Scottish Mission Session: United by His Grace
by Russell Bryan

Day of Fellowship
On Sabbath, 28 June, members from throughout Scotland gathered for a day of fellowship in Crieff. Dr David Penner, principal of Newbold College, was the guest speaker. He gave two presentations: the morning sermon and the closing address of the afternoon. His messages were well received, but these were not what made history.

The afternoon provided a brand new format for the day of fellowship. Each pastor from the Scottish Mission, and also Pastor David Cox, BUC Personal Ministries, presented key parts of the new strategic plan. As the plan is to involve every member it was important that the plan be presented on the day of fellowship and not just to the delegates at the Session on Sunday.

Andrew Willis presented the background to the membership trends within the Scottish Mission. He looked back and also projected forward. The worst-case scenario for the future would see a membership as low as 50 in 35 years’ time. The best-case, in human terms, would still see a big decline in membership numbers.

A presentation on the New Testament Church was given by Clifford Herman. He stressed the importance of members empowered by the Holy Spirit, church planting by the apostles, the training of the members for ministry, and the dynamic growth that followed. David Cox showed us the important role played by elders in the New Testament Church. They were the key to leadership, church planting and church growth. Without them the apostles could not have functioned as God ordained.

"Natural Church Development (NCD) is a way of defining a biblically healthy church." Russell Bryan presented the eight quality characteristics of healthy churches, which are also the goals for each congregation in Scotland. By utilizing NCD each church can assess its state of health and work on a plan of improvement. Pastor Bryan said, "Even the healthiest church can improve!"

Last, but not least, Brian McCormac showed how prayer is vital to all plans. Examples were given on how prayer works, it keeps us in touch with God – the direct link. Through prayer we receive guidance and direction.

continued on page 8
Feeding 5,000 at Family Camp

T

he year’s North England Conference Family Camp at Aberdaron, which ran from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 July, was the best ever attended. Cecilia Davison, head cook and manager of the excellent catering team, counted over 240 meals being served on one particularly busy day when many visitors were present, and it is estimated that over 5,000 meals were served during the whole camp.

The high attendance reflects the continuing popularity of Family Camp, but is also partly a result of the major investment which the NEC has put into the Aberdaron site. Brand new tents, capable of sleeping up to eight people, have been purchased to replace the ageing white tents familiar to all who have attended Aberdaron camps over the last forty years or so. Five new wooden chalets have also been constructed and these proved particularly popular with those who prefer a little more comfort than is afforded by the tents. Site manager Malcolm Hayes highlighted many other site improvements during a two-hour meeting with campers to discuss the present status of the site as well as prospects for the future. If we get the planning permission, we hope to build at least three more chalets, specially equipped for accessibility, and it may be possible that the hall itself could be completely redressed further in the future, he said. However, it is important that we don’t oversell the site, and some how maintain the essential character that has made it special to so many people in the past.

NEC Family Ministries director Pastor Cyril Sweeney, who served as Camp Master for the camp, pointed out that the growth of Family Camp will make future changes essential. ‘Next year we will have to bring in some new systems to make sure that we know exactly how many people are on site and how many meals we need to prepare,’ he said. ‘We may even need to run two Family Camps if demand continues to grow.’

JOHN LANGLEY

Healthwise

Mad Dogs!

M

aid dogs and England go out in the middle sun, as we are certainly reminded when summer comes! We may not be quite as mad as the world labels us since a new piece of research says that we would benefit from getting regular doses of it.

An excess of sunlight can damage the DNA of the skin and can cause three types of skin cancer. The mes sage over nearly four decades has been to remind us to use the right factor sunscreen and to cover up against direct sunlight. It has taken a while to drive that mes use the right factor sunscreen and to cover up against doses of it.

Aberdaron site. Brand new tents, capable of sleeping up to eight people, have been present, and it is estimated that over 5,000 meals were served during the whole camp.

were present, and it is estimated that over 5,000 meals were served during the whole camp. From death row in Imperial Rome, the footfall of his executioner an imminent prospect, Paul warns, ‘I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. . . . I can do everything through Christ who gives me the strength I need.’ (Phil. 4:12, 13) ‘The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything,’ he says (verses 5, 6, NRSV).

