What you do can make a difference!

by BERT SMIT, Executive director, ADRA-UK

You can help make a difference. What you THINK will not make a difference. How you FEEL will not make a difference. What I WRITE will not make a difference. What can make a difference is for us actually to get involved in our Annual Appeal this year.

With your help:
- we will finish building a secondary school on the Indonesian island of Nias that was hit not just by one (that would have been bad enough) but by two tsunamis last year. No school building survived, but we will build a school in a poor area of the island. That will make a difference to the children now being taught in tents.
- we will start a new project in Madagascar that will help to reduce poverty in one of the poorest areas of this island. We will teach locals how to increase harvests of rice and grow vegetables in kitchen gardens. We will also help to start new income-generating programmes and improve the local health programmes. Poverty can be prevented and what we do can make the difference!
- we will continue to collect and distribute humanitarian aid across the world. In March we sent two containers full of essential supplies and relief items destined for Pakistan. These will go to the earthquake-struck Kashmir region and, after delivery, the two containers will become a local ADRA office. Included in the shipment are a door and window that will complete the office when cut into the side of the containers.
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What we do can make a difference, in Peru, in Kazakhstan, in Namibia, in Britain, and in Ireland – wherever we can become involved!

What can you do to make a difference? Will you join the team of 5,000 volunteers and go from door to door with the ADRA canister and ask the public to assist in our work? Will you accept personal responsibility for the work ADRA does and donate from your own money? Will you organise your own, or become involved in a local fundraising activity to make sure we can continue our work? Are you willing to think beyond the Annual Appeal and donate £5 or more a month?

What we do can make a difference. The difference is not in what we say. The difference is not in what we write. The difference is in what we do. So, please help us as your Charity of Choice to ‘do what can make a difference’. Thank you, on behalf of those who are waiting for hope!

INGATHERING DATES: 25 March-9 April. London Greater Metropolitan Area, 25 March-16 April

‘Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.’ 1 John 3:18, NIV.
Dreaming for the future!

Programmes Officer visited a community of people in February who, until recently, had been bonded labourers. Over 20,000 households in Nepal had committed their labour in return for small amounts of food and crops in order to feed their families. They were bonded by small loans which could not be paid back due to unreasonably high interest rates. In ensuring their survival, they had committed their lives and their children’s future to a lifestyle akin to slavery. As a result of increasing pressure from human rights and civil society organisations, the government ultimately recognised the problem and, in July 2000, abolished the system. However, many families are worse off now than before, as they still have no access to land, food or basic services.

I met Chiluwad and Cecilia and their two boys who told me their story. They had been freed from bonded labour in 2000 but had nowhere secure to live. They had built a small temporary shelter but told me they were scared that the government would force them to move on soon. Chiluwad is really worried about their future as they don’t have enough money for food, and are barely surviving one day at a time. I talked with Cecilia about her boys, and she shared with me her dream for them to grow up and be educated as social workers so that they can help the poor communities.

I can’t forget this family, and am glad that ADRA is doing everything it can to work with families like them. With your help, ADRA continues to bring the dreams of parents for their children to reality, and thus changes the world, one life at a time.

Meeting Point

‘Meeting Point’, the name given to the new church plant that started in 2005 for the unchurched and de-churched in Llandrindod Wells, is now receiving a lot of community support and appreciation. Town Action Team Co-ordinator told us this week: ‘We love what you are doing for this community’, and at a recent town council meeting we were informed of a vote of thanks tendered thanking you for the work you do with your Christmas day pop-up centre. We have enthusiastically copied from ‘The Master’. This means that you meet people where they are, make new friends, experience God’s love and get to know him better as we work together to meet the needs of the community.

One of the ways in which we seek to do this is through children and family ministries. The children and family ministries that we are engaged in now has fifty children attending either the gymnastics club or kidz club. Some of the children from both of these also attend kidz church that meets twice a month. We are finding, too, that parents not only bring their children to kidz church but stay even though they are as yet unwilling to attend an adult service. The gymnastics club has a waiting list and, to accommodate this we now run two sessions a week. We recently held the first of what we hope to be an annual award ceremony. Nearly two children and fifty adults gathered to witness and applaud the children as between them they collected 28 awards. Local businesses donated trophies for the most improved gymnast, gymast of the year, and most outstanding gymast. They attended the display and presented the children with these awards. We now have five parents as part of the team.

