units

Body Matters
Alcohol is a depressant drug. A drug is a substance that alters the way our bodies work. Alcohol slows down the brain and thus judgement, reason, self-control and reaction time are all affected.

Drinkers usually feel a false confidence and think they are funny and can flirt successfully. Alcohol’s effect on memory is more dangerous for children and adolescents than for adults. They experience coma at lower blood alcohol levels and can develop hypoglycaemia (low levels of blood sugar), hypothermia and breathing difficulties. Drinking alcohol while pregnant carries risks.

Foetal alcohol syndrome blights the lives of family members or friends. The signs include: drinking throughout the day; mood swings; irritability; hidden bottles, weight gain; rosier complexion; feeling uneasy if a drink is not available; skipping meals.

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) is the first practical tool you can use to assist such a person. You can also be a spiritual support for that person. You can encourage them to consider changing their lifestyle and habits to minimise the possibilities of getting into situations that could encourage the habit. The AA commandments will also be the motivation process.

Heavy drinking is a common cause of high blood pressure and will increase the risk of strokes and heart disease in older people. Regular drinking can cause fatty deposits in the liver, eventually leading to cirrhosis, a medical condition where liver cells are destroyed by scar tissue. A liver damaged by alcohol cannot process nutrients in food, nor eliminate toxins from the blood. Excessive drinking doubles the risk of cancer of the gullet, triples the risk of cancer of the throat and quadruples the risk of cancer of the voice box. There is evidence that it can increase the risk of breast cancer. Other problems include vitamin deficiency, obesity, sexual difficulties and infertility as well as muscle disease and skin problems.

How do you help a friend or family member to consider going alcohol free?

Will you encourage your friend or family member to consider going alcohol free for 40 days?
Get involved by visiting www.thirstfortolife.org. This article was extracted from the ‘Thirst for Life’ and ‘We know’ information about alcohol, both published by Thirst for Life.
Pastor Elias at 90

The family of Pastor Ken Elias hosted a 90th birthday party at the Boumountham church on Sunday 29 January. Dalbert, Michael and Lindsay, his three sons, and their families joined the church in celebrating his long and fruitful life. His daughter Judith, who lives in Canada, sent her greetings. Tributes paid to Pastor Elias included one by Pastor Phillip Anderson, who spoke warmly of support given to him and his wife early in his ministry, while Pastor John Arthur (pictured on the left), former British Union Conference president, recognized Pastor Elias’s administrative skills during the many years they served together. During Pastor Elias’s lifetime service to the Church he was manager of Stanborough Press, and president of the Scottish Mission, as well as the then North British Conference. In retirement Pastor Elias served for many years as elder of the Boumountham church, and this was recognized by Pastor Ian Lorne who, on a personal note, also recalled being baptized by Ken in Edinburgh. Ken’s three songs are all ministers, working in different countries – Germany, America and England - and each paid tribute to their father in their own unique way, with poetry and entertainment. Ken also spoke of his own ministerial experience, running large successful campaigns in the 1950s and 1960s, including Ireland, where ninety members were baptized. Pastor Elias at 90

Tamworth: 7 Gen-Xers

On 5 November Tamworth church received into membership through baptism seven young people. The baptism was held at the local Methodist church as the Tamworth church building is currently under construction. The fact that Tamworth did not have its own building did not deter these young people from making a stand for Jesus and declaring their desire to be baptized. The church was filled with family and friends. Pastor Alan Hugh, NEC Youth director; gave a short address, and Pastor Des Rafferty examined the candidates, who were baptized by our local minister Pastor Jude Jeavons. The candidates were: Jonathan Reid, Trudy Rowe, Zhiyen Rashel, Winslow Rashel, Elias Howell, Ashley Howell, and Leoni Howell.

