Praise God and praise ADRA. This was the chant that I heard continually as I visited the twelve villages in the Bazenga region of Burkina Faso as the people thanked us for assisting them in changing their lives.

The local ADRA team informed the residents that Pastor Bert Smit (ADRA-UK director), Godwin Benjamin (ADRA Annual Appeal co-ordinator), Pastor Terry Messenger (SEC Personal Ministries director), Pastor Mike Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries director) and I were coming. We were greeted with singing, dancing and enacted plays – the villagers’ way of showing thanks and saying thank you for the dramatic impact made on their lives. We were also given a traditional welcome drink made of local herbs and spices, a selection of peas and live chickens and goats that unfortunately we could not bring back with us.

So why were we there? The purpose of our mission was to investigate and prove that the money given during the ADRA-UK Annual Appeal goes to designated projects and is providing long-term benefits.

Burkina Faso faces enormous problems that cannot be overstated. The country’s environment is being damaged by its weak environmental structure. The ‘water table’ is eroding, water retention is poor, and the villagers are destroying the forests because of a lack of education on how to use its natural resources economically. Survival for them means depleting the natural resources of the country. Many of the women spend their whole day looking for wood to make fires.

In order for ADRA-UK to help the people of Burkina Faso, they called on you to help them. You were the one who volunteered to go door to door to collect much-needed funds, or gave a personal donation or organised a fundraising initiative or project. Without you, ADRA-UK could not continue its work.

Solutions provided by you + ADRA are astounding. ADRA-UK was able to build two major dams, eleven wells and educate the villagers about how to be economical with their natural resources. They planned to educate the women on how to cook on more fuel-efficient stoves and to teach the villagers to save the trees, effectively and minimise the way they fell forward from the trees. They also planned to implement a restoration project by planting thousands of trees in the Bazenga villages.

Communities have now developed a natural organic way to re-fertilise the ground using a new plant ADRA-UK introduced to that area a few years ago. Women have been introduced to a more efficient way of cooking, thus enabling them to spend more time with their families. The women are beginning to appreciate the God of ADRA-UK.

On behalf of ADRA-UK I would like to say a heartfelt ‘Thank you’ for participating in the Annual Appeal event. You were the ones who listened, understood and helped people all over the world. Your generosity has touched the hearts of many, and we are truly fortunate to be part of something that is changing lives. So the next time you put on your badge and take your leaflets to spread the word, do it with confidence, knowing that you are changing the lives of others.

In Matthew 25:40 Christ says, ‘Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ So the next time you put on your badge and take your leaflets to spread the word, do it with confidence, knowing that you are changing the lives of others.

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See Burkina Faso pictures on p. 12
Who does your church appeal to—men or women? In most churches, women strongly outnumber men. Is that because the Christian faith appeals more to the feminine nature, or is it because church services gear themselves more to women? My suspicion is that it has more to do with the former, but the latter has also to be taken into consideration. Consider this article that appeared in January:

Church services and interiors need a more macho makeover if they are to attract men aged under 30, Christian Vision for Men (CVM) believes. A questionnaire on the movement’s website found that men cringe with embarrassment at church culture. Songs declaring Christ to be the “beautiful one I love” use words “many men wouldn’t sing to their wives”, CVM director Carl Beech explains. “Feminine” decorations such as banners and flowers, robed vicars, action songs and kids’ plays, “pathetically driven” sermons and discussions all alienated young men who “want to know about Jesus’ great decision making and leadership”.

There is one mega-church in the United States that took this board some years ago and aimed all its services at 35-year-old males. Their success is, no doubt, due to many things, but it would probably include this factor.

There were plenty of things Jesus did that were particularly attractive to men. He was a strong leader, called for decision, spoke of self-sacrifice. Jesus often went against the authorities of the day. He got angry at injustice and hypocrisy. He even wept when his friend died. Jesus was a man who challenged, confronted, and focused on justice and people. He was in touch with his emotions and able to express them.

Consider this account of Jesus’ life and notice the kind of confident, strong leader that he was:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Mark 1:14-17.

Another thing that makes Jesus was anything less than a strong leader who stood up for a cause and called people to follow him is mistaken. Perhaps we should ensure this is reflected both in our services as well as in our understanding of who Jesus was. If we do, young men may come flocking to our churches!

