What’s blinding us?

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president

Some time ago we had a neighbour on our street who, for reasons unknown to us, would not smile or acknowledge me or my wife Jennifer whenever we passed him on the street. His spouse was a cheery soul who would exchange pleasantries with us as she walked their dog, but the same could not be said of him. On the numerous occasions we walked past him, it was as though we were invisible. He had a stare that seemed to look right through us.

For over a decade Jennifer and I tried to get him to notice us, but to no avail. Our ‘good morning’ greetings and the like only fell on deaf ears – he never saw or heard us – with one exception: during a street party when he had consumed a few pints of beer!

Maybe our neighbour was extremely shy and reserved, but his apparent ‘blindness’ is a common trait and somewhat disturbing. In fact, I have been guilty of it too! Jesus actually spoke of this blindness in a parable that Luke recorded: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.’ (Luke 10:30-32, NIV 1984.)

Here is a classic case of what I call ‘selective blindness’. Although the priest and the Levite had good eyesight, they chose to be ‘blind’ to the needs of a man who had been violently robbed.

They definitely saw the beaten and bloodied traveller, but maybe they were blinded by the business in their diaries and their need to meet these important appointments for which they could not afford to be late. Maybe they were blinded by their own judgement, which had concluded that ‘the traveller had it coming!’ Maybe they were blinded by their own fears: ‘What if the robbers are still lying in wait or if it is a trap?’ Maybe they couldn’t have cared less – as long as they were on their way to Heaven, their self-centred and self-absorbed religious experience was all that mattered.

Do any of these reasons make us blind to those who are in need around us? We might be blinded by apathy, so as not to care for the lost and hurting in this world, or willing to make the effort that is required to help them. Care costs time, effort, energy and sometimes money. It is so much easier to just go to church each week and give God our praises, while ignoring those who are wounded, broken and bleeding at the side of the road. Maybe we are blind to the suffering of others because we do not have the heart and eyes of Christ, whose concern even reaches to the falling sparrow (Luke 12:6).

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the ADRA annual collection in the UK. Through our efforts we have an opportunity to show that we are not blind to the suffering and needs of those at the side of the road. I want to challenge us to open our eyes, and make this anniversary year the best ever for ADRA collections in the UK.

We cannot turn a blind eye and ignore the world we live in.

- 870 million people do not have enough to eat. That means 1 in 8 people go to sleep hungry every night.
- 3,000 children die each day from preventable diarrhoeal diseases. Of these deaths 88% are due to poor drinking water, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene.
- 26% of adults around the globe cannot read or write. In some countries the figure is as high as 70%.

They cannot turn a blind eye and ignore the world we live in.
1913 hundreds of British Seventh-day Adventists took to the streets to collect for World-Wide Advent Missions for the first time. They took magazines such as The Watchman, which produced a special ‘Harvest Ingathering’ edition, and offered them to people in return for a donation. Harvest Ingathering was started by Jasper Wayne in Iowa, USA. It is mistakenly received a double order of some denominational literature, and started distributing it in return for funds for missions. The response was favourable, so he shared his idea with the president of the Nebraska Conference. In 1908 the General Conference recommended that all churches adopt the programme called Harvest Ingathering. The money raised went mainly to global mission work: sending missionaries to places unreached by Christianity, building churches, schools, hospitals and orphanages, as well as community programmes within the donor countries. In 100 years of Ingathering, millions of pounds have been raised towards the expanding evangelistic and humanitarian work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

**Ingathering: the early years**

During the early years of Harvest Ingathering just a few hundred pounds were raised, but within ten years this increased rapidly, and annual targets of around £2,000 were set for the British Union Conference.

1924 Harvest Ingathering Appeal

‘If we have more money, we have missionaries we could send out who would do fruitful work. Large sections of Africa have never even heard of Christ. We must send them this Gospel message. The same is true of other parts of this Division. We are greatly in need of more mission funds for the last months of 1924. We thank our brethren for what they have done and we hope that their gifts may increase yet more.’ The Missionary Worker, 1924.

Collecting for missions was not unusual. Other missionary societies had been doing so for many years, so people were not unfamiliar with the request to support foreign missions.