SureWay Community A&P Trailblazers’ Open Day

SureWay Community Adventurers and Pathfinder teams (A&P) Trailblazers was launched at the Clwydian Tippee Estate to the sound of drums and clashing cymbals on Sabbath 14 May 2005. The Holloway Drum Corps led the procession followed by the marching of Walsall’s Pathfinder Drum Team. An atmosphere of excitement and curiosity drew residents from their homes and had children from the community marching behind the procession. As residents came out of their homes it gave us an opportunity to talk to them, give leaflets and remind them of the launch. The Open Day commenced with prayer followed by a presentation of the aims and objectives of the club. Following a display by the Walsall Pathfinder Team the children of the community were invited to register and join the clubs. To conclude our time together refreshments were served, which gave residents an opportunity to ask questions and for us to meet the parents and children. A photographic display of Pathfinder events and exhibits, courtesy of Stratford’s Pathfinder director, further enhanced the explanation of the Pathfinder experience. Ten children from the community registered on the day to join the club. This number, together with the Trailblazers team’s own children, meant that we had twenty children when the clubs started on 11 June 2005.

York People First

On 21 January, the York church spent an afternoon on the theme of communication, which was prepared for them by York People First, a self advocacy group for those with learning disabilities. The afternoon began with learning the Makaton sign language to songs such as “Steel Away” and “The Streets of London”. The church members also put themselves in a disabled person’s shoes as they prepared two skits highlighting some of the problems that might be experienced in the town and in the church. We discussed with York People First ways of making our church more welcoming and the service more understandable to those with learning disabilities, and the whole programme generated some interesting ideas and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Dudley’s first ever Pathfinder Investiture

Dudley Pathfinder Club held its first ever investiture on 15 October, Pastor T. Thomas, NEC Pathfinder director, and John Bishop, area co-ordinator, assisted the club director Elizabeth Iheoma in giving out the various honours and awards for which the Eager Beaver, Adventurers and Pathfinders had worked hard.

Pastor Thomas gave a thoughtful and interactive presentation that involved everyone (including the local church minister Pastor Malcolm Watson). The presentation encouraged the young people to make wise choices and to be faithful.

God’s Kingdom knows no borders

This is exactly what Horley and Hackbridge church members rediscovered on their visit to Rijeka Adventist church in Croatia, between 21 and 26 September. Horley and Hackbridge enjoyed the hospitality of their brothers and sisters in Rijeka. The idea behind the project was to help Rijeka with their upcoming evangelistic programme and also to allow Hackbridge and Horley members to spend time together and deepen their relationships.

The extended weekend was packed with activities. After a good night’s rest, Friday was spent sightseeing along the Adriatic coast and some mountain climbing. In the evenings Horley/Hackbridge members, together with their pastor, conducted a series of seminars under the title ‘God – Invisible, absent or all present’. On Sabbath Horley Hackbridge members had the opportunity to take part in the morning service and, among other things, they had a slide presentation about the god’s work in the SEC. Rijeka members were inspired by church planting projects such as Lights Across London/Provinces and LIFEdvelopment.info.

Social Sciences Open Days at Newbold

Want to find out if you would like to do a Social Sciences degree at Newbold? Why not attend our open days on 27/28 March. To make appointment or for further information call Val Bernard, 01344-404-468.

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Sunday was spent island-hopping and visiting a nearby ancient city of Pula with its fine Roman monuments such as a Coliseum and various temples, still intact, built in New Testament times, AD1.
Baptism at High Wycombe, Micklefield
The culmination of eight months’ intensive Bible study led to a celebration in the Micklefield church, High Wycombe, on 14 January.

George Aird, surrounded by his family and church members, made a public commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ through baptism. Having attended church for some two years and been inspired by the district-wide Hope for Today campaign held in September 2005, George decided to make his profession of faith.

The ceremony was conducted by Pastor Michael Anir and, after making a stirring address to the members of the congregation, indicated that they too would like to devote their lives to God.

The baptismal times are ahead for Micklefield church, which is already planning future baptisms.

Wash and Be Clean
On Sabbath 28 January, at the church in Newport, Sister Vera Machell was asked to sing during assembly at a local primary school. It was the start of their ‘Faith Week’, a week when each day they would examine the various faiths in England now.

The faith week at Claydon Primary School, in a village just outside Ipswich, was launched with ‘Christianity’ on 7 November. The Advent Singers were asked to sing three songs in the assembly, in front of the whole school, telling of God’s love and the reason why they had sung the carols enthusiastically for two of the songs and also participated in the actions that went with the words.