God’s Nail
Lord, make me a nail upon the wall, Fastened securely in its place.
That travelers may pause to look Upon the loveliness depicted there.
And passing on their weary ways, Each radiant face may bear—
Stamp’d so that nothing can efface— The image of Thy glory and Thy grace.
Lord, let not one soul think of me.
Only let me by a nail upon the wall, Holding Thy picture in its place.
Michel NIV

The side effects from many conventional medicines are becoming of increasing concern. As a result alternative medicines have grown in popularity. It is estimated that up to half of the British population has tried some form of alternative therapy at some point in their lives, and over £450 million annually is spent on these treatments. Many have espoused the virtues of these treatments in terms of alleviating their symptoms without side effects that conventional medication causes.

With several reports celebrities the efficacy of these natural alternatives, many patients have continued taking natural interventions which on their own have so far shown to have little or no known side effects. However, ongoing research continues to show that some of these reported ‘harmless’ herbs or alternatives when taken with specific drugs may become harmful. Earlier reports demonstrated that some herbal medicines can counteract drug efficacy by cancelling the effects of certain prescription medicine.

On 2 February The Times Online headline read: ‘Herbal remedies “can work against heart drugs.” In the article, David Rose, health correspondent, highlighted the warnings from US research and the British Heart Foundation with regard to the devastating effects of drugs and herbal interaction in vulnerable patients. Particularly at risk were those diagnosed with kidney or liver disease and patients with an increased bleeding risk.

Rose reports: ‘St John’s Wort, commonly taken for depression, anxiety and sleep disorders, is known to interfere with medication prescribed for irregular heart beat, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Gingko biloba, which is said to improve circulation, raises the risk of excessive bleeding in those taking warfarin or aspirin. Garlic, taken in high concentrations in pills, could also interfere with warfarin.’

Drawing from research findings documented in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the key danger relating to the major drug interactions was a lack of communication between patient and doctor. It was found that patients failed to inform their doctors that they were taking herbal supplements, and doctors had not asked patients about alternative or complementary medicines.

In the book God’s Pathway to Healing—Worx That Heal, Reginald B. Cherry MD examines a wide range of healing herbs and how to utilise them safely to avoid harmful drug interaction. We will analyse some of these herbs in the next Enhancing Health article.

Advice. Always inform your medical practitioner of all herbal or alternative therapies that you undertake.

Good health!

What a writer it’s been! The worst for a generation—
they say, And it has been s-o-o-o-o-o-o-n!-g!
Oh writers serve a useful purpose!
Before the winter of 1657 caught teeth and
noses like to bite, the Genoese fleet forces in the
Shands of Messina. Ashore folks sensed that something was wrong aboard the small collection of ships. Only when the ropes were vibration that they became obvious that only a few crew aboard each vessel were still alive.

Emma Donoghue’s Black Sea the bubonic plague had struck the crews. It had come aboard with flea-infested black rats from Odessa. By the time the port authorities in Messina knew enough to ban the crews from coming ashore, it was too late. Those same flea-infested rodents had scarpered ashore along the ropes. With them came a death sentence for more than a third of the population of Europe. In five terror-crazed years, 25 million people across Europe died.

After a mild winter the plague had spread up Italy, across the Alps and into France, Germany and the Low Countries, bringing death and misery. By the spring of 1638 the first cases had been diagnosed in London. There was no hope of stopping the contagion. The healthy quarantined the infected. Once quarantined, the infected could only wait for death.

Sadly, that was only the start. The bubonic plague raged again in London for another three centuries. It had a particularly devastating effect on London. Those who were able to do so fled from the city. Only the most conscientious of clergy remained to conduct the funerals. Those who remained included John Donne, the Dean of St Paul’s in the 1620s. He quarantined himself and wrote some amazing verses. That Donne was able to do so and that he also survived, leads...

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References:
2. Joseph Alleine, a contemporary of John Donne, wrote: ‘I miss no man, what a deformed monster has sin made you! God made you “little lower than the angels”; sin has made you little better than the devils.’
3. The infection of the individual could lead to the corruption of an entire population. Sin was a pandemic.

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The living God
generations past our ancestors were able, to a large degree, to anticipate the weather. So much was new that a society could accurately forecast the weather. In more recent times it has become possible to make long-term forecasts of the weather, on a far wider scale than previously, which means that modern weather-forecasting can be very accurate.