We are finding that parents not going to church are also a priority. We are finding that parents not going to church are also a priority.

God’s New Society

David Marshall

There are many problems with a form of religion which is merely permitted to enhance life but is not intended to transform it. One of those problems is that politics take precedence over spirituality, power over discipleship, ethnicity over equality.

Those who use Christianity as no more than a quality-of-life add-on are merely consumers. Those who believe that Christianity is transformed by it become disciples.

The Gospel Commission was/is to ‘do make disciples.’ Jesus said that involving ‘teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you’. Contingent upon that was a promise ‘Surely I am with you always’. When disciples are replaced by consumers – when Christianity gives way to quality-of-life pseudo-religion, Christianity can emerge in religious communities. Basic to racism is insecurity: feeling threatened by people who are different from oneself. If we feel insecure is one thing. To use that feeling as a basis for words and actions is another. To be transformed is the power of the Gospel which involves the replacement of the ‘old’ by the ‘new’. For those with the power to spiritual maturity even the feelings of insecurity that feed racism have been transformed. And when that point is reached, the Holy Spirit, working on their lives, identifies those feelings as things to be left behind.

Study Ephesians chapter 2. It is about the Gospel and God’s New Society. In the first ten verses Paul defines the Gospel and says that through the grace of Christ, all walls of separation are torn down. In the rest of the chapter (verses 11-22) Paul talks about God’s New Society, which the Gospel gives rise. The issue specifically being addressed is about Jews and Gentiles. But there is an underlying issue about all barriers in favour of oneness in Christ. Paul’s message is: Two into one go – and it equals PEACE.

Let’s listen to Paul: ‘By his sacrifice [on the cross] the war stopped. That’s all of us, right? Whether we come from Jamaica, the Philippines, Barbados, Yorkshire, Zimbabwe, Romania, Ghana, London, Portugal, or anywhere else for that matter, we are all ‘consumers’ of Christianity, those who perceive the Church as primarily a political structure to facilitate power and control. Thus perceived, the Church structure can become a barrier to mission, rather than to the means of its accomplishment.

In God’s New Society the variations of culture and come-from enrich. They do not separate. In Jesus, all is of one Shepherd.

One Voice. One Mind. One Fold. The cause, the mission, the purpose, the voice, the mind – of one Shepherd.

Twelve years after World War Two I met a man who had been traumatised by the war – that he could not accept that it was over. Never have I encountered a more tormented soul than his. His ears were still filled by shells thundering, bullets whining, bombed out buildings crying out frantically. . . .

The war was over. But not in his head.

He seemed cliché to some to wear just the outer sheen of Christianity, rather than to choose discipleship and be transformed. But they, the ‘consumers’ of Christianity, are those who perceive the Church primarily as a political structure to facilitate power and control. Thus perceived, the Church structure can become a barrier to mission, rather than to the means of its accomplishment.

In God’s New Society the variations of culture and come-from enrich. They do not separate. In that society Christ is the foundation stone and each brick integrates to the whole.

References:
The Acts 29 Movement
by Robert Hines, Associate Youth director, SEC

Dr Kevin Jenkins asked everyone to turn to Acts 29. It was one of those occasions when everyone had their Bibles and everyone was so enthralled with the worship service that everyone except the leading young leaders had their eyes glued on the pages. He stood there smiling as the realisation dawned across the room: there is no Acts 29.

Dr Jenkins wasn’t wasting our time. He wanted to emphasise that what we had experienced that weekend was the birth of a new movement – the Acts 29 Movement. The book of Acts stops at chapter 28, but we are the generation to carry on the work of God with the same power and fervour as the apostles in the book of Acts. We are the next chapter; the next part of the great story that will see the Second Coming of Christ. But all of this happened at the end of an amazing weekend at our Prayer and Bible Conference (P&BC), a weekend when people’s lives were blessed and transformed, when attitudes were challenged and refocused, and when the worship was simple and yet powerful. The main speaker was Dr Kevin Jenkins who is a pastor working in New York, his emphasis was prayer, and his sermons had the teens and students praying for revival, eager about fasting, and ardent about the power of prayer. The P&BC ran from 23 to 26 February and was held at the Lee Valley Youth Hotel. It was for people involved in the South England Conference’s Teens Ministry and Higher Education Chaplaincy Service. The theme for the weekend was ‘Heart & Soul’, with the explicit aim of encouraging total commitment to God. One hundred and nine, teens, students and youth leaders spent the weekend learning how to pray with power, grow and worship with enthusiasm, through small groups. The young people came from the North England Conference, the Welsh Mission and the South England Conference.

