

Building up and reaching out!

by Richard DeLisser, SEC Communication director

Building up and reaching out was the theme that brought together approximately 700 church leaders from around the territory of the South England Conference (SEC). On Sabbath 12 January the SEC administration and directors converged on the Plymouth church, moving the next day to Newbold College and the following Sunday, 20 January, to the Stanborough Park church to inspire and encourage church leaders from across Southern England. The morning's devotional was delivered by Pastor Paul Lockham, SEC executive secretary. He emphasised the need to build people up; he told the congregation that his father, being a builder, would take him to work with him and, as he watched and helped his father, he learnt how to build. 'We need to do the same with the people around us as we help prepare them for the kingdom,' he said.

South England Conference president, Pastor Sam Davis, introduced the new team and each had an opportunity to share their plans and projections for their departments for the next four years.

Using a multi-media presentation Pastor Davis passionately shared the South England Conference's strategic vision and challenged the leaders to catch the vision. He emphasised that the purpose behind the vision was 'to reflect on how we might make a difference within our neighbourhoods, communities and social networks'.

Leaders then moved into breakout groups and proceeded with a SWOT analysis exercise, reporting to the wider body what they saw as the 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats' in their particular areas. This proved to be a useful exercise and gave the Conference team much food for thought.

To close the day, Conference treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, preceded the question and answer time to share with the leaders how the Lord had blessed the SEC membership who returned more than £10 million in tithe to the Conference during 2007.

To this end the South England Conference, recognising its God-given call to mission, will encourage its members to form greater, more meaningful relationships with God and with our communities. We will celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in our Conference by seeking to win, retain, and reclaim all to the glory of God.

The final meeting in this series will be for all churches in East Anglia on Sunday 24 February at the Cambridge church.



Adventist poet awarded

MBE by Pastor Israel Williams

One member of Riverway church in Sidcup had additional reason to be thankful this New Year, as she was awarded an MBE in the New Year's honours list. Jamaican-born writer Valerie Bloom will receive the MBE at Buckingham Palace later in the year for services to poetry.

Author of several poetry books and two children's novels, Valerie's work involves anything from performing her poems to giving writing workshops to children, teachers and anyone else wanting to express their creativity through the medium of writing. In fact, under her direction Riverway members have been known to try their hand at writing their own poems of praise!

We are delighted for Valerie at this recognition of achievement in her field, and praise God for another reminder of how he leads his children to do their best for him. Visit Valerie's website at www.valbloom.info/index.htm or listen to a selection of her poems on the poetry archive: www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/SinglePoet.do?poetId=1692.





with Jonathan Barrett

The Chancellor's car

My car used to belong to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I didn't actually buy it from him, as I got it from a used car salesman. However, when I bought it, on the registration document, under 'Previous Registered Keepers', it did have 'Chancellor of the Exchequer'. Honest! Now, before you think that this must at least be a fancy Jaguar or BMW and that pastors must be getting paid too much these days, let me tell you more. This is a 1999 Rover 400 Diesel! Not exactly the

sort of car you would expect the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to be driving.

The truth is, of course, I don't suppose Gordon Brown ever actually even saw this car, let alone drove it. No doubt it just belonged to his department. That's a disappointment, isn't it? At least for me it is, as it would have been nice to be able to say that my car used to belong to the one who is now the Prime Minister.

Do you sometimes feel that life promises much but delivers little? At school you may have been full of dreams about your future career, only to find that your job is just a slog and pays little. Or you dreamt of having a great marriage, but the reality is endless conflicts. Perhaps you had assumed your health would be good, at least until old age, but ended trips to the hospital have proved otherwise.

How do you relate to disappointments? You certainly can't avoid them. When it comes to your Christian faith, have you found disappointment there? Sometimes the Bible encourages us to expect a lot; at other times it tells it exactly as it is.

Jesus was careful not to raise expectations too high, at least in respect to what life would be like as a disciple:

'... a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ' Matthew 8:19-20, NIV.

Jesus was careful to tell it like it

is. He didn't want anyone to be disappointed or to get the wrong impression about what being a Christian was all about. At times it will be tough. Somehow I think that if we bought a car that Jesus claimed to have owned, we could believe him!

Full-time secretarial vacancy at the NEC office

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 5 March

An exciting and challenging role is open for an energetic person with good secretarial skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The responsibilities will include, amongst others, routine secretarial and data entry tasks, and preparation of workshop/seminar materials. The position will require competency in the use of Microsoft Office or comparable software packages and desk-top publishing.

Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

Interested individuals are invited to send a CV and to request an application form: Paul Haworth, Executive Secretary, North England Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. Email: admin@necadventist.org.uk

The treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with sincere thanks the anonymous tithe donation of £230.

Newbold College will be launching a 'Certificate in African Diaspora History' in spring 2008

It promises to be a stimulating psychosocial, historical journey into the story of African Caribbean people living in Britain.

Although the course is for anyone with a personal and/or professional interest, it will be of particular benefit to educationalists, social and youth workers and leaders within faith-based organisations.

The course will run over a period of eight sessions (exact dates to be arranged) at a cost of £260.

For further details contact: Dr Kay Traille on 01344 407471, ktraille@newbold.ac.uk or Val Bernard on 01344 407468, vbernard@newbold.ac.uk.



The voice of freedom

David Marshall

'This is the Voice of Freedom, General MacArthur speaking. People of the Philippines: I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil. . . . The hour of your redemption is here. . . . Rally to me.'

Douglas MacArthur on landing at Leyte Island in the Philippines, 20 October 1944.

No one could accuse MacArthur of lacking a sense of history. His words were a gift to second-advent preachers.

Recently I came across a list I made about what great preachers have said about the second advent:

'The Spirit in the heart of the true believer says with earnest desire, "Come, Lord Jesus." ' John Wesley.

'We must hunger after Christ until the dawning of that great day when our Lord will fully manifest the glory of his kingdom.' John Calvin.

'I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own. I am not looking for death, I am looking for Him.' G. Campbell Morgan.

'The doctrine of the second coming has failed, so far as we are concerned, if it does not make us realise that at every moment of every year in our lives [John] Donne's question, "What if this present were the world's last night?" is equally relevant.' C. S. Lewis.

'We are not looking for something to happen, we are looking for Someone to come.' Vance Havner.

Those of you who, like MacArthur, have a sense of history will be aware that even the most recent of those quotes was from a man who has been dead for forty-five years. However, the last half century has seen an increased emphasis on the second advent in published work.

In his wonderful book *The Incomparable Christ*, John Stott describes the book of Revelation as 'above all else an unveiling of the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ . . . a disclosure of the incomparable Christ, once crucified, now resurrected and reigning, and one day returning in power and great glory' (pages 172-3). 'Christ's repeated assurances, "Behold I am coming soon", writes Stott, "indicates that, although he is coming to judge, he is also coming to complete the salvation of his people, coming as a heavenly bridegroom to claim his bride.' By 'soon', Stott believes, Jesus meant 'suddenly' (230-231).¹

Commenting on Jesus' second coming sermon of Matthew 24, Michael Green writes, 'The kingdom inaugurated at the first coming of Jesus will be consummated by his return at the end of history. . . . History is not "a tale/Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,/Signifying nothing"'. [*Macbeth*, Act V, Sc. v.] It is, in a real sense, his story. He made this world. He came to dwell in it. He will return at the end of history to wind it all up. That is the Christian hope. History is moving steadily towards that grand day. We shall not go out like a light. We shall not be blown sky high in a nuclear holocaust. We shall not destroy the Earth by our environmental vandalism. This world will not, however, go on forever. *Jesus will come again, not this time to suffer but to reign. And his coming will settle the future destiny of all people.*²

In his commentary, R. T. France³ deals with the Olivet sermon and the parables of the following chapter (that is, Matthew 24 and 25) together and brings out the tension between *Jesus' warnings against premature excitement with regard to the advent and *Jesus' emphasis that the 'chosen remnant, drawn from all corners of the earth' must constantly live in readiness for his sudden return.

Tennyson⁴ found hope in the 'one far-off divine event,/To which the whole creation moves'. William Barclay writes, 'One thing is certain — history is not going nowhere; it is going somewhere. Without an end and a climax, history is necessarily incomplete. History must have a consummation, and that consummation must be the triumph of Jesus Christ. And His promise is that in the day of His triumph He will welcome His friends.'⁵

'Set your troubled hearts at rest,' Jesus said. 'Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling-places in my Father's house . . . ; I am going to prepare a place for you. . . . I shall come again and take you to myself.'⁶ That reminds us that we must not neglect the going-home aspect of the Blessed Hope.

Jesus spoke those words to disciples whose world was about to implode. Their sun would set at midday. Their hopes would be extinguished. Jesus was telling them that the thing to do was to hold on to their trust — in God and in him.

In our darkest hours, those words speak hope to us. There *is* a purpose in life. There *is* a meaning to history. There *is* light beyond life.

'Believe in God. Believe in me,' Jesus said. Jesus is the proof that God will give everything there is to give.