Where does this recent development leave the wise old weather-saws of yesteryear? It does not invalidate them or diminish their accuracy one iota. It is no less true today than yesteryear that, for example, a red sky at night is the shepherd’s delight, anticipating fine weather the next day, or a red sky in the morning is the shepherd’s warning, anticipating that the weather will turn wet. Each is an observable reality of our weather system, the one ‘local’, the other the consequence of the capacity for more universal weather observations.

Nothing has altered in the weather, but our observations have advanced. The old sayings are no less true on that account. The climate cannot invalidate the ‘local’. Neither is one ‘natural’, while the other is not; both are derived from observations of weather patterns, one more comprehensive, the other ‘local’, each may complement the other, but they cannot contradict.

As in the case of the weather, so with the wider picture of the universe — as our capacity for its observation expands (for example, the new satellite observation telescope ‘WISE’ thumbnail scientists with unprecedented visions of the extent of the universe), it complements those realities which we have hitherto been able to observe. The two are two parts of the same picture — one in the nearest, the other in the universe, in the other in magnitude.

One thing we may never do is to deny observable reality. Of one thing also we can be no less sure — truth has nothing to fear from what is true. We may have to adjust our opinions, but truth never has anything to fear from what is true. It ever behoves us, therefore, whether we be scientist or theologian, not to be proscriptively dogmatic, lest we stumble ever over an ‘obstacle’ that is not there.

The universe (and life) contains the self-evident postulate that are we here. This is a reality, and inherently implies purpose of which our presence is the undeniable consequence. If we were not here, if we were no matter, nothing could be assumed but only on the basis that there was nothing. The moment there is something, inherently purpose is to be acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him.

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The universe (and life) contains the self-evident postulate that we are here. This is a reality, and inherently implies purpose of which our presence is the undeniable consequence. If we were not here, if we were no matter, nothing could be assumed but only on the basis that there was nothing. The moment there is something, inherently purpose is to be acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him. When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were purpose-implied, we read of them being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge about God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted with him.
The awfully news was out in the open! The Dundee church board was agath of. The beautiful new church building was desperately needed would cost half a million pounds! The mood turned sombre and despondent. Slowly Pastor Marcel turned to each committee member, inviting their opinion. After all thought the same thing. Since had the children was a crying need, a proper kitchen was long overdue, a venue to hold outreach events was desperately needed, there was a longing for a new ambiance to pro- mote meaningful worship, but only £50K funds were available! There was no way a small church on the UK Adventist periphery could possi- bly reach such a target! It was an impossible pipe dream. One member after another suggested drastically downsizing the plans or shifting the project till better times. It was unan- imous, and the Pastor knew our needs and that in reality the unlimited resources of Heaven were available to us. We didn't knew how we expect to receive? He voted to move forward in faith and reach out for the full scale project. In some unaccountable way the whole mood of the board changed! One member after another supported the other right round. In just a few minutes the committee was transformed, stood on its head, and unanimously voted to proceed with the whole plan!

The prescient Ron Barnett had developed the theme of friendship and chal- lenged every participant to perform at least one random act of kindness before the day was out. Then the Lord Provost of Dundee, John Letford, arrived in the still air wearing his historic gold chain. He won everyone over with his ready smile, his compliments on the attractiveness of the building and his easy accessibility. He even gave a hug to our longest-serving member Mrs Narna Nye. Once the flash pho- tography of the ribbon cutting cere- mony had died down, the Lord Provost and platform party proceed- ed through the glass vestibule and into the bright and spacious new auditorium. Crossing the heather coloured carpet, between the laven- der-coloured chairs, they mounted the platform and took their seats.

Pastor Marcel welcomed the congre- gation and guests and traced the development of the building project from inception to completion. He warmly thanked all with time, labour, good advice and prayers. He singled out contrac- tors Haddon Co. if we did not mention the people who were represented in the audience by Dalcerotta Clarkson, for special thanks. Bishop Nye and his wife were also in attendance and received enthusiastic plaudits.

On Tuesday the 15th of February Merry and Adele Melodies delighted us with a beauti- ful rendering of ‘Press on, it won’t be very long.’ Professor John Walton gave a brief overview of nearly 100 years of the history of Seventh-day Adventists in Dundee. He identified Mrs Helen Barrie with a group of about eight ladies, who started the church in 1917, as the true succes- sors of the Celtic Sabbath-keeping tradition. He mentioned key events like the Kenneth Lacey campaign in the early 50s and the ‘dial-a-prayer’ service in the 70s and told some real stories of the love and support of former members and ministers.