Some people say, ‘Where there’s life there’s hope.’ A deeper truth is only while there’s hope there is life. Remove hope and you demote life to existence. Since hope generates energy, enthusi asm and excitement, lack of hope breeds only apathy and inertia.

Hopelessness is at the root of many of today’s psychological disorders. The growing frequency of random killings and suicides demonstrate that. Subtract hope, and self worth dwindles into self doubt, self distrust, and confidence is swallowed up in despair.

This twentieth century dawned in hope and optimism. The twenty-first-first in what J. R. R. Tolkien called ‘ominous pessimism’.

By contrast Paul writes of ‘Christ Jesus our hope’ (1 Timothy 1:1). ‘This is the secret,’ he stresses, ‘Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.’ (Colossians 3:1, NLT) Jesus of Nazareth, crucified, risen, reigning and returning, is a messenger, means and mediator of hope. The Bible from Genesis to Revelation is a Book of Hope.

The hope of the Bible signifies two distinct though related realities. Objectively it means the divinely granted prospect before us. Subjectively it means the habit of looking forward to the day when what is promised becomes ours.

Christian believers in every age should live in the knowledge that they are God’s children, heirs of his kingdom of glory. That is the hope above all hopes, ‘the blessed hope – the glorious appear ing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.’ (Titus 2:13, NIV)

John R. W. Stott expresses the Christian hope this way: ‘He who appeared briefly on the stage of history and disappeared, will one day re appear. He appeared in grace, he will reappear in glory.’ (John Stott is, as you may know, a prominent Anglican. In his preaching – as well as in his books and Bible commentaries – he misses no opportunity to expound the second advent, the blessed hope. It is not time for us to become backward in doing the same. After all, we have Advent in our name! It bothers me when I receive the impression that we are acting embarrassed about the apocalyptic portion of our belief. Without it there is no life after life and our present life lacks meaning. There is no hope for the planet outside of God’s apocalyptic plan. And someone is going to put a lot of trouble removing the Bible, especially if the New Testament! True enough, we should never take that approach to the apocalyptic, that gives our people the impression that they have a licence to hate those of other religions/denominations. And true enough, we should not preach the apocalyptic in the context of the Gospel. However, those embarrassed by the apocalyptic aspects of our belief are in danger of preaching an incomplete Gospel – and denying a major reason why we exist as a denomination.

Those who have ‘lost the plot’ have lost sight of the One whose, through his creation and redemption of mankind, has shaped the plot. Jesus Christ will very soon untangle all the scattered themes of the plot into the great and glorious triumph which is the climax of the story.

References:

Golden balloons and bunting, golden tablecloths on garden furniture, stalls full of goodies and a bright sunny day greeted visitors to the 50th anniversary – the Golden Anniversary – of The Dell Care Home in Coton Broad, Lowestoft, on Sunday 20 July. It was a very significant year, 1953, with the Coronation year of Her Majesty the Queen. It was the year of the conquest of Everest, and yes, it was the year that The Dell opened, providing residential care for our elderly church members.

The Church had only dreamed of a retirement home as they could not afford it. But it was the generosity of a local church member in Coton Broad that made it all possible. Donald Dowell, a local builder, saw the need and donated a beautiful property to the church. Shortly before the opening, he was found on hands and knees fitting carpets and installing furniture, all at his own expense. And this was before the limit of his generosity. He helped to found the building of several churches, supplied lecterns and church furniture, and met the tuition fees of several young men called to the ministry through Newbold College.

Brother Dowell would have enjoyed the 50th Anniversary of his great gift. He would have been delighted to see the immaculately cut and trimmed lawns, the roses in full bloom, garden pots bursting with red geraniums and purple petunias, but, much more than this, happy faces of residents spending 20p at the bric-a-brac stall or donating a gift to sell, visitors talking with old friends, and little children running on the grass.