'At the end of the road are the lights of home,' Jesus promises. The home is the Father's house and in it 'there are many abiding places'. Earthly homes become overcrowded. God's home does not. It is as wide as the heart of the Father.

Across the world 2.5 billion people watched the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, on television. Jeremy Paxman said that, even had the figure been as low as one billion, it would have been 'the largest number of human beings ever to witness the same event simultaneously'.⁷

'Like a lightning-flash, that lights up the earth from end to end, will the Son of Man be in his day.'⁸ 'The coming of the Lord will indeed be personal, historical and visible; but it will be "in power and great glory", as universal as the lightning, a transcendent event of which the whole human population of both hemispheres will be simultaneously aware.'⁹

When the Voice of Freedom says 'I have returned', every ear will hear it. When the Son of Man arrives it will be the media event of all time; 'every eye shall see him.'

What does God want you to do with this information?

Tell all? Yes.

Tell yourself and be ready? Yes . . . s . . . s!

In the words of C. S. Lewis, 'the doctrine of the second coming has failed as far as we are concerned', if we do not live each day as if it were the last.

Notice the words 'as far as we are concerned'. It's going to happen anyway. Whether it's 'soon', 'sudden', 'far off' is not our business. It's God's. Our business is to be ready.

The Voice of Freedom will bring freedom from suffering, death, disease, depression, famine, injustice, inequality, violence, injury, ignorance, racism, politicians of every stripe, misery and mortality.

The Voice of Freedom will introduce freedom truly to live.

Far off? Suddenly? It will not be too soon for me.

References:

- ¹Published by IVP in 2001. ²*The Message of Matthew* (IVP, 2000).
- ³R. T. France, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Matthew* (IVP, 1986), pages 333-358. *In Memoriam*, conclusion.
- ⁴Barclay, *The Gospel of John, volume 2* (Saint Andrew Press), page 181. ⁵John 14:1-3, REB.
- ⁶Jeremy Paxman, *On Royalty* (Penguin, 2006), page 14. ⁷Luke 17:24, REB. ⁸John Stott, *Authentic Christianity* (IVP, 1995), page 65.



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc, Health Ministries director, BUC

BRAIN HEALTH

Part 2

Key principles

There is no greater or more complex system than the human brain. This collection of neurons weighing approximately 4 lbs controls all of our thoughts, emotions and behaviour.

When we think about staying fit, the emphasis is generally from the neck down. However, the health of our brain plays a critical role in almost everything we do: thinking, feeling, remembering, working and playing — even sleeping. If not properly protected, the brain is potentially exposed to permanent damage from everyday activity.

You are what you eat

Two thirds of the brain is made up of fat. Foods we

eat provide building blocks to make these essential or 'good fats' called lipids, which are crucial for effective brain function. However 'bad fats' (trans-fatty acids) can adversely affect the brain, causing difficulties from reduced learning ability to motor function problems and impaired mobility.

Use it or lose it

Although the brain is fully grown by age 6, activities such as reading, learning or processing information will cause new synapses to develop. Research suggests that an unchallenged or inactive mind may actually cause the number of synapses to decline. The number of synapses is closely linked with intelligence.

Play it smart

Avoid head injuries. Activities such as cycling, equestrian sports and skating have the potential for serious accidents or damage to the brain. Wearing a helmet can prevent this. Studies on contact sports like soccer have shown decreased cognitive skills where repeated blows to the head have occurred.

Drug alert

Many drugs have a damaging effect upon neurotransmitters, the chemicals which convey signals between nerve cells, particularly in the brain. Abusing drugs can kill brain cells.

Research indicates the following facts:

- The brain benefits from good nutrition and regular exercise.
- Environmental input such as aerobic exercise changes the structure and function of the brain.
- A proactive and lifelong lifestyle for brain health encourages the development of brain reserves that may delay the onset of neurodegenerative disease.

E. G. White in the book *Mind, Character and Personality* (vol. 1, page 3) makes the following statement with regard to understanding the function of the brain. 'They should study the influence of the mind upon the body and of the body upon the mind, and the laws by which they are governed.'

Next issue explores the impact of illness and long-term health conditions and their effect on the brain.

Good health!



NEC Training days: Manchester, 20 January; Birmingham, 28 January

Words and photos by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

'Today has been a very successful day,' commented Pastor Egerton Francis at the end of an intensive six

hours of worship, training and motivation at the first of two North England Conference training days.

As Conference president, he was delighted to see over 200 leaders from across the North of England

joining together at the Manchester Central church. This was a new venue for 2008 due to increasing numbers and was the largest attendance for such an event in the northern part of the territory. Some leaders had started early, travelling 160 miles to be there.