In his keynote address, Pastor Boulter referred to changes in the Church and, with it, the desire for a new ambience to promote meaningful worship, but only £50K funds were available! Therewas no way a small church on the UK Adventist periphery could possi- bly reach such a target! It was an impossible pipe dream. One member after another suggested drastically downsizing the plans or shelving the project till better times. It was unan- imous; until the Pastor reached the final board member. He had an alto- gether different vision. He pointed out that God always meets our needs and that in reality the unlimited resources of Heaven were available to us. We didn’t know how we expect to receive? He voted to move forward in faith and reach out for the full scale project. In some unaccountable way the whole mood of the board changed! One member after another supported the other right round. In just a few minutes the committee was transformed, stood on its head, and unanimously voted to proceed with the whole plan!

by John Walton

Dundee Adventists in the pink

by John Walton

M or than forty lay church leaders from across Scotland who attended the Mission’s Training Day in Crieff on Sunday 21 February were blessed with an informative and spiritually enriching day. Workshops were led by BUC directors Eglan Brooks (Personal Ministries), Des Boulter (Youth), Victor Hulbert (Communication) and by ADRA Annual Appeal co-ordinator, Godwin Benjamen. They were sup- ported by Pastors Bernie Holford, Bob Rodd, Jimmy Botha, Laurence

Newport’s investiture day

by John Wilby, Communication sponsor

Scottish Mission: Our core business

by John Wilby, Communication sponsor

Scottish Mission: Our core business

where I can spend time with God? Spiritual leaders must spend time with God because that’s where we learn, he said. We also have to be united in a com- mon goal. That common goal is not to hasten Christ’s return but to bring the Good News to people out there – to help them know God. In summing up the day’s events, Mission president, Bernie Holford, continued this theme. ‘We are not in the business of just doing “good” church. We are not in the business of just trying to get converts. We are not in the business of just making sure our finances are in shape or our building looks nice. Our core business is knowing God, loving God and letting that love so fit us that it overflows to our love for one another – both within the community of fellowship and out in the world. If we are not being a living example of who God is, then why on earth are we here? As we leaders, today, recognize that core, we are one Church with one mission, focus – and one purpose.’

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Scottish Mission: Our core business

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News Break

by John Walton

Dundee Adventists in the pink

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Dundee Adventists in the pink

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ACTS — A day of renewal

by Taylor Bajic, PRO and Web editor, Newbold College

ewbold’s long-anticipated Youth Day of Fellowship became an exciting reality on Sabbath 20 February. And what a day it was! Newbold College welcomed 855 youth from throughout the United Kingdom, in fact, from all over — England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and as far away as Denmark — to fellowship and come together in Jesus Christ. In the words of Newbold’s principal, Dr Jane Sabes, the day was ‘designed to bring youth together, to be able to warm one another’s hearts and strengthen each other in the Lord, through preaching by and for youth, relevant workshops, music and simply through socialising. We want to remind youth that, though they might be from small churches, they are in fact part of a 17-million strong movement.’

The day began with back-to-back preaching by seven compelling speakers on the theme of ‘Renewal’. The assembly was worshipfully led in the Word, in song and in interactive activities alike, and was even treated with special musical items by 4-year-old Vuyo Ransom from Swindon church and from the Slough youth choir. The morning programme concluded with a call to be ‘super heroes for Christ, renewed daily in him.’

The Sabbath concluded with the baptism of Latenda Mushiune from Coventry church, as he was warmly welcomed into fellowship with family and friends gathered for this celebration. Sam Neves, pastor of the Wimbledon church, conducted the service. The evening was full of festivities and treats, complete with a Christian book and CD sale. There was an array of food booths, from Caribbean cuisine to popcorn, with each stall raising money for a worthy cause.

The evening concluded with a sacred concert organised by Trevor Johnson, with the best sounds from around the UK. There was a large variety of talented musical groups — vocal sides and instrumental arrangements. A group of young people, relatively unknown to one another prior to this day, under the direction of Tihomir Lazi, doctoral student in Theology at Oxford University, and Thomas Rasmussen, Youth director, one of the attendees, Kay Choudary, co-ordinator of the Sabbath’s events, said, ‘I was very happy to see ACTS revived after six years and to see everyone enjoying Newbold College’s campus. It takes a lot of organisation, but just to see people smile and be happy is well worth the effort.’ It was indeed a day to remember. And it isn’t the last! Mark your calendars for next year’s ACTS: Newbold Youth Day of Fellowship on 26 February 2011. Come and join us! We can’t wait to host you!