1932 – an Ingathering account

‘Students from Newbold unknowingly worked some territory in London that had already been worked by one of our churches, [members of which] had called it “bad” territory. Yet one student gathered well over £4 per day for several days there! His card showed provisional donations from a Mother Superior, and from a Christian Scientist, and a hospital matron collected £14-from her staff! It was a “finishing” and is any courage ever unrewarded?’ The Missionary Worker, 1931. (In 1931, an individual target of £2 was set.)

1933 – an Ingathering account

‘We decide to work the shops in Barnsley. I enter a gentleman’s outfitters and approach the gentleman in a “half-crown” way to the best effect of my ability. He replies, “Sorry, I can’t afford a penny, things are pretty bad here.” I keep on smiling, and at last he says, “Of course you don’t believe me, and doubtless you think I am not interested in religious things, but I am very interested in the book of Revelation.” Last Thursday, I went over to Manchester and searched the second-hand bookshops for something to help me understand that wonderful book. Do you know,’ he said, “I get up at five o’clock in the morning before the children awake and study that book.” What do you think happened? Why, of course, I sold him a copy of Daniel and the Revelation, and also got a shilling for Ingathering. A few minutes before that he had stated he couldn’t afford a penny.’ E. E. Craven, The Missionary Worker, 1933.

Harvest Ingathering used to go on for five or six months at a time, but in 1942 they started reducing the time for Ingathering reporting, ‘having only seven weeks to do the work.’

1944 – Ingathering during the war

‘At the present time we estimate that about 2,000 of our members are within the “flying bomb area” and many of them have suffered severe damage to their homes. However, in spite of the upsetting influence of these wartime conditions, our work has been pressed forward with faith and vigour. It is fully expected that 1944 will close with a record income for home and overseas work. British Advent Messenger, 1944.

In 1961, £278 church members raised over £76,000 for missions.

1986 – Ingathering is rewarding

‘Ingathering can be fun, interesting, and very rewarding. What has changed my attitude from that of my previous dread of meeting the people? Just that people have been so willing.

‘Instead of thinking only of the needy people we are helping, I became interested in the givers, and found a diversity of interest in each of them at the knock of the door.

‘In a short period I met the following: a dear old lady of 86 with a wealth of wisdom and sweetness who couldn’t open her purse because of arthritis joints; needless to say I found her an easier purse, an old one, but received with such gratitude! She is now on my visiting list.

‘Next, two little girls playing by themselves at dress-up. I suggested they could be King and Queen dispensing gifts to poor subjects who needed help. They responded with pennies from their money box and played even “happier” after.

‘A commercial traveller had never given to charity and never would: “So much money goes on administration.” We talked and I showed him my auditor’s account. He was impressed and gave. I laughingly told him I had indeed won a victory: “But only on your balance sheet,” he said.

‘And so on, every knock an adventure and still two more weeks of fun and work. With the love of God and our neighbours’ hearts, surely we receive great blessings.’ Public Relations secretary, Wood Green Church.

In 1963, the fiftieth anniversary of Ingathering, over £90,000 was collected.

By 1980, a cumulative total of over £289 million had been collected globally.

In 2002, after decades of collecting for the church World-Wide Advent Missions (WWAM), the members of the British Union Conference started collecting for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency – ADRA-UK. This was essentially an organisational change, as much of the money raised for WWAM in the previous years was delivering projects through ADRA. Missions, 2002.

In recent years members and churches have become more creative in their fundraising, and wonderful events such as fun runs, golf days and sponsored bike rides take place each year. However, for the past six years funds have hovered around the £600,000 mark. While it sounds like a lot, it works out at around £20 per member, and due to inflation the actual value of this money has decreased. Imagine if every member raised £50 this year! We have a wonderful history of fundraising behind us, let’s ensure it continues, either through door-to-door collecting or through other fundraising activities. Whatever it is you do, please don’t ‘do nothing’. The money you raise makes a difference.

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I just love to collect by Brother Smiley

I have been Ingathering since 1961 and have only missed one year – due to poor health. Here are a few of my experiences.

‘Once someone gave me a bucket with money in it. It was £341! Another man told he had no money and pulled out his pocket book to show me, but then he dropped on the floor. He just picked it up and put it in the tin. Sometimes I told people that my tin did not take copper. In the 1950s a man in a pub put his wedge and said “I’ve got some money”, I took £7.50.