Mr Dowell spent the last few years of his life in the retirement home he had given and died in 1995 at the age of 88.

Among the guests for the Golden Anniversary was Mrs Jacqueline Hood, the daughter of Mr Dowell, and her husband, Peter Thelk, the brother of one of the first matrons at The Dell, Miss Rosaline Thelk.

Funds were raised for the Care Home from the bring-and-buy and craft stalls, and a delightful exhibition of photographs taken by Mr David Spoor, the Dell manager’s husband. In a marquee on the lawn, guests tucked into strawberry cream teas and delicious cakes, many of them provided by members of staff. The manager of The Dell, Jean Spoor, and the deputy, Diane Bestard, with their helpers, worked long and hard for the success of the day, and over £400 was raised for the Home.

The day before, Sabbath 19 July, an East Anglian Day of Fellowship also celebrated The Dell. Members from Norwich to Ipswich joined others at the Lowestoft church where Pastor C. R. Perry, the BUC president and chair of the GA Board responsible for The Dell, underlined the ‘Duty of Care’ that every member has for others in need. In the afternoon, Pastor Martin Bell, the Administrator of The Dell and Roundelow in Scotland, led a service celebrating old age, which can be a time of personal growth, discovery of talent, and happy reflection. Unfortunately for some, old age brings disability and pain, and this is why retirement and nursing homes are such a blessing.

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On the journey of a cell church

The biblical model for the ecclesia (church) had been presented to both congregations separately and was already voted by members over a year before the merger. The observation and study of other cell churches globally has been valuable to us in seeking how others have been allowing the biblical model to inform them in their quest to adapt more fully the New Testament model of church. We are convinced that cell is the way to go and by God’s grace we have started on our journey. This journey seeks to restore the pastor-minister as an under shepherd with the responsibility of ensuring that all believers under his care are equipped to function effectively in their ministry areas.

At Manchester Central we make a distinction between Small Groups and LifeCells, Cells or LifeCells, as they are called at Manchester Central, are a group of people who are in worship and study the Word together; ii) pray together; iii) evangelise together and have non-Adventists in attendance; and iv) socialise together. Small Groups can either be study groups or ministry groups.

LifeCell

LifeCells are units that cultivate true Christian community, deliberately seeking to nurture their members through pastoral care, developing a network of Kingdom friends through which the Cell reaches out evangelistically.

Manchester Central – "Young Family with Children LifeCell"

Our “Young Family with Children LifeCell” group was launched in November 2002 and meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. We have approximately seventeen LifeCell members in this cell, which includes four families who are currently not Adventists.

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Among the congregation were past and present matrons and managers of The Dell, including Rose Barker, Ettie Roderick, Betty Muffet, Tony Welch, Jean Spoor and Diane Bestard.

Manchester Central on Mission

by Pastor Michael Simpson

Our preparation for the journey 5 January 2003 is a date that both congregations of Moss Side and Old Trafford Community Fellowship (formerly Pendleton) will not forget. It was the year that The Dell opened, providing residential care for our elderly church members.

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Among the congregation were past and present matrons and managers of The Dell, including Rose Barker, Ettie Roderick, Betty Muffet, Tony Welch, Jean Spoor and Diane Bestard.
**Barry Black named United States Senate Chaplain**

Pastor Barry C. Black, a rear Admiral and retiring chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy, was sworn into office on July 2, 2003 to become the next chaplain of the United States Senate. Black was the first African-American, and the first Seventh-day Adventist to hold the post.

Pastor Black was elected by the US Senate on July 1 by Rear Admiral Bill Fris, a Tennessee Republican.

Admiral Black has provided spiritual guidance to thousands of servicemen and servicewomen during his 32 years of service. He’s been honored for his ability to bring moral leadership and counsel to the United States Senate, he said first.