Let there be love

On Friday evening 12 February, the young people of Bournemouth church gathered once again for an Agape Feast. There were thirty-three present this time, our second such evening, and everyone agreed it was a very uplifting experience with good food, both spiritual and temporal.

The theme was Jesus in the wilderness, the crucifixion and resurrection, and so the tables were laid in the shape of a Cross. We began with prayer and a reading from Luke 4. Then our Youth leader, Rodrigo Cerecovich, passed around the Agape loaf after a short prayer, and this was followed by various young people reading from the book of Luke. Our theme song ‘Let there be love’ was sung with everyone joining hands, and then we ate the food — pancakes with savoury and sweet fillings, salad, sunshine and biscuits, followed by fruit salad and cream. Everyone was given a ‘jolly bag’ to take home containing a wrapped satsuma, a Cadbury’s Creme Egg, plus several small Easter eggs and an illustrated cross bookmark with a text. Judith made everyone a booklet containing all the dates from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, with space to write down what people felt Jesus was thinking at that particular time.

As the evening wore on, the atmosphere grew more and more relaxed. People mingled and chatted, several brought their friends, and altogether went very well. We believe the Lord is blessing these gatherings and that young man remarked that it felt ‘just like a family’. This is how church should feel! We prayed that God would bless everyone present and strengthen us to share our faith with others. A further three Agape Feasts are planned, one every quarter, to the end of the year.

JOY ELLIOTT

Stewardship summit

by Dr Richard de Lisser

SEC Stewardship and Communication director

On Sabbath 13 February fifty stewardship leaders, treasurers, elders and pastors converged on the Reading Whitley church for the first South England Conference Stewardship summit. The congregation swelled to over 300 as individuals travelled from as far away as Thetford and Ipswich.

The day began with lively singing and an interactive lesson study conducted by the SEC Stewardship director Dr Richard de Lisser. During the divine service the congregation was blessed with fine music from the Whitley youth and senior choir respectively. The host for the day, local pastor Dr Steve Thomas, kindly welcomed the Stewardship leaders and encouraged them to come again. The main presenter for the day was the associate director of the Stewardship department for the General Conference, Pastor Jean-Luc Lézeau.

Pastor Jean-Luc Lézeau is a French national, born in Algeria. He and his wife Eileen have three children, two girls and a boy, and five grandchildren. Jean-Luc studied at the universities of Collonges (France), Newbold (England), Grenoble (France) and Webster (Geneva). He has served in several capacities from conference to division level in the denomination, including school principal, business manager, treasurer, departmental director, and president of various church entities both in Africa and Europe.

Pastor Lézeau preached a challenging message entitled ‘God as he longs for you to see him, encouraging us to look at God in a different way, not just as the Almighty but as one who is love and wants to be with us. Only then will we truly have a relationship with him.’

The Stewardship summit ended on a high with the Stewardship leaders charged and ready to go to lead God’s people on to the next level.

jo l

News Break

News Break

JOY ELLIOTT

Messenger
What does P.E.A.C.E. stand for?

Picture this. The big idea – you have to sell it. In the past you set up a poster and gave out handbills. These days you make a video.

The big idea was to sell the PEACE evangelistic training course, a North England Conference initiative, to church members around the world. The South England Conference media department came on the scene to make a video trailer to promote the concept. So it was that a small team headed down the M1 to Watford. PEACE, the Pan-European Advanced Centre of Evangelism due to commence its work this year, is to be headed by Adam Ramdin. With help from ASI and Amazing Facts the course, run by the North England Conference, sets out to equip people for excellent service for God and potentially to help transition people to full-time ministry for God.

The video, produced by Sam Neves and filmed by Villi Costescu, attracted the comment, ‘I like the energy, I like the different dynamics.’

Dr Leah Sweeney, Pastor Doug Butcher and Pastor Nceku Moses Msimanga, the local pastor, conducted the baptism. The church was full to capacity and visitors were given some free literature and invited to join the church fellowship. Penderfield church responded with great enthusiasm to Pastor lan Sweeney’s call for local churches to do evangelistic programmes. Different departments ran some inreach and outreach programmes. The Personal Ministries department ran the Millennium of Prophecy DVD series conducted by Pastor Doug Butcher for four weeks during the month of July. This led to a campaign in October which was conducted by the local pastor. There are ten people in the Bible class preparing for baptism.