‘I was the Ingathering champion four times, with the highest collection being £475. I just love to collect. The money is in there, you just need to go and collect it. To all who have the time to collect – please do it now! God bless you in your Ingathering efforts this year.

2003: Teamwork brings success to Handsworth by Winston Brown

‘The Personal Ministries team challenged the church to increase the monies raised for the ADRA-UK Appeal and their level of participation. The Sabbath School set aside ten minutes each Sabbath, prior to the start of the ADRA-UK Appeal, in order to promote it. A letter of commitment to the ADRA-UK Appeal was given to all members, and they were invited to indicate their commitment by signing a tear-off slip. The Personal Ministries leader, Winston Brown, made a commitment to sing a solo if the church reached its goal of just over £7,000. He couldn’t sing.

‘Handsworth Church collected just over £10,000! An award ceremony was held to thank the church. Sister J. Gibbs collected over £1,000; Brother A. Matts collected over £700; and Brother R. Spence collected over £600. As promised, the writer sang a solo, accompanied by a live band, and received a hearty amen. All this was possible because the members and the departments worked as a team and stepped out in faith.’
The gift of education

In remote villages in south-east Myanmar Burma many children eagerly wait to start school for the first time: something that will change their lives forever.

Over the last sixty years, war has blighted the lives of the Karen people, an ethnic minority in eastern Burma, resulting in thousands of deaths; 500,000 internally displaced people, and 1 million fleeing the country to refugee camps. More than 3,000 villages were burnt down and many services, including health and education, were disrupted. Teachers and schools were frequently targeted, and the provision of education became nearly impossible in a country where overall school attendance was already low.

Recent political changes in Burma have ended the conflict and provided a promise of hope for lasting peace to the Karen. They are now rebuilding their lives, their villages and their schools. However, with very few teachers able to provide a quality education, and families too poor to send their children to school, there are still obstacles to overcome.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been present in this region of Burma for over 100 years, providing access to education in this remote and troubled area. Currently, the South-East Mission is operating twenty-seven schools and supporting dozens of community-based schools in areas where there are no government education services.

Having seen the commitment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the provision of quality education, community leaders recently approached the Mission, requesting that they provide teachers for more community schools across the region. As a result, the South-East Mission has partnered with ADRA to provide education for another 2,000 children. The money you raise will be used to supplement teachers’ pay, and train them to teach practical skills such as home gardening and basic health care. Because of this, the impact of the project extends beyond the children to their families, and beyond education to lifestyle changes, as they put into practice what they have learned.

Each child will also be given school supplies, and be used to supplement teachers’ pay, and train them to teach practical skills such as home gardening and basic health care. Because of this, the impact of the project extends beyond the children to their families, and beyond education to lifestyle changes, as they put into practice what they have learned.  

Saw Myint Thein

Saw Myint Thein is 8 years old. He lives in the small village of Laypota in the Kayin state in Burma. His mother died when he was 5 months old, and he lives with his father and four brothers and sisters. His father’s health is poor, and it is difficult for him to provide food and clothing for his family — and sending his children to school had been impossible. Now, because of the project run by ADRA and the South-East Mission, Saw Myint Thein can attend school and have a brighter future. He goes to school every day with the schoolbag, textbooks, notebooks and pencils he received. His teachers describe him as a clever, honest and obedient boy. Saw Myint Thein is also a Seventh-day Adventist, and every Sabbath he goes to Sabbath School.

How education changes lives:
• A more educated person often has a better job, and has a higher standard of living.
• At school, children learn life skills that can help them prevent diseases.
• Educated girls are less likely to marry young and have fewer children, who in turn will be more likely to survive and be better nourished and educated.
• School offers children a safe environment, with support, supervision and companionship.
• Schools also provide latrines and clean water, which many do not have access to at home.
• Statistically, each year of schooling increases a person’s earnings by 10%.
• Skilled workers enable a country to develop and become wealthier, which benefits everyone.


Did you know?
The work of the South-East Mission has not only resulted in practical help to the Karen people, but has also given them faith. It provided the opportunity for the Gospel to be preached, and thousands of people have found Christ. Seventh-day Adventist Christianity is now the main religion among the Karen people in south-east Burma.