Black began his ministry serving as a circuit-riding pastor and evangelist of eleven Adventist churches in North and South Carolina from 1972 to 1979. He then entered the Navy and served as Navy chaplain in Norfolk, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Oklahoma; Japan; and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Black is ending his 37-year naval career to succeed former Senate chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie.

Black said he was deeply honored that God was giving him this opportunity to continue his service to the nation. This is a truly humbling experience, and I shall pray for the strength to rise to the level of service Dr. Ogilvie gave.

During his service in the Navy, Black spent three years as chief of chaplains, during which he advised the secretary of the navy on naval operations, and Commandant of the Marine Corps on religion, ethics, and moral issues in the Sea Services. He also served three years as deputy chief of chaplains, co-ordinating ministry to more than 600,000 Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard service members and their families.

“Recent world events brought significant challenges to the chief of chaplains, and in every case Admiral Black’s unique perspective and wisdom was a calming and sobering influence. His addition as Senate chaplain will be a continuation of Dr. Ogilvie’s dedication and inspiring work,” said first.

ADVENTIST REVIEW

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**What is the SEC Counselling Service?**

This confidential counseling Service is available to all who would like to talk through or deal with any issues that trouble them. Qualified and experienced counselors provide a safe and confidential telephone counseling service from 20.30 to 21.00 on Thursday morning from 1st June till 30th June to take your calls. Messages left at any other time will be responded to within 24 hours. We also provide Face-to-Face counseling by appointment at our Centre in central London. Whatever your need, please call us on our confidential number.

For more details, please contact Trudy Young. Counselling Co-ordinator, South East Englands Conference, 29 St John's Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ. E-mail: tyoung.s@seaconline.org.uk

Register of Adventist Christian Counselors

At the SEC Counselling Service we are constantly improving and using the service we provide. When we receive comments we act on them as a service to the community. We continually look to our clients to tell us how we are doing. We are providing one hour supervision a month on a voluntary basis (expenses paid), we would love to hear from you. The counselling service is based in Central London and it is not by a fairly independent location. We are also looking for counsellors in all areas of the country.

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**Sister Marcy retires after 44 years**

by Kizzy Bent

After 44 long years of service Sister Oxlyn McIntyre, known affectionately in her district churches as Sister Marcy, had her hand raised up as a true and leading as Bible worker. To celebrate this special occasion, Camp Hill, Redditch and Kingstanding churches held a thanksgiving service on the afternoon of 28th June to highlight her achievements and give her that grateful.

Sister McIntyre started her ministry in 1959, working closely with the already-established churches in Handsworth from 1962 and later settled in the Camp Hill district. Throughout her long career as Bible worker, Sister Marcy has worked with over forty ministers and she is famous for saying: ‘Ministers come and go but Bible workers never die’.

Dr. Martin Bell and Bob Smart, following which she was consecrated. With her God-given talents to sing at public evangistic meetings, in local church leadership, in family, and used his God-given talents to sing at public meetings in local church, in building churches and in evangelistic organizing. John, 45-54 years, daughters, Sarah and Judith, together with their families are grateful for Tony’s love, some of whom have been baptized into this church, and he is missed every time when we sing the ‘olde then.

**GIBBONS, Catherine – d. 23 April. Catherine was born in 1862 in Wellington, Oregon, where she was raised and attended school. She moved to California in 1903, where she worked as an educator and started her ministry at the Church of God in Los Angeles. Catherine was very active in her church and worked tirelessly for the welfare of the community. Catherine passed away on 23rd April 1945, leaving behind her husband and two children.**

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**Effect of Saints’ Day**

***From Left to Right: Zenia Ferguson, David Ferguson, Pastor John Ferguson, Martin Bell and Bob Smart, following which she was consecrated.***

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**For the latest on Adventist news, visit Faye Takey at the BUC on 01923 672251**

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**Prayer Feature with Tracy Dixon**

Don’t just stand there – pray something!