Yes, it was a cold February weekend, but inside it was warm and there was the spiritual temperature was hot. Kevin from Bristol said, ‘The Holy Spirit was, without a doubt, resident with us in that place.’ Gifty from Birmingham commented on the warm and respectful atmosphere where service users are able to express their views and opinions and are respected for doing so. Both users and visitors have commented on the warm and friendly atmosphere created by our staff and volunteers. For many of the members the project is a place where they are able to meet other elderly people from the community and where they are able to reminisce. On 28 March the Advent Community Association celebrated its tenth anniversary. A day of praise and worship to commemorate what God has enabled us to accomplish through this ministry will be held on Sabbath 4 April at the Memorial Baptist church, 389-395 Barking Road, Plaistow, London E13 8AL, across the road from Plaistow police station. Please come and celebrate this joyous time with us. We look forward to your continued support. Our speakers for the day will be two dynamic, Spirit-filled, Holy Ghost-powered people: Pastor W. Blake and Sister Elsie Staghe. Admission free. (Buses 241, 276, 276 and 473 from Stratford and canal way train station to end of Balaam Street and Green Gate, which runs off the Barking Road, Buses 5, 173, 276, 277, 360 run from Canning Town train station along the Barking Road).

Wolverhampton: Baptism and Forty Days of Prayer and Fasting

A baptismal service took place at the Oxford Street church in Wolverhampton on the 21 January. Pastor R. Jackson was the main speaker and in the pool were Pastors S. Fray and F. Mapp. The ages of the candidates ranged from 12 years upwards. Making a stand for Christ were Mr and Mrs Mapp, the ages of the candidates ranged from 12 years upwards. Making a stand for Christ were Mr and Mrs Mapp, the ages of the candidates ranged from 12 years upwards. Making a stand for Christ were Mr and Mrs Mapp, the ages of the candidates ranged from 12 years upwards. Making a stand for Christ were Mr and Mrs Mapp, the ages of the candidates ranged from 12 years upwards. Making a stand for Christ were Mr and Mrs Mapp.

A lot of things are starting to dawn across the room: the realisation that it was not my strength I knew that it was not my strength...
Diamond Anniversary

Elder Norman and Sister Dorothy Francis celebrated their Diamond (60th) Anniversary on 29 January. Church pastor David Burnett and the elders congratulated the happy couple on Sabbath 28 January. Flowers were presented, and the South England Conference president, Pastor Humphrey Walters, offered his words of commendation and admiration that in a time of confusion about marriage and failing marriages, their sixty glorious years stood out like a beacon! He then offered special prayer. A response of thanksgiving and praise to God and an expression of love and devotion to his wife, was uttered by retired elder Norman Francis. The church then joined in singing the hymn ‘How great Thou art’.

Prison Service

On Friday 16 December, Zion Singers and Psalms and other members of the Preston church continued their prison ministry at a service held at Kirkham Prison. This is a programme that is engaged, on average, once every month. The members were pleasantly surprised to see walking through the door none other than Pastor Michael Logan, the NFC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director. The service was well attended by the inmates and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Included in the programme were presentations by Pastor Morgan and Pastor Kevin Johns, interspersed with songs by Zion Singers and Psalms, and there was plenty of audience participation in the way of singing.

A few weeks earlier, the Personal Ministries team from Preston had travelled to Nottingham to attend the Festival of the Laity, where they had to share with everyone what Preston is doing within their community and Prison Ministries.

Preston church would like to express their thanks and gratitude to Pastor Morgan for taking the time to come to Kirkham Prison and also for his presentation.

Ireland Day of Fellowship

A congregation of around eighty people from twenty different countries attended the special day of fellowship at the Gaelic Athletic Association headquarters at Longford in the Republic of Ireland on Sabbath 17 December.

The service attracted members and their families from all over the south of Ireland representing churches in Longford, Galway, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Limerick, Ballinasloe, Cork and Dublin. A significant number of non-Adventists also attended. The guest speaker was Pastor Mike Logan of the Cork church who was part of a group of eleven people who came all the way from Cork especially for the day of fellowship.