Project Quench Thirst

What difference does a borehole make?
• Providing clean water to drink will reduce the number of people getting sick and dying, particularly among children.
• Providing clean water contributes to the fight against poverty and hunger by enabling people to grow crops and feed animals — so they can feed their families and sell their produce to provide an income.
• Providing clean water contributes to the fight against gender inequality by reducing the time women and girls spend collecting water, enabling girls to return to school and giving women time to invest in education, small businesses and community initiatives.

Iwaoa Ilibudo’s story

This is Iwaoa Ilibudo. She used to have to walk about 4 miles to get water, and even then the water was not safe for drinking. She could only collect the amount of water she could carry the 4 miles home.

When she got home, she’d ask herself, ‘How can I use this little water in the best way? Should I use it to water the garden so I can grow food? Should I use it to wash the children’s school uniforms? Should I use it to cook, or to drink? She always had to choose, as there was never enough to do all these things. A few years ago, people donated money to ADRA and they constructed a borehole in Iwaoa’s village. Now she is only a few steps away from clean water, and what a difference it makes! She can now collect as much water as she needs, and it is safe for drinking. She doesn’t have to choose between washing clothes, bathing, cooking and watering the garden. She can do it all! Her family is healthier and even the animals are thriving.

She is so grateful for the money donated to ADRA and the change it has brought to her life.
empowering communities, changing lives

About ADRA

ADRA is an independent agency set up by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the specific purpose of providing humanitarian aid to people in need. It works to demonstrate the love and example of Christ by partnering with and serving those in need without strings attached. The ADRA network is made up of independent country offices; for example, ADRA-UK is a different organisation to ADRA Germany or ADRA Burkiná Faso. They are distinctively separate organisations with their own governing bodies, but they work together, sharing the same mission. Each ADRA office works with partners both inside and outside the ADRA network to fund, manage and implement sustainable projects aimed at addressing social injustice and deprivation in order to improve the quality of life of those in need. Projects can be as simple as providing access to water, or as complex as working with government departments to establish national policy frameworks.

Because of its long-term presence in many countries, ADRA is often one of the first humanitarian agencies to be able to respond when a disaster occurs. Its offices around the world can pool their resources to respond to disasters quickly – while the outstanding generosity of Seventh-day Adventists means that funds can be raised quickly. Even though it may seem that ADRA is barely known to the UK public, it is actually a well-known and respected agency in the humanitarian sector.

It is only when you understand the immense poverty in the world that you can fully comprehend the life-changing work that ADRA does. When you understand that 3,000 children die from water-related diseases every day, you realise that every water project is saving lives. Only when you learn that 77 million children are out of school can you appreciate how ADRA’s education work of the Church.

ADRA changes lives by:
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Supporting families
- Providing food and water
- Establishing livelihoods
- Promoting health
- Educating and training
- Responding to emergencies.

A brief history of ADRA

1956
The Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service (SAWS) is established to provide welfare and humanitarian relief.

1958
SAWS is active in twenty-two countries, providing $100,000 worth of aid.

1962
SAWS provides $2.3 million of relief to twenty-nine countries.

1969
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is created to more accurately represent the humanitarian work of the Church.

1994
During the Rwandan genocide, ADRA is the only non-governmental organization to stay in the country. It feeds 400,000 people and its medical staff treat 1,000 patients a day.

1997
ADRA receives General Consultative Status at the United Nations.

2001
ADRA is one of fourteen agencies selected to be part of the Global Food Education Programme.

2004
Following the Asian tsunami, ADRA launches its largest emergency response ever, helping thousands of survivors in four countries.

2005
ADRA responds to more than fifty emergencies and benefits at least 28 million people.

2012
ADRA impacts 31.5 million people worldwide.

2013
ADRA operates in more than 120 countries, with more than 5,000 staff employed globally.

2013
Follow the Asian tsunami, ADRA launches its largest emergency response ever, helping thousands of survivors in four countries.

2014
ADRA Islamic and humanitarian aid programmes and working with the government to develop a national framework for IHL.

2015

2016
Mongolia: Ensuring access to education and health for children with cognitive disabilities.

2017
Bangladesh: Reducing poverty of rural families through investment in small-scale food processing industries and job creation.

2018
Thailand: Helping Burmese refugees and migrant women in Thailand to receive fair wages, access health services and enroll their children in schools.

2019
Burkina Faso: Counteracting desertification by improving water and soil conservation measures, soil fertility and reforestation.