The aim? For you to consider enrolling on a course that could change your life.

Happy birthday, Pauline. Keep fighting!

New trustees

ADRA UK wishes to recruit two new trustees who would be willing to help the charity to shine towards the future. They will need to be a UK resident and have the following:

- Commitment to the organisation and its values
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a trusteeship.
- Some experience of international development work.
- Good independent judgement and willingness to speak their mind.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.

The new trustees will bring additional expertise to our Board, particularly in one or more of the following areas: accountability of civil society organisations; food security; alternative energy; natural resource management; NGOs at international level; international financial institutions; international and/or charity law and the media.

Based in Watford, we are a registered charity in the UK. Trustees are unpaid.

If you are interested, please visit our website at http://adra.org.uk and download the application pack in the Our Work/Get Involved section or email info@adra.org.uk requesting an application pack.

Closing date: 1 April 2010

Pauline, disabled from birth, has never allowed her disability to hold her back or to keep her down. Born on the island of Jamaica in 1950 and coming to England in the late 60s, she has single-handedly brought up her son David in spite of her disability. Pauline is the author of three books: Now I live in England, Living and Winning and her most recent work, Logs of Iron published by Mandra Publishing. She has featured in newspapers and has been interviewed on radio both at home and abroad.

Pauline describes herself as a fighter and a champion for the rights of the disabled. She states, ‘I have written these three books to let people understand that some disabled people can live a normal life that we need to leave the Dark Ages of our understanding and learn to live with the disabled and not treat them as second-class citizens.’

‘Disabled’ is how my first passport labelled me. Now it is ‘Disabled’. Pauline, which describes me more accurately?

My hope is to help society to start to understand that I do not want them to apologise for my disability, or look away embarrassingly when I am around. I am who I am and will be the best I can. No pity. No bad treatment. No demonising. Isn’t that too much to expect from an intelligent and civilised Western society?

Happy birthday, Pauline. Keep fighting!

Dr Leah Sweeney, Pastor Doug Butcher and Pastor Nceku Moses Msimanga, the local pastor, conducted the baptism. The church was full to capacity and visitors were given some free literature and invited to join the church fellowship.

Penderfield church responded with great enthusiasm to Pastor Ian Sweeney’s call for local churches to do evangelistic programmes. Different departments ran some inreach and outreach programmes. The Personal Ministries department ran the Millennium of Prophecy DVD series conducted by Pastor Doug Butcher for four weeks during the month of July. This led to a campaign in October which was conducted by the local pastor. There are ten people in the Bible class preparing for baptism.

The aim? For you to consider enrolling on a course that could change your life.

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Upper Room in Nottingham
by Wendy Forrester

On Sabbath 6 February a symbolic ‘foundation’ of stones was laid for the ‘Upper Room’ (formerly Hyson Green) branch Sabbath School, Nottingham, as it was officially organised as a church.

‘Unity in Fellowship’ was the theme of this special day. In Sabbath School, the Mission Spotlight consisted of members’ own testimonies, sharing inspiring stories of how they have grown spiritually and as a family through their weekly fellowship. In a special presentation, the children also described the plant in Birmingham. The idea was to pay £5 each and eat as much as you liked.

RhyL and Llandudno

On Saturday evening 13 February members of the RhyL and Llandudno Junction churches joined together to have a fun social evening and eat pancakes. The idea was to pay £5 each and eat as much as you liked.

Seed of Life’ church plant in Birmingham
by Sidney Almeida

Another church has been planted in Birmingham, West Midlands. The group is identified as Seed of Life Seventh-day Adventist church. The title came with the concept of sowing the seed of the Gospel.

The celebration took place on Sabbath 13 February at the Harper Hill School, with an eloquent message from Pastor Michael Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries director), which was translated by Pastor S. Almeida. The message, ‘Who can separate us from the love of God?’ emphasised that ‘If God is with us who can be against us?’

The group was dedicated with a special prayer by Pastor Simpson.