The meeting was graced by the singing of the Divine Inspiration choir from Dublin who uplifted all present by their wonderful gospel songs. Day Marins of the Galway church led out in the congregational singing. John McKamara sang a beautiful rendition of ‘Holy Night’. Oliver Martyn of the Galway church gave the mission story and a devotional which highlighted Jesus’ philosophy of less is more, a contrast to modern consumerism.

Pastor Mike Logan told the children’s story, which recalled some childhood misadventures and the necessity of obeying sound advice from one’s parents. His sermon was based on Jesus’ encounter with a rich young ruler as described in Matthew’s gospel and highlighted the necessity of total dependence on what Christ has done for us at Calvary.

He opened his sermon saying, ‘We have to get rid of our pride. He stressed that Jesus loved the young man despite his refusal to follow him. The real problem of the rich young ruler was his spiritual pride. Pastor Logan said this about coming to Jesus: ‘We have to get rid of our stuff!’ He also spoke about having the innocence and openness of a child in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Summing up his sermon Pastor Logan said, ‘Salvation is total dependence on what Christ has done for us at Calvary’. Pastor Ashley Kogari, district pastor for the western region, thanked the GAA for freely giving their centre for use on the day of fellowship, and invited all present to participate in the fellowship lunch which had been prepared by the Longford church.

Polish ex-pat celebrates 100th birthday in England

Polish national Wiera Rudzinska, who now lives with her daughter Helena Wolfram in Watford, celebrated her one hundredth birthday on 20 February.

Wiera was born in Bresc, Eastern Poland, a town close to the Russian border, in 1896. In 1925 she married a musician who travelled around the country with an orchestra in which he played flute and saxophone, while she continued to live in Bresc. They had four children of whom two daughters survive, Haina, and her sister Mira, who still lives in Poland.

She joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the war years, and church meetings were held in her home for a while in view of the local political situation. At the end of the war, in 1945, her home town Bresc was occupied by the Red Army so the family moved west to Warsaw. Unfortunately, Mrs Rudzinska’s husband died there in 1958 at the age of 68.

Mrs Rudzinska continued to live in Warsaw until her move to England in 1982 to live in north London with her Polish granddaughter and her husband, who are members of the Wood Green church. As she spoke no English, her church membership remained in Poland. In 1996 she moved to Watford to live with her daughter Helena and son-in-law Alfred, who are both members of Stanborough Park church.

The slide of a Polish national, she has two grandchildren, both of whom live not too far away. Her granddaughter remains in north London, while her grandson, Eric Wolfram, lives in Hatfield.

Health problems have meant that Wiera has been bedridden for the last three years. She was unable to celebrate her special event with a party, but received flowers and cards and a message of congratulations from the Queen.

JUDIE COOKES

Wiera in 1999
A weekend for a life-changing time:
• Beautiful worshipping
• Interaction empowered by the Holy Spirit
• Stirring teaching on the Holy Spirit
• Intensive praying
• Wonderful fellowship

A time to begin moving up to higher ground.

Come and be transformed with:
• Pastor Samuel Telemaque
• Pastor Samuel Blue
• Pastor Donald Brown
• Pastor Samuel Telemaque
• Pastor Samuel Brown

Gary Matthews, Moderator
Carol Dougherty, last president and now major

For further details contact Mrs Bethan Shepherd, 17 Champion Ave, Skewen, Neath, SA11 3LL
Tel: 01639 701721, 07816 972141, via the Wessex Adventist Church, Holy Trinity, Chichester, W. Sussex
Tel: 01243 811302

Websites design
Hello! My name is William kofi-Ocran. I am from the Wood Green Adventist church. I have just started to design webpages at university and it has become one of my interests now. So if any church is interested, I will be able to design a webpage for them. I do not charge anything, if the church wants to pay me, that is their decision. However, I do not expect anything.

You see, when you come into a world and there is so much taken away from you, it is hard to make it through. I once had everything, and away from you, it is hard to make it.

However, I do not expect anything.

Would you like to sponsor Simon
Simon Lammy is running in the Flora London Marathon (23 April) in aid of Changing Faces, a charity which helps people with facial disfigurements to develop high self-esteem and to enjoy equal rights and opportunities. Simon is a third-year medical student at London University. He is a mountaineer in his spare time.

C. R. Perry, President, E. C. Lowe, Executive Secretary
Delegates should note that registration will commence at 10.30am on Wednesday 26 July. The opening of the Session is scheduled for 3pm.

Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendation Committee.

A. M. H. Pemberton, S. E. Lewis, Executive Secretary

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