Not Fear of the Future – Faith in the Father

NEC Camp Meeting report
by Frederick H. Mapp, Malcolm Watson, Roy Morgan, Yvonne Weeks, Cyril Sweeney, Milan Gusleta, Felix Jack

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The first evening commitment speaker was Dr Alonzo Smith, director of Family Life and Communications Ministries at the Greater New York Conference. He whetted our appetites with wise counsel: 'It may sound good but it may not necessarily be the truth.' That appetite was more than satisfied during the well-attended commitment services during the week.

On a typical day, campers awoke to the sound of the gulls and a day already warm and radiant with sunshine. The early ones were already coming back from a walk, or a jog, on the extensive Ainsdale beach, just in time for morning prayer in the main hall taken by one of our NEC ministers (Alan Hush, Steve Palmer) or other personnel (Heather Haworth, Keith Francis, Youth). This early encounter with God set the tone for the day and prepared all hearts for Bible study. The adults in the main hall with Dr Daniel Duda, a senior lecturer from Newbold College, and the youth in the Union Bar with one of the talented youth from the NEC (Craig Cotton, Sophia Pert, Nadine Campbell-Fuller, Adam Ramdin).

Bible study
Each day Dr Duda focused on a passage of Scripture to challenge the adults to build and maintain better and healthier Christian relationships. From Acts 2:42-47 he showed us that 'it is all about community.' Who will forget beautiful gems like these?

'Being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give him or her.'

'Community is what we need the most, what we lack the most and what we fear the most.'

'When God freezes water, he creates snowflakes, when we freeze water we make ice.'

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ADRA-UK is seeking to appoint a Finance Officer. Key responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to ADRA-UK implementing partners on financial management processes, financial compliance, and adherence to donor regulations and ADRA policies. Additionally, the Finance Officer will be responsible for supporting the ADRA-UK Executive Director and Treasurer in drafting and reviewing major financial reports, preparing ADRA-UK’s financial statements, planning ADRA-UK’s cash flow and developing project budgets.

The ideal applicant will hold a Bachelors degree in financial management or accounting with experience in the field, non-profit, development, or business administration (preferably) with at least two years accountancy experience and financial management experience (essential). Has experience of overseeing financial activities and personnel (preferably), has experience in developing work or charity sector (desirable), has strong numerical, analytical, written and verbal communication skills (desirably essential). Must have a passion for serving hurting people, be committed to ADRA’s principles of development and social development.

Applications are welcome from candidates from any part of the world, as the role is open to all candidates, however there will be a strong preference for candidates currently working or employed in the United Kingdom. Salary will be determined upon a number of factors. A letter of application together with a current CV and the addresses of two referees should be sent to: ADRA-UK; 15 Dudley House School, Dudley Road, Grantham, NG31 8AA.

Closing date for applications: 20th October 2005. Interview dates for suitable candidates will be held on 15th November 2005.

**Headteacher required**

We are seeking to appoint a caring professional leader to the position of Headteacher at Dudley House School, Grantham. Dudley House is a Primary School operated by the Adventist church with a roll of up to 80 pupils across Foundation and Key Stages 1 and 2. Applicants should have experience across the primary age range, a sound knowledge of the national curriculum and a commitment to moving the school on a sustainable and maintained improvement pathway, as well as the capacity to visit the school by appointment. Denominational salary scale applies.

For an application pack please contact Mrs Karen Skewes, Chair of Governors, Dudley House School, Dudley Road, Grantham NG31 8AA. Interviews to be held on 15th November 2005.

**Pastor Willis installed as president of IHPE**

Pastor Willis has been installed as president of the Institute of Health Promotion and Education. The Institute was set up in the 1990s to combat modern, and developing less effective in health promotion education courses and to act as a consultative body in health promotion issues. Over the years the Institute has advised government departments and the World Health Organisation on health promotion issues. Pastor Willis’s two-year term began with the presentation of the health and education of pupils by the Institute in its vast resources and experience in this area. I have been a member of the Institute since 1975 and strongly support the work of the Institute, and would encourage other Adventist health professionals to apply for membership and get involved.

Speaking at the BOFF, Pastor Willis said, “I believe that the Institute is a jewel in the crown of the Institute from its vast resources and experience in this area. I have been a member of the Institute since 1975 and strongly support the work of the Institute, and would encourage other Adventist health professionals to apply for membership and get involved.”

**Healthwise**

The nut behind the wheel

It is said that the most important part of a car is the nut behind the wheel! Given that the nut is at best irrational in his or her behaviour, and add alcohol to the picture, there is a recipe for disaster.

Continental Europe has the highest per capita consumption of alcohol in the world, a result of a high rate of social, health and economic harm associated with alcohol use. Paradoxically, this is also the highest producer of alcoholic internationally, thus poising a major headache for European health ministers who need to find a solution to the problem.