The group is mainly composed of Brazilian, Portuguese and Angolan people. It came to our attention that some Adventist people, who speak Portuguese, were trying to send them the Gospel in their language. To help them, their leaders started seeking contact with Portuguese-speaking pastors in London. But by far the most satisfying part of the evening was the £170 raised for the ADRA Haiti appeal, which when added to the £437 previously raised will go to help those in most desperate need.

The whole event came as a complete surprise to Auntie Myrtle. We did not want the occasion to pass by without letting her know how loved she is and the blessings that she has extended to all with whom she comes into contact. Auntie Myrtle is known for many things but, as for me, I look forward to tasting Auntie Myrtle’s soup for many years to come. May the grace of God continue to be with Auntie Myrtle always.

Over 40 years of Pathfinder service
by Joanne Passley

Pastor Nathan Stockland on 2 February 2008 attended Balham Pathfinder and Adventurer club’s induction programme and presented Master Guide Myrtle Stirling (affectionately known as Auntie Myrtle) with a pin which marked her fortieth year of service in the Pathfinder programme. It was opportuni-ty for her friends and church family to acknowledge her outstanding achievements and commitment to children’s ministries.

While preparing for the International Camporee 2009 ‘Courage to Stand’ event to be held at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA, our club secretary Kaye Ohode-Glover came across some documentation which would give an opportunity for any staff member attending this event to earn a certificate of recognition. So some detective work had to be completed, and the club director managed to complete this form and send the required details off to the Pathfinder historian who was in charge of issuing the Adult Staff Recognition Certificates. With one amendment to the originally submitted form, Auntie Myrtle would be receiving a certificate that stated that she had completed forty-one years’ service for the Pathfinder programme.

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Don’t miss the Fun Run!
by Terry Messenger

We’ve had a very cold winter but the good news is that those daffodils will soon make an appearance and warmer winds will soon blow our way. Of course, this is also the time when those red and green canisters make their annual appearance on our streets with many of you carrying them! Yes, the annual Ingathering Appeal is about to get underway.

I was privileged in October of last year to visit Burkina Faso with Bert Smith, the ADRA UK director. It was marvellous to see firsthand what the ADRA funds had done to help the people of this poor country. Many wells had been constructed in many of the villages so that the people had easy access to drinking water instead of having to travel many miles in some cases to fetch water back to the village. Dams had been built to provide irrigation to the parched land. As we visited village after village the people came out to greet us.

The annual Fun Run is a great way to raise funds. It will take place at Crystal Palace Park on 18 April. We are trying to expand the Fun Run to as many people as possible, and so whether you are young or old, fit or unfit, you can take part. We are proposing the following:

- Golden mile (for youngsters and the slightly older folk)
- 3 miles (two laps) for the walkers
- 6 miles (four laps) for the faster ones
- 9 miles (six laps) for the sporty types
- 12 miles (eight laps) for the really keen

If you wish to take part please obtain a sponsorship form which has been sent to the churches or download it from the SEC website. There’s no need to register – just turn up on the day!

Let’s do our bit this year to relieve some of the suffering in the world.

See cover story

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On Sabbath 21 November, Balham’s Children Day, it was arranged that Auntie Myrtle, upon return from a well-deserved break, would receive the certificate. The speech was given by the club director, Joanne Passley, and the presentation was made by Balham’s senior pastor, Keith Beldau.
Sisters Kira and Tia baptised in Bristol

December 26 was a very special Sabbath day for two sisters who decided to dedicate their lives to the Lord publicly in baptism at Bristol Central church. The church was packed full with warm, loving friends and family who were thrilled to be a part of Kira (16) and Tia (13) Samuels’s special day. The service was conducted by Pastor Valentine Roach who had been a pastor of the Bristol District churches for a few months, and it was a lovely way to end his time in Bristol. Elders representing the Bristol Central, North and South Bristol churches were present.

As both Kira and Tia entered the pool to be baptised, special Bible verses were read by family members. Tia’s favourite Bible passage, Psalm 88, was read by her grandmother who said that she was a very proud grandmother that afternoon. One of Kira’s favourite Bible verses, Psalm 91:2 and 2, was read by stepdad Lloyd Young. He cited one of the reasons that Kira had made this decision – she was especially influenced by the sermons from Michael Campbell who had been one of the guest speakers at Bristol Central’s youth campaign, which had taken place over two weekends in August.