God always takes the route that brings him the greatest glory. (Romans 12:1-2) Stand there! Pray! Something (page 192). Dunn goes on to say that the motive for asking for prayer and asking prayer for himself or others should be that God will glorify ‘in the Son’ (John 14:13). That, indeed, God only gives us the things we ask for if we are asking in sincerity; honesty and wanting glory for God are all crucial elements in answered prayer. We need to ask ourselves whether we are seeking glorification for ourselves or God in the prayer to which we are seeking an answer. If we are asking for something out of selfish desire, or out of a need to be seen as a better person, or for something that will bring us some personal advantage, and not to serve God, we are not praying in sincerity. Sincere prayer is prayer that is only for God’s glory. God only gives us things if we are praying in sincerity (Compare John 14:14). That is the ‘little bit of faith’ that will move mountains (James 1:6).

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** interfaith Dialogue**

*We are appealing to all Adventist Christian Counsellors who would like to be registered on this register to request an application form by contacting: Trudy Tynagh, at the BUC on 01923 672251. Or e-mail: tyagnyx@seaconline.org.uk*
Continued from page 7

In prayer we can ask for the power of the Holy Spirit. ‘Without prayer all our plans would be in vain,’ said Pastor Brian McCarron.

The day of fellowship was a ‘sum-mer high’ for the Scottish members. Embarassed in worship, in fellowship, in song, in eating, in reuniting old friendships, in making new ones – these were all facets of the day. In cars, in coaches, and even in shoes alone, members made their way home united by His grace, with a new and exciting vision of the future of our Church in Scotland.

Mission Session

Councillor Bill Scott, Provost of Perthshire, thanked the Mission Session on Sunday 29 June. He welcomed the Adventist Church to Perthshire, kicked off the Mission Session in the foreground, and the Scottish members made their way home united for the Scottish members. The Newbold principal said that part of the emphasis for the next triennium had been put forward. The future in the Scottish Mission is a major new undertaking. In closing, Pastor Cecil Perry, British Union president, charged the delegates of the Scottish Mission to face the great work before them. Upon leaving, delegates expressed their confidence that, as the power of the Holy Spirit is released in both pastoral and lay ministry, and as there is prayer for guidance, the Advent message will be taken in the whole of the northernmost country in the British Union.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Care in the Community 40th Disability Training Conference</td>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Milton Keynes</td>
<td>ASNA</td>
<td>For further details: Tel: 01908 835595</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASNA Disability Ministry training and awareness programme</td>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>Winchester Church</td>
<td>ASNA</td>
<td>For further details: Tel: 01908 835595</td>
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<td>Adventist Men’s Weekend Gathering</td>
<td>14-16 November</td>
<td>Stowton Park Hotel, Daventry</td>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>For further details: Tel: NEC-0115 9803312</td>
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Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday

Messenger

Volume 108/18 – 29 August 2003

Editor: Dr D. Marshall

COPY FOR No. 20 – 10 September

Copy should be sent to the Editor, Mission, The Stroudbridge Press Limited, Aika Park, Gotherham, Lincolnshire, NG3 6BS. Tel: 01243 703733.

Deadline for receipt of applications: 30 September 2003.

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The president stated that part of the problem in the past had been that pastors were expected to do everything and the church members had not been able to ‘step out’. Pastor Edwards stressed, ‘This is not the fault of the laity. If anything it is the fault of the pastors because we have been very bad at equipping and training the members for service. We must right the situation by training the pastors to equip the members.’

The day when churches can release their pastors, as Antioch did with Paul and Barnabas, saying ‘Go, plant new churches’, may not be in the next triennium. It may be ten years from now, but it must happen!’ The emphasis for the next triennium will be training and equipping. The delegates discussed the plan and backed what the president and the pastoral team had put forward. The future in the Scottish Mission is a major new undertaking. In closing, Pastor Cecil Perry, British Union president, charged the delegates of the Scottish Mission to face the great work before them. Upon leaving, delegates expressed their confidence that, as the power of the Holy Spirit is released in both pastoral and lay ministry, and as there is prayer for guidance, the Advent message will be taken in the whole of the northernmost country in the British Union.

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