In his devotional, Liverpool pastor, Barry Stokes, reflected on the

parable of the talents, ensuring that no church leader in the congregation would dare hide their one talent, but that together the talented people who had come to learn would make a real difference for God's kingdom.

Following a short presentation emphasising the needs of Child Protection and policies on Keeping the Church Family Safe (KCFS), workshops for a whole range of church leaders took place across the many venues of the church. There was a positive spirit and people were keen to learn. Some workshops overran their time as officers soaked up the information and resources available to them.

The story was then repeated the following Sunday with a significantly larger group meeting at the Camp Hill church, Birmingham. Pastor Patricia Douglas of the Walsall church shared a powerful message on the love of Jesus based around John 13 and the embarrassment he caused his disciples by washing their feet. The unconditional love of Jesus should motivate our mission as church leaders and members.

As the day closed people were

excited. The head deaconess at Wolverhampton Pendeford stated how beneficial the training had been for her. 'Ours is a young church and it's the first time I've held this office. What I learnt was very important.' She was just one of the seventy crowded into Pastor Fred Mapp's workshop.

Camp Hill had a good representation at the communication workshop where participants developed journalistic skills in an all day session that took them through the whole remit of the role of Communication secretary. There was much scribbling and note taking along with laughter and fun as they learnt to take quality photos, shared the points of writing a news release and looked at ways to raise the profile of the church in the community.

Church clerks, elders, treasurers and a whole range of leaders from children's ministries up are now prepared and better equipped to help lead God's church in 2008.

A selection of photos from the two training days are available on the BUC picture gallery, www.adventistpictures.org.uk.



Crieff: Fifth-generation Adventists baptised

A packed Crieff church witnessed a truly remarkable baptism on 15 December when two fifth-generation Adventists were baptised. They were Mariann Walker and her cousin, Aidan Copland. They trace this heritage through their mothers, Gail and Lisa, who are the daughters of Mike and Heather Thompson.

It was Mike's grandparents, the Chattels, on his mother's side who became Adventists at the turn of last century. Mr Chattel owned a market garden and some shops in Toddington but when he became an Adventist he sold his businesses and gave the money to help develop Stanborough Park. As a result the church built the lodge at the entrance to the Park for their home. He was given the job of caring for the grounds of the Stanborough Hydro. His grandfather on his father's side, Albert Thompson, became an Adventist in York and his son Cyril moved to the Park, where he met Ethel Chattel and married her. They later moved to North Wales to do pioneering work.

Mike and his wife Heather moved to Crieff with their three children in 1984, with Mike caring for the grounds at Roundelwood and Heather becoming a nurse.

Aidan and Mariann have received a thorough instruction in the principles of Christianity and of the church over a number of months from Pastor L. Edwards who is the local pastor as well as the Scottish Mission president. Pastor Edwards informed the congregation that although they had been through the twenty-eight Fundamentals, the really important point was making sure that all these fundamentals are centred in Christ as this leads to a relationship with Jesus and not just head knowledge. It is not being a fifth-generation Adventist that counts, but each generation accepting Christ for itself.

Members of the family took part in the service: their grandfather, Mike Thompson, read the Scripture and told the children's story, Mariann's brother, Mark, read a special passage, and Aidan's mother, Lisa-Marie, led out in the song service. The Scottish Mission Youth sponsor, Pastor M. Ghioalda, sent a message of encouragement and challenge. After the service was finished members and friends surrounded Mariann and Aidan to congratulate them on their decision to make Christ central in their lives, and to welcome them into the church.

BOB RODD

Crieff: Pathfinder Investiture

The members of the Crieff church Pathfinder club were delighted and excited to have the Scottish Mission Youth and Pathfinder sponsor, Pastor M. Ghioalda, present for their recent Investiture service. The congregation was delighted at how smart and well trained the Pathfinders were as they marched into the hall and went through their drill and flag-raising ceremony. Each of the Pathfinders had to talk about or demonstrate some aspect of their coursework, and afterwards the congregation inspected their display. One part of the programme especially appealed and that was when Jenny and Karen's news programme was shown on the screen. They had planned and produced this all by themselves and it highlighted the fun of being a Pathfinder. Pastor Bob Rodd, who was formerly the Youth director for the North British Conference, struggled into his old Pathfinder uniform to give the short talk on 'How being a Pathfinder can be so exciting', and Pastor Ghioalda challenged them to start saving if they were to attend the next Division Camporee.