The songs were interspersed with a talk by Ben Wale, a youth worker from Ipswich-based Youth Ministries (CYM) who talked with the children about God as Creator. After assembly, the church members were invited into one of the classrooms to share their faith with the children in year 6, and a further opportunity was given to sing songs, where the children could participate.

Ipswich choir: a new website
The Advent Singers have become the Ipswich Adventist Gospel Choir!

Choir witness in school
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Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC president, assisted by Pastor Jan McKean, Newport’s minister, made the presentation on behalf of the Newport Adventist Church.

2006 is the first year that Vera has not held a church office, and on this occasion it was felt appropriate to recognise her work. Tribute was paid to Vera for having served for twenty-two years as church clerk in Newport and reputedly for providing three consecutive years (the longest in their history).

Vera described how she became involved in the church over forty years ago, and how she grew in her faith. She recalled how a guy who had been living in the area had been in prison, and how he had been released and then moved to the area. She had befriended him, and they had been recipients of the church newsletter. She had seen how the church helped the community, and how she saw how she could make a difference in the lives of others.

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O n 10 September 2005 Bristol Central church was due to host a Service of Unity. Members from across the country were asked to bring something to put on the altar to celebrate the unity and the diversity of the church. It was to be a unique opportunity for people to express their identity and their faith in different ways.

Pastor Michael Taylor shared his recollection of the biggest ever campaign to be held in Bristol. It had been a huge undertaking involving hundreds of people from across the region. The night before the service, he could not help but feel the excitement building up.

He thought that they would still be here fifty years later because they believed Jesus would come to take them home. Members from Malawi, Jamaica, Slovenia and India had joined us on this journey, sharing their experiences and making new friends. The whole world was coming together in Bristol, and the service was going to be a wonderful celebration of diversity and unity.

Pastor Dibert Elias (director of the Discovery Bible School) shared his memories of fund-raising cycle rides and a beautiful cake. The service was held at the old church hall in the area of Centre Bristol. It was going to be a wonderful evening spent with our Christian brothers and sisters, and everyone was invited to come and join in.

The service was to begin at 7:30 PM on Sunday, 10 September 2005. It was going to be a memorable evening spent with our Christian brothers and sisters, and everyone was invited to come and join in. It was going to be a wonderful celebration of diversity and unity.

Service of unity
Over the past few years our pastor, Melvin Ellis, has been meeting with the various mission directors of the churches in Sutton in Ashfield. It was decided that each church would host a service of unity. On 22 January the Anglican Church of St Mary was to host the evening. Not only did they ask for an item to be included in the service, but also asked us to bring something to put on a table that represented our beliefs. What an opportunity to share with the people who decided to have the Sabbath, the Sanctuary and the Health Message. These were represented by books, drawings and health foods.

The evening commenced with Pastor Tony Evans, who gave us a word of encouragement for this special event even though he found his uniform had become a little tight. He gave us a great hope for the future which received many words of praise.

Cristi Pathfinders
Pastor Bob Rod, a former Pathfinder director of the National British church, was glad to come back to Bristol Central for this special service. He gave us a warm welcome and told us about his experiences as a member of the Pathfinders.

After the service we were invited to a buffet meal. It was a美妙的 meal, and after the wonderful feast, allowing us to mingle with our Christian brothers and sisters. It was not only a meal to remember, but also one to enjoy, and one to remember. We look forward to the next one so that, hopefully, we can spread a little more of our message.

Genuine Marcella Geesin (1915–1998) was born in Singapore. She grew up in the UK, where she was educated at various schools. She was a remarkable woman, who was known for her generosity and her kindness. She was an admired figure in her community, and her legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew her.

Jean Mohlain (1921–2005) was a prominent member of the church. She was known for her dedication to the Sabbath and her love for the church. She was a remarkable woman, who was known for her generosity and her kindness. She was an admired figure in her community, and her legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew her.