2020
Nigeria: Developing functional adult literacy (FAL) programmes and working with the government to develop a national framework for FAL.

2021
Because of your support for ADRA-UK:
- 20,500 children with disabilities will live with dignity and rights.
- 4,000 former child soldiers and conflict-affected children can start new lives.
- 40,000 people in Burkina Faso can continue to live in a previously ecologically threatened area.
- 6,000 women are learning to read and acquiring new skills while doing so.
- 5,000 migrant women are no longer being exploited, and
- 180 children and adults with disabilities and their carers receive support and training.

2022
Because of your support in 2012 ADRA-UK was also able to respond to disasters and emergencies in Fiji, Montenegro, Niger, Rwanda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Haiti and the Philippines.

2023
Mongolia: Ensuring access to education and health for children with cognitive disabilities.

2024
Bangladesh: Reducing poverty of rural families through investment in small-scale food processing industries and job creation.

2025
Thailand: Helping Burmese refugees and migrant women in Thailand to receive fair wages, access health services and enroll their children in schools.

2026
Burkina Faso: Counteracting desertification by improving water and soil conservation measures, soil fertility and reforestation.

2027
Nigeria: Developing functional adult literacy (FAL) programmes and working with the government to develop a national framework for FAL.

2028
Because of your support for ADRA-UK:
- 20,500 children with disabilities will live with dignity and rights.
- 4,000 former child soldiers and conflict-affected children can start new lives.
- 40,000 people in Burkina Faso can continue to live in a previously ecologically threatened area.
- 6,000 women are learning to read and acquiring new skills while doing so.
- 5,000 migrant women are no longer being exploited, and
- 180 children and adults with disabilities and their carers receive support and training.

2029
Because of your support in 2012 ADRA-UK was also able to respond to disasters and emergencies in Fiji, Montenegro, Niger, Rwanda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Haiti and the Philippines.
Door to door
ADRA Appeal 2013:
What will you do?

‘Make it a record year’

This year we are celebrating 100 years of ingathering in the British Union. Since 1913 Seventh-day Adventists have collected from door to door, initially for the Worldwide Advent Mission and now for the work of ADRA-UK. Over the years the funds collected have been used to help provide medical services, education, emergency response and poverty alleviation.

Resources
There are lots of resources available to help with your fundraising activities, such as sponsorship forms, award templates and ADRA Appeal artwork. Please be sure to check them out at www.adra.org.uk.

Not going door-to-door?
We know that collecting money door-to-door doesn’t suit everyone, but that doesn’t mean that you can’t raise money for ADRA-UK. There are hundreds of ways you can raise money, and furthermore, you can do it all year round. That’s right – it is only the door-to-door collections that have limited dates; other fundraising activities can be carried out any time. So mobilise your church, your school, your work colleagues and your family, and start raising money now!

You can download the Fundraising Power Kit from www.adra.org.uk. There are more than a hundred fun ideas for you to try that are suitable for children, youth and adults, as well as a few tips for organising a fundraiser. Fundraising is a fun and rewarding activity. Not only does it help ADRA-UK and those we are seeking to help, but it helps you expand your skills and gives other people the opportunity to get involved with a good cause.

See some ideas selected from the Fundraising Kit on page 8.

ADRA-UK can provide leaflets, branded products and a bit of motivation, so please let us know what you are planning by emailing: info@adra.org.uk.

Fashion with a conscience
Dana Balan was born in Romania, and from a young age aspired to be a fashion designer. Having studied for an undergraduate degree in Fashion Studies she is now undertaking an MA in Fashion at the London College of Fashion. Alongside her dream of being a designer is her desire to help people. She says of herself, ‘I’m not a nurse or a doctor, I’m a fashion designer – and I want to help people, this is my biggest passion.’ Now 24 years old, she has managed to combine the two and has taken the brave and exciting step to create her own fashion label and business with a conscience – Cup of Daisies.

Cup of Daisies helps with the cost of primary education for women in Rwanda. Dana chose five charities to support through Cup of Daisies, and created a bespoke design for each. A portion of her sales of the handmade silk scarves, hand-dyed using silk from Malaysia, will go to ADRA-UK, specifically to provide education for women in Rwanda.

Did you know?
Companies can get tax relief on gifts of money to charities. Gifts of money made to a charity by employees should be paid gross – before tax is deducted. These donations are deductible from the total profits of your business when calculating corporation tax.