BOB RODD



Wolverhampton Pathfinders: The legacy continues

In an age when most teenage boys decide to move on from Pathfinders, 16-year-old Stephen Blake scooped the Pathfinder of the Year Award.

Chosen from the fifty Pathfinders in attendance, Stephen shone out from among the very talented group of young people who make up the

Wolverhampton Pathfinder clubs. Known for his talent for playing keyboards, Stephen is also well known across the NEC for being one of the best at his drills, even out-marching his peers in the SEC!

As well as this major award on 26 January there was also the investiture of five Master Guides: Darren Taylor and his wife Sharon, Joy Green and Sarah Blake. Faye Cadogan not only received her Master Guide award but also her Pathfinder Leadership Award.

The Pathfinders led the day from praise and worship to Sabbath School which was confidently led by Kanika Green, assisted by Maureen Johnson-Kerr.

Maureen gave a brief history

of Pathfinders within the Wolverhampton district. Taking us back to the 1979 camporee, she shared fond memories of when she herself was a member of the club. She added that many of her peers have, as a result of attending Pathfinders, now gone on to become elders, AY leaders and pastors.

Our special guest, Pastor Trevor Thomas, NEC Pathfinder director, encouraged the Pathfinders to look at what God had done for them and to move forward, knowing that God can help them.

We are extremely proud of our young people and their leaders and pray that they will continue to be servants of God and friends to man until Jesus returns.

DONNA PALMER

Newport: Youth achievement

We cannot allow 2007 to pass without giving thanks to God for the dedicated work of the young people in Newport.

Under the enthusiastic and able leadership of D. Gachuba and L. Green much has been accomplished. Several events have been organised: days of fellowship, evangelism in the park, sponsorship camps and car boot sales, to name but a few.

A choir has been formed under the musical direction of S. McKenzie and the excellent standard they have achieved has brought much joy to those privileged to hear them.

Plans are afoot to hold more holiday and 'special attention' programmes for the children in the coming year. A visit abroad to build a new church and school in Kenya is also in the pipeline.

God has blessed our young people throughout the year and there are some special achievements worthy of mention. Estian Schoonraad obtained top grades in his three A levels (Business Studies, Sociology and Psychology) and has a place at the University of Bath; Chioma Chigbo received the Citizen Award for good behaviour, work and contribution to the school; and Rita Mwanza has reached grade 4 in gymnastics at the age of 10.

The programme on the last Sabbath of November was organised by the children. They also acted as deacons and deaconesses, giving the seniors a well-deserved rest. They shared Scripture they had memorised, told stories, recited poems and sang solos, duets and trios, all on the theme of the day - 'I would know more of Jesus'.

The sermon, based on Philippians 4:10-13, was delivered by 17-year-old Ross of Cardiff. He asked for volunteers to try to open a pot of jam and a packet of biscuits with one hand behind their backs. This was, of course, impossible, and even when another one-handed assistant helped, the task proved very difficult. He used this visual demonstration to show that we achieve very little alone, life is made easier when we have help, but the secret of success is to include Jesus. Our strength comes from God, who supplies our every need.

VERA MACHELL

Does your church know its own profile?

by Dr Terry Messenger,
Personal Ministries director, SEC



school for Christian workers.' *MH*, page 148. It is interesting to note that our friends the Jehovah's Witnesses have a UK membership of 120,000 and they attract people of all ethnicities – even the white English! We, on the other hand, have a membership of 27,000. Are we missing something? One of the factors for their success, I believe, is the strong involvement of all the members, brought about largely because each local kingdom hall is a training centre which holds regular meetings teaching its people the art of witnessing for their faith. It seems they

believe that Jesus is soon to return and, therefore, it is imperative, it seems to me, to reach as many people as possible with the message of the everlasting Gospel in the time we have available. It is marvellous how the Lord has blessed the SDA Church over the years and how indeed the three angels' messages are reaching many peoples. The work in the UK is hard. We live in a time of increasing secularism and materialism. It is becoming more difficult to reach people. But I am not in despair. I believe there may be a way we can increase our efficiency under the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It is my belief that training in the art of personal witnessing would mobilise us as never before. But how can this be accomplished so that as many people as possible in our churches can be equipped for the task? Many people would love to be involved in the work of leading people to Jesus and, indeed, may be spiritually gifted to do this, but many lack the confidence because they have never been shown how to do it. This statement was written over 100 years ago:

'Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. . . . Every church should be a training

are following the quote above! What if our churches became training schools providing regular teaching and training on an ongoing basis? At the moment training is sporadic and not sustainable in many places. It seems to me that the task of the PM director at the conference is to empower local churches to become training centres by identifying trainers in each church or district to provide this ongoing training. These trainers would be resourced and trained from the conference level, but they would actually carry out the training needed locally. There would be some classroom teaching but the main emphasis should be actual on-the-job training where a trainer would take someone with him to give Bible studies and to show in a practical way how to lead a person to Christ. The person thus trained could then go on to become a trainer himself and before long many would be trained in the local church and thus more people would be reached. Initially the trainer could be the pastor, elder, the PM leader or someone who is already competent in Bible work.