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Bedwell Community Centre
Stevenson
Marenna Cuthill (1935–2006) was a dedicated person who had a heart for mission and outreach. She was a remarkable woman, who was known for her generosity and her kindness. She was an admired figure in her community, and her legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew her.

Leonard Wesley Harvey (1938–2006) was a prominent member of the church. He was known for his dedication to the Sabbath and his love for the church. He was a remarkable woman, who was known for her generosity and her kindness. He was an admired figure in his community, and his legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew him.

James and Helen were so excited to express their evangelistic tendencies that they had been meeting together for the past two years. They were committed to reaching out to others and making a difference in the world. They had received support from their fellow believers, and they were determined to follow through on their mission.

As it turned out, the service was a huge success. The church was packed, and the atmosphere was electric. The audience was moved by the messages of faith and love that were shared during the service. It was a wonderful evening spent with our Christian brothers and sisters, and everyone was invited to come and join in. It was going to be a wonderful celebration of diversity and unity.
Religious Hatred Bill made Law

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

January 31st 2006 saw the proposed contentious Religious Hatred Bill become law. With it came the key amendments that at the House of Lords had drafted to preserve mainstream religious activities, like evangelism and give some measure of protection for free speech. The changes to the Bill were introduced to soften the elements which might have restricted religious liberty and freedom of speech.

In two shock defeats for the Government, they failed to overturn the Lords’ key amendments to the Bill. In the first vote the results were 289 in favour of the amendments and 278 against. In the second vote it was 283 in favour and 282 against. The passing of the Bill with its amendments was being hailed as a victory. This means that Christians still have the right to proclaim the Gospel without fear of reprisals.

In the three months leading up to the passing of the Bill over 35,000 Britons contacted their local MPs to register their objections to the Bill as it stood then. Among the objections was the Chief Executive of Premier Radio Media Group, Revd Peter Kerridge, who wrote directly to the Prime Minister. In his letter he highlighted concerns about the Bill preventing a barrier to open communication on religious issues and endangering an individual’s right to freedom of speech. He further stated, “We have further concerns that due to the broad and confusing wording used in the Bill, it could potentially be misused. If applied with the wrong motives, the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill could undermine civil liberties in a democratic society. It could also stop Christians legitimately proclaiming their faith and expressing accepted Christian teachings.”

Thankfully, with these fears seemingly behind us, we enter a new chapter in the course of Christian and political history, rejoicing that the Gospel mandate to ‘go tell’ will still be a reality, at least for now. However, there is still a measure of caution. How far does one go in respect of free speech? In the wake of the worldwide outrage that has resulted from the publication of cartoons in a Danish newspaper featuring the Prophet Mohammed, many world leaders have condemned the caricatures as ‘offensive to the beliefs of Muslims’.

In the future of demonstrations, tearing of buildings and death of innocent victims; and amid the resulting lawsuits and peace talks, comes the debate about freedom of speech. As it relates to religion. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw launched a fierce attack on the decision by some media outlet to publish the cartoons. He stated, “There is freedom of speech – we all respect that – but there is not any obligation to insult or be gratuitously inflammatory.”

The Muslim Association of Britain in its press release on 3 February, responding to the cartoon stated: “Such cartoons cause considerable offence... and therefore go beyond the realms of freedom or expression, to an act of incitement of religious hatred.”

For this reason the British press acted with caution against the publication of these images in its main UK publications. There is wide anxiety to bridge the chasm which has opened up between the West and Islam as a result of this incident. The Religious Hatred Bill in its amended version still spells caution for those who wish to speak out intentionally against the religious beliefs of other faiths. Threatening language and behaviour will be outlawed, but not words that are critical, insulting and abusive. In this final version of the law, individuals can only be found guilty if it becomes evident that they intended to stir up hatred.

In the present political climate Adventist believers are beginning to voice questions about how we present Revelation 13 and 17 in our publicity campaigns. The age-old advice to “say it kindly” mirrors Ellen White’s directive to speak the truth ‘in love’. If we do our part to present in a Christlike manner the whole Gospel to the whole community, God will do his part in preserving his Truth until, as Revelation 11:13 declares, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, ... and he will reign for ever and ever.” (NIV)