Volunteering for ADRA:
watch this space

At ADRA-UK we are planning to set up volunteering opportunities with our current and future ADRA network partners. We see volunteering as a way to connect church members with the work that ADRA does and give people the opportunity to get involved in a practical way.

We also plan to partner with a small catalogue of short-term projects that church groups, youth groups and schools can work on. Groups will choose a project to support and raise funds for, before travelling there to implement it. We receive many enquiries from people asking how they can get involved with ADRA, and we believe that this volunteering scheme will not only provide essential help to the recipients of the projects, but also give some you amazing hands-on experience in making a practical difference to people through projects in the UK and overseas.

To do this right we need your help: we want to raise £1 million this year through the Annual Appeal. If we hit that target, ADRA-UK could use a small portion of it to start a volunteer programme that involves you carrying out the ADRA mission to ‘empower the poor around the world with the resources, skills and opportunities to live a better life with dignity and hope’.

Door-to-door collection
Get ready – it’s that time again! For a few weeks of the year we have the privilege of being able to collect money door-to-door across the UK. Just think about it – every front door in the UK is ours to knock on – and it is something we have been doing successfully for the past 100 years. Not only are we asking people to donate; this year we are giving them the opportunity to enrol in courses with the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC). Yes, this year, the ADRA-UK leaflets are a bit different. On one side is all the information about ADRA-UK and where donations are going, and on the other side is information about a free health course from the ADC. Once connected with the ADC, people will have access to other lifestyle courses and Bible studies, and the possibility of getting to know Christ. What a difference we can make, both to the thousands of people that will benefit from the money raised, and also to the thousands who receive a leaflet and make a positive change in their lives.

We are registered to collect money door-to-door from 30 March to 14 April around the UK and 30 March to 21 April in London. To make the most of this time, you can let your local area know to expect you. Download the press release from the ADRA-UK website and send it to your local newspaper. You can also put up a sign outside your church to let people know that door-to-door collections will be taking place. Go on, get involved this year – and keep the 100-year-old legacy alive!

• Crafty Donations: Use your talents to knit/crochet/cross-stitch/sew/quilt items and sell them, with proceeds going to ADRA-UK.
• Dress-down Day: Donate a specified amount for the privilege of dressing in casual clothes at work or school for a day.
• Virtual Fun: Host a networked computer games night and play games against your friends. Charge a fee to participate.
• Karaoke Night: Charge admission to listen to amateur musicians singing.
• Auction: Obtain donated goods from local businesses and auction them off.
• Hunger Banquet: As guests enter, they randomly draw a ticket assigning them to a high, middle or low-income group and are served a corresponding meal. Charge admission.
• Treasure/Scavenger Hunt: Create a trail and charge an entry fee.
• Poverty Simulation: Make a weekend of it – could you live in poverty for three days?
• How to get started
• Download the Fundraising Power Kit.
• Choose a fundraising idea.
• Pull a bit of effort in!

Download the pack from www.adra.org.uk

The first fundraisers of the year

January 27 was a bitterly cold day despite the sun. The river was freezing, and so swollen with rain and snowfall that it had broken its banks. If anyone needed an excuse not to go ahead with a 25-mile paddle down the river, there were plenty!

Victor Hubert, John Surridge, Jon Meredith and Tim Hubert had decided to do something that they love, kayaking, to raise money for ADRA-UK’s Burgess-Foss water project.

They had surpassed their target of £1,000, and all they had to do was to secure their total of £1,751.25 was to kayak from Ross-on-Wye to Monmouth – 25 miles along an ice-cold, fast-flowing river.

Not to be beaten by the wintry conditions, the adventurers started out. A short distance into the journey, however, the dangers of the river became apparent. One of the four hit an obstacle which capsized his kayak, throwing him into the freezing water. He was carried about 50 yards downstream before one of the support team could help him out of the water to safety. He was OK, though very cold, and needed a good few hours to get warm. The other three kayakers continued on and safely made it to Monmouth, worn out but happy, after five hours of paddling.

Though it was exhausting, they said, it was worth it – and they were pleased that their efforts raised so much towards providing safe water for villages in Burkina Faso.

Find out more and donate at: www.justgiving.com/100-years.