Much training needs to be accomplished if we want to reach people in this twenty-first century.

Each church needs to know its own profile – its spiritual giftedness and evangelism style – so that it can reach its community the way God intended. People need to know how to lead a person to Christ, to give



VOILET HAMMOND (1922-2007) d. 5 December. It is with sadness we report the death of a much-loved and valued member of the Stanborough Park church. Vi died at home in Abbots Langley with Edward, her three daughters and granddaughter, Sarah, by her side. Over a period of forty years plus there were few church activities at Stanborough Park in which Vi and her husband Ed were not involved. The pressure of business often made Ed think of reducing his commitment at church but Vi always said, 'The Lord is blessing you. You should say yes.' She was born in Southwark. During World War II Vi was engaged in government work which required her signing the Official Secrets Act. She met her husband Ed on 24 August 1946 at a dance in Hornsey Town Hall. When she saw him she told her girlfriend, 'That's the man I'm going to marry.' She did, and it was the beginning of a life-long romance that was to lead them into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They were engaged on 24 August 1947 and married on 11 September 1948. It was the first London campaign by George Vandeman that attracted them. As a direct result of the messages preached Vi and Ed were baptised at the Coliseum on 5 April 1953 and received into fellowship of the Holloway church on Sabbath 11 April. Understanding the value of Christian education for their children, they moved first to St Albans and later to Watford. Their three daughters, Valerie, Jane and Ruth, all attended Stanborough School. In order to maintain his independence and keep the Sabbath, not an easy task in the 1950s, Ed had to separate from his business partner. His suc-

effective Bible studies, to witness in the school, college or workplace, and how to meet the needs in their own particular community, how to make friends with secular people and how to encourage people to come back to church who have dropped out – the list is endless! It is about people reaching people.

It is interesting that Jesus spent most of his ministry training the disciples. Why give his energy to training so few? Because he knew that by concentrating good, solid training on the few, they would one day turn the world upside down. Is there a better plan than that of the Master teacher?

cess in running the business was due in no small measure to the unfailing support of his wife over many years. Ed and Vi were a living testimony to the influence of a Christian marriage. Their love for each other enriched not only their family, but the Stanborough Park church and their wide circle of friends. When Vi was diagnosed with cancer she quietly went about putting her house in order. She made sure her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all knew of her love for her Saviour and each one of them personally. The funeral service took place at Stanborough Park church on 17 December. Moving tributes were paid to Vi by two of her friends, Rosemary Barham and Cecilia Davison, for her friendship and for the support she gave for many years with the senior citizens' group and the monthly fellowship lunches. Pastors Patrick Boyle, Roy Burgess and the local pastor, Ian Sleeman, shared in the service. The committal followed at North Watford Cemetery. Vi is missed by her husband Ed, her daughters Valerie, Jane and Ruth, the local church and her wide circle of friends. She had that strong trust and love for her Saviour which was an inspiration to all. She faced death fearlessly with the sure and certain hope of reunion on the resurrection morning when our Saviour fulfils his promise to come again and receive us to himself.

PATRICK J. BOYLE

Edward, Valerie, Jane and Ruth express their appreciation and thanks for the cards, phone calls, prayers and messages of support they have received.

Welsh Mission Project Romania 2008
Short-term project
27 July-8 August

Join twenty-five other volunteers in Romania this summer in order to bring a home, a family and a future to orphaned and abandoned children. To request an application form or to find out more details, contact: Jeremy Tremeer, 14 Cenydd Terrace, Senghennydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4HL; tel: 02920 832559 or 07956 627233; email: jtremeer@adventistwales.org.