David Balderstone (1942-2010) d. 16 January

On 16 January 2010, David John Balderstone lost his long battle with cancer. Twelve days later, Stourbridge church was filled to overflowing not only with church members but with those with whom David had worked in the local community and much further afield. They witnessed David being carried in and out of the church he loved on the shoulders of close relatives and friends. They heard, too, of the difference a layman, dedicated to God, can make in the world.

David, born in Slough in 1942, spent most of his life in Watford to the area to which the family moved in order that he and his sister could attend Stourbridge Primary and Secondary schools. Living on a farm made David appreciate the outdoor life. A summer job on Stourbridge Park helped him to find his vocation as a landscape designer. Andrew Prousley, David had found one of his vocations. At 17, with a bike and some shillings and (unmake of the twelve and a half pence) in his pocket, he found his vocation as a gardener. From those small beginnings he slowly built up a landscape gardening business that employed many young people and students to whom he gave more than wages: a start in life, and an appreciation of the value of hard work and self-discipline. Many have written to say how this had helped them in their own careers since.

As the gardening business, Garston Gardens, established itself, David began to diversify into building works and eventually into improving and building care homes for the mentally ill. He was, then, an entrepreneur with a heart.

The whole campaign culminated with the baptisms and with a Sentplexed and inspiring concert by Kimberly Palmer-Washington from America. It was a challenge to do it (inside the church building instead of outdoors) and to make it attractive and welcoming for people to come, ‘said Pastor Thomas, ‘and it was a great success.’ He also expressed the need for evangelism.

Willesden Gospel Extra

An intensive two-week ‘Gospel Extra 2009’ campaign and a week-long Family Life Seminar series in Stourbridge church, from 18 July to 1 August and 8 August to 15 August respectively, resulted in two baptisms with a total of twenty-five people accepting God into their lives.

The question, ‘Why is this world in such a mess?’ was featured regularly as part of a radio advert on Bang radio 103.6 FM in an attempt to invite the local community to the programmes. Leaflets were also distributed to the community with a day-to-day list of a variety of topics to be covered, including ‘Why have our streets become unsafe?’ ‘Doggies, ghosts, obso; jambos – are these things for real?’ and ‘Why do some romantic relationships fail?’

It has been estimated that just over a hundred people from the community attended the seminars, a far aum coming from non-Mront-in-Adventist, and indeed non-Christian, backgrounds.

Pastor Rick Thomas, the pastor of Willesden church, was the evangelist for the ‘Gospel Extra’ series, while Pastor Alphod Sinclair was the speaker for the Family Life Seminars. Both were engaging, inter-active, insightful and passionately shared God’s message in an infectious way.

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Horley Gatwick baptism

About 500 metres from Gatwick’s runway ‘three first class passengers’ prepared for baptism at the Horley Gatwick church on 5 December. Pastor A. Opoku-Mensah administered the ceremonies, and student placement minister Sam Gungah took the candidates through their baptismal vows. Sister Arnold was followed into the baptism by Julie and Nancy, a husband and wife who had married the day before.

Earlier in the year Roy Crip, who had taken studies with both the pastor and our elder Linda Muganza, was baptised at camp meeting. On 5 May Lindsey Mokulu and Jonathan Turay were baptised, together with Susan Huliken of Guildford.

The Horley Gatwick church is situated near Gatwick airport off the A23.
Don’t let the vision die!

Ellen G. White, Life Sketches, page 125.

...If will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown the thousands (greater enterprises).”

Don’t let the vision die! If we are to survive 2010 they will need the return of the vision. If LIFE.info and FOCUS are to survive 2010 they will need the support of both you and your congregation. The way to support them is to take out standing orders committing yourself to a quantity of each issue.

FOCUS is a no-holds-barred Adventist message magazine in which the Gospel of salvation and Christ’s return are shared. The way to support them is to take out standing orders committing yourself to a quantity of each issue.

LIFE.info is a first approach or entering wedge magazine aimed at the secular public. The last decade has been the most difficult for Adventist magazines. Around the world many have gone to the wall, including the ones in North America. In Britain two survive.

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The way to support them is to take out standing orders committing yourself to a quantity of each issue.

FOCUS is intended to be given away or sold by the hundreds (small churches) and by the thousands (larger churches)."’

Don McFarlane, president, British Union Conference.

‘...It will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.”’

Ellen G. White, Life Sketches, page 125.

Don’t let the vision die!

Order from your PM secretary or on the ABC sales hotline 01476 599900 (Monday-Thursday 8am-5:30pm).

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