'PASTOR IAN SWEENEY'}
Instructio ns to yo ur b ank o r b uild ing so ciety:

Please pay ADRA-UK from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with ADRA-UK and, if so, details will be passed electronically to your bank/building society.

To: The Manager

Branch code

Bank / building society account no.

Reference no. (if applicable)

Name(s) of account holder(s)

ADRA-UK Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8JZ, England
Tel: +44 01923 881743 Fax: +44 01923 881744 Email: info@adra.org.uk www.adra.org.uk

Money Matters

10% of donated money is used on overheads. (This is amongst the lowest in the sector)


donations in 2012 helped fund projects valued at £4.5 million


donations in 2012 helped fund projects valued at £4.5 million

ADRA-UK ranks in the top 10 UK charities for donations in 2012


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£10)


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John Arthur, a retired regional director of ADRA, shares his experiences from the captivating and often dangerous world of humanitarian aid work. A must-read for anyone who wants to know first-hand what it is like being on the front line helping people, and how aid is making a difference.

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Giving to ADRA-UK is easy

ADRA-UK would be unable to help people without your support – both your donations and those you collect – so we’ve made it really easy to give. Please make ADRA-UK your charity and support it through a one-off or regular donation.

Text Message – Give to ADRA by texting ‘ADRA07 £5’ to 70070.

Online – Go to www.adra.org.uk and click ‘Donate’. You will be able to donate electronically.

Cash – Please do not send cash in the post. If you would like to donate using cash you can do so through your church’s tithe envelope. Tick ADRA-UK as the recipient of the gift.

QR code – Use your smartphone QR reader to scan the above QR code, which will take you directly to the place where you can donate.

eBay – When you sell on eBay you can choose to donate all or a portion of your earnings to a charity. ADRA-UK is on the list of charities you can donate to.

Legacies – Leave money to ADRA-UK in your will. Charitable bequests are free of inheritance tax (IHT). That means IHT can be avoided by leaving the proportion of your estate above the inheritance tax threshold to charity.

JustGiving – Donate directly to ADRA-UK through JustGiving (www.justgiving.com), or set up your own fundraising page and select ADRA-UK as the recipient.

Cheque – Send a cheque payable to ADRA-UK by post. Please complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer and would like ADRA-UK to receive money back from the Government. Please include your name and address so we can send you a receipt.

Direct Debit – Complete the direct debit form and send it to ADRA-UK.

Again . . .

by Bert Smith, CEO – ADRA-UK

I know, I know . . . it’s that ‘time of the year’ again . . . Ingathering. I don’t think that there are very many of us in the churches that really look forward to Ingathering. We all want to help people in need, but it is such a bother to go from door to door. However, this method of collecting money has always been a very important way of raising funds for ADRA, and it still works. Just a couple of hours of collecting will start filling the tin. I guess these days it is more about having the courage to go out. But what better opportunity is there to meet people on their doorstep than collecting for people in need?

Without the financial support through Ingathering/the ADRA Appeal, we would not be able to do the work we do. The pounds we raise through the Appeal are often matched by government grants of up to nine times what we collect. Your help in the past has been very important, but is even more so today!

This year it is not just about asking for money. By giving the leaflet, we are inviting people to take the Adventist Discovery Centre’s health course, which could lead to positive changes to their own lives.

We know going from door to door is not everyone’s ‘cup of herbal tea’. The Gift Aid envelope has become a very popular device to raise funds for ADRA’s work from colleagues, friends and family. You may also want to emphasise the home tins and other fundraising activities. Can I ask you to consider completing and returning the Direct Debit form in this Messenger, which will allow you to plan to give to ADRA-UK on a regular basis?

Through our combined efforts we would like to raise £1 million this year. If we do, we could continue to help people in need and use a portion to start a volunteer programme. Through our volunteer programme you could experience community development work in action, and see for yourself how lives are being transformed as you travel to ADRA projects and work with the families and communities who are struggling with poverty.

With your help ADRA-UK has been empowering impoverished children, adults, and communities for more than twenty-five years. We and our beneficiaries are grateful for your ongoing support. When you go out to collect, you will do so with 100 years of experience (as a Church) behind you. Nothing new. Nothing changed. Simply asking people to help us to help.

The funds collected for the 2013 Appeal will support a range of projects in Africa, Asia and the UK, as well as helping people affected by disasters.

The Messenger