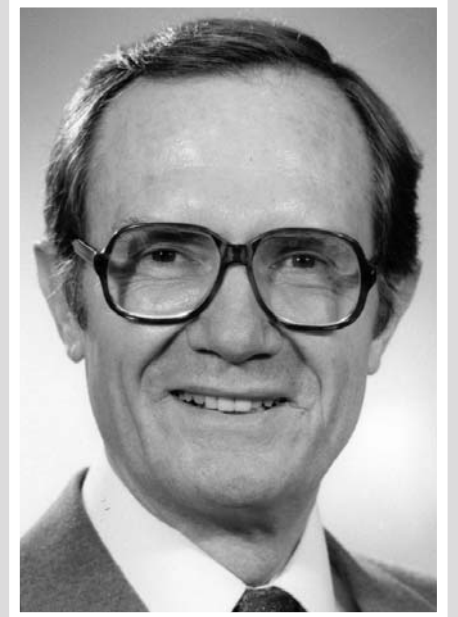
Lone Parent Family Camp
24-31 August
Chapel Porth, Cornwall

An opportunity for single parents to have a great holiday, build relationships, and enjoy spiritual and social activities with their children. For more information go to www.secadventist.org.uk and click on Events, call Anna on 01923 656530 or email fm@adventist.org.uk. Organised by the SEC Women's & Family Ministries departments.

Pastor Harold Calkins

(1920-2008) d. 4 January

by Pastor Don McFarlane



On Sabbath 12 January a memorial service was held at the Bellflower church near Los Angeles to celebrate the life of Pastor H. L. Calkins, president of the British Union from 1981 to 1986. Relatives, friends and well-wishers from across the United States and other parts of the world were present to recount how God had blessed the Church and the world through the life of this fine Christian gentleman. Harold was called to rest by his heavenly Father on 4 January 2008, following a rich and rewarding life of 87 years.

Born in Ruthven, Iowa, in 1920, Harold learned many lessons about life on his parents' farm that would serve him well in ministry. At the age of 11 he began attending the Seventh-day Adventist church in Whitewater, Wisconsin, after his father, Ernest Calkins, took a stand for the Lord and the Sabbath following a miraculous recovery of his wife, Daisy, from a life-threatening condition. Harold was baptised soon after.

In 1939 Harold enrolled as a ministerial student at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) and graduated in 1943 with a BA in Religion. While at the college he met and fell in love with Fern Wagner, with whom he shared sixty-one years of his life from 1944 to 2005 when Fern passed away. Their marriage was blessed with two sons – Kent, born in 1945 and Ross, born in 1951.

Harold entered denominational service in 1943 as a ministerial intern in the Illinois Conference and was given his own churches the following year. He accepted a call to the Pennsylvania Conference in 1951 and became known there not only as a good pastor, but also a good church builder. The Lebanon church, of which he superintended the building during his tenure in that Conference, was the first of many that stand today as a testament to his giftedness in this area of ministry.

Most of those who have followed the ministry of Harold Calkins agree that his most fruitful years were those spent in the Southern California Conference from 1956 to 1981. He served as pastor of the Temple City church in that Conference from 1956 to 1966, during which time he masterminded the building of a new church complex for the congregation there and helped to establish the San Gabriel Academy. He served as executive secretary of the Southern California Conference from 1966 to 1972, when he was invited to serve as president, a position which he held until 1981.

Delegates to the 1981 British Union Session at Harrogate will recall that Harold Calkins was elected to serve as BUC president. Hardly any of the delegates present had heard of him but the GC president at the time, Elder Neal Wilson, recommended him highly as one whose experience, temperament and skills could prove helpful to the British Union as it sought to come to terms with being a multicultural community and being relevant to an increasingly secular society. At his funeral service, on 13 January, the BUC representative who was present said that Harold's non-abrasive style and his calm manner struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the British people. Salient elements of his legacy to the British Union were said to be a deep spirituality, the new Stanborough Secondary School building and the strengthening of the work of the Church in Ireland through the Emerald Foundation. John Arthur, who served as vice-president of the Union during his presidency, said that Harold was a deeply spiritual person, a man of courage, who was always interested in seeing the work progress on all fronts and one whose efforts on behalf of the Church in Ireland had resulted in donations of more than £2 million to the Irish Mission through the Emerald Foundation in the past twenty-five years.

When Harold left the British Union in 1986

he retired from denominational service after forty-three years and moved to Loma Linda, California, where he and his wife could care for his ageing father-in-law. He had been back in California less than a year when the South-eastern California Conference asked him to pastor the Big Bear church on a part-time basis. This he did until 1994 when he retired on the counsel of his cardiologist, who told him that working in the high mountain elevation where the church was located was not favourable for his heart. He then became a member of the Bellflower church where his son, Ross, was the pastor, and served as an elder and Sabbath School teacher until his death.

Harold was also a gifted writer. His Master's thesis, *Master Preachers*, was copyrighted by the Review and Herald in 1960 and published as a book. Subsequently, he published *The Book of Uncommon Prayer* and *A Treasury of Prayer*. Another book, which he was working on up to the time of his death, will be published posthumously.

Harold is survived by his two sons, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. We know that he is only sleeping and that when our Lord returns he and his wife will rise from their graves in the Montecito Cemetery to meet him in the air. All history now marches to that bright and glorious day when the darkness of sin will be dissipated by the presence of Jesus. 'Even so, come Lord Jesus, come.'

In praise of volunteers

In a few hours the door to the year 2008 would open, ushering in new hopes and fears, new experiences and firmly fixed customs. While there was still a gap in the doorway, we took a quick peek back into Stanborough Park church, and did it in praise of volunteering!

Many pastors 'overseas' have only their feet to take them around the scattered villages on God's business. Voluntary giving supplied twelve bicycles for one African country, and two motorbikes for

another. Our pioneer hospital in Jengre, Nigeria, was shown to be dilapidated by time and troubles. A few volunteers went and worked a miracle or two on the building while lifting the spirits of the hospital staff.

A collection of watches taken to an Indian orphanage gave pleasure to over 100 children, and great joy to the volunteers as they saw the happiness given to the young people. Further flashbacks for these volunteers show a group who started by building a chicken run for a small

orphanage, and progressed to designing and building a self-contained village for orphans!

Our Pathfinders went for a ten-mile walk to raise funds so that a much-needed flight of steps and a simple bridge could be built to make life easier for a blind lady who runs a home for disabled people in the Congo.

The Soup Run into London would collapse without its team of volunteers and those who support sales to raise the funds for its regular work. Then there's the pack of goodies given to 'the customers' at Christmas time!

The flapping of flip-flops is heard around homes in Madagascar because several thousand people throughout these islands of ours rallied to the annual Shoebox Appeal – with much more than flip-flops, too.

Take a peek into the cheerful Toddler Club run by voluntary helpers. Likewise the Seniors' Club, bursting at the seams, which, at this year's Christmas party, incorporated a 100th birthday celebration for a lady in the community who has no family.

And, of course, the Christmas Toy Service that Watford Social Services has come to rely on for their gifts to needy families, the Christmas fellowship lunch, and, starting at the beginning of 2008, the great mobile phone collection for Oxfam.

Most recently of all, share the joy of Christmas with a band of volunteers who not only served a seasonal dinner to a group of elderly and lonely members, but ferried hot meals to several 'shut-ins' as well. No individual names mentioned

here, you've noticed. There are many self-sacrificing leaders for all these endeavours, but there are many, many more people quietly beaver away behind the scenes, without whose efforts most enterprises would fail. Talk to any one of them (it may even be yourself), and you will find that the joy and satisfaction of volunteering is more rewarding than recognition. But yet, recognition is heart-warming and encouraging.

So now, as we reflect on the achievements of 2007, let's raise a toast to all volunteers, in every church, (*you each know who you are!*) in every voluntary organisation, and cry with Tiny Tim, 'God bless you, every one!'

JOYCE HILL

'It is time to pray'

27-30 March

It is time to grow in grace and to become more like Jesus in character. It is time to draw nearer to God. It is time to experience the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives, empowering us to witness for him. It is time to place all on the altar of sacrifice – ourselves, money, time, talent and possessions.

More Prayer, more Power. Little Prayer, little Power.
We welcome you to come to Prayer Harvest Ministries' Annual Residential Prayer Retreat. Our Theme is **BLAZING 2008**.
Stir up the flame within you. Come and learn how to BLAZE ABROAD what Jesus has done for you.

Come and pray for the REVIVAL, REFORMATION, THE OUTPOURING of the HOLY SPIRIT and the HARVEST. COME!

Venue: University of Nottingham.
Price: £190.00 for the long weekend. Thursday – Sunday.
Deposit: £30.00 to secure a place.

Registration Officer:
Mrs. D. Dawkins, 173 Glaisdale Gardens, Whitmore Reams, Wolverhampton, WV6 0TX.

SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Sixtieth Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 26 June to Sunday 29 June 2008 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.

PASTOR PAUL A. HAWORTH
NEC Executive Secretary

ABC BOOK SALES

March

9 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm
16 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

April

13 Retired Workers' Meeting.
Stanborough Press 12.30 start
27 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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| Feb 22 | 5.27 | 5.40 | 5.29 | 5.31 | 5.44 |
| 29 | 5.40 | 5.52 | 5.42 | 5.46 | 5.59 |
| Mar 7 | 5.52 | 6.04 | 5.55 | 6.00 | 6.13 |
| 14 | 6.04 | 6.16 | 6.08 | 6.15 | 6.26 |

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