Over 200 health professionals from 27 countries met in May to lay plans for alcohol-harm reduction which will be incorporated into an EU strategy to be published later this year. In doing so they recognised that co-operative action is the key to success in controlling, if not eliminating, the present problem levels.

Proposals include the following:

- The highest possible blood alcohol concentration limit of 0.5 g/L and breath alcohol equivalent to be introduced with immediate effect throughout Europe.
- A lower limit of 0.2 g/L for novice drivers and drivers of public service vehicles and cars with equipment also with immediate effect (countries with existing lower levels should not raise them).
- For drivers thus suspended to have driver education, rehabilitation and treatment schemes with penalties for defaults, conforming to agreed guidelines and protocols.
- The proposals in a document, Bridging the Gap, go well beyond plans to deal with drink-driving and will include price and availability of alcohol as well as ways of dealing with alcohol dependence, Europe, not before time, is set to deal with the alcohol issue.

Closer the message to the nut behind the wheel is that he or she is obviously not too tight for it, from the hint of alcohol for the driver is to be out of the question, and time spent in supporting these proposals will be well spent in sorting out the most important part of the vehicle. There are periods when time goes into fast-forward. Developments that can take decades require only months.

One such period began in June 1989. In that month Solidarity won the first free election in Poland for fifty years. And the Communist system began to collapse.

OK, we could trace the runnings that led to the collapse to Mikhail Gorbachev’s appointment as General Secretary of the Soviet Union’s Communist party four years earlier. But no one would have predicted the collapse of his party and ideology then. Gorbachev was, after all, just a professional Communist administrator who had risen to the top. He knew his Marx. He knew that Marx had said that Capitalism would ‘collapse under the weight of its own contradictions.’

But Gorbachev was sharp enough, too, to realise that, after years of economic stagnation, Marx’s prophecy was about to be fulfilled – but with regard to Communism.

Gorbachev’s reforms – to achieve perestroika (reconstruction) and glasnost (oppeness) – were meant to delay the collapse of the system. But that collapse was beginning to take place. While the gesture-generals of the West were taking ‘Star Wars’, the system they felt threatened by was terminal.

The present is identified the Soviet Union as the late twentieth century’s ‘Sick Man of Europe’. First World politicians were too busy building a link for the new middle classes to live in, and first World dressing classes were too busy focusing attention on Third World famine and poverty, to realise that the Second World was about to disappear without trace. Roger moorts was suffering the muscles of the Communist Empire.

It had died when no one was looking. Then came the annus mirabilis, 1989, when Gorbachev and General Jaroslawski accepted Solidarity’s victory in his country’s free election.

Three months later – October 1989 – Erich Honecker was deposed in East Germany. On 10 November demonstrators began to dismantle the Berlin Wall.

In December – in Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel was elected president.

- Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu was first deposed, then shot.

The series of things that couldn’t happen continued to happen for the next two years. An attempt to topple Gorbachev in mid-1991 did not, at first, succeed. But it did precipitate the independence of the Baltic republics and the rush towards a market economy of the remainder of what had once been the USSR. In Moscow, Boris Yeltsin, a democrat of sorts, replaced Gorbachev. As the USSR entered her annual summer, and her government, joined the first George Bush in the first ‘War of the President’, the annus mirabilis picked up pace in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela was released from his 27-year imprisonment on Robben Island in February 1990.

A partnership between the black majority and the white minority was new and democratically elected in April 1994.

President Mandela came to Britain to address the two Houses of Parliament. Roy Hattersley wrote: ‘The mystery of why the National Party – so long in oppressive control – agreed to hand over power to the black majority may never be explained. At the heart of that mystery is the explanation of why the South African revolution was accomplished largely without bloodshed.’

At least in part, the rapid-fire movement of the 1989-91 period had to do with the triumph of grace.

‘Grace is Christianity’s best gift to the world,’ wrote Philip Yancey, ‘a spiritual nourish in our midst eating a feast that is stronger than vengeance, stronger than racism, stronger than hate.’

To Karl Barth, ‘Jesus’ gift of forgiveness – of love was more astonishing than Jesus’ miracles broke only the physical laws of the universe. grace did something altogether more radical. Grace defied the gravitational pull of self-love. Two forces are evident in the universe: gravity and grace. Emotionally humans operate as tied to Newton’s laws, . . . All the natural movements of the soul are controlled by laws analogous to those of physical gravity. Grace is the only exception.

And grace is indescribable.

Communists did their best to destroy Christianity in the many lands of the former USSR and of China. But grace is indestructible and currently those same lands represent the region of Christianity’s most rapid growth.

The destruction of the apartheid system and the triumph of democracy in South Africa was largely a triumph of grace over evil.

As we write this, the London bombings of the infamous 7/7 attacks have been identified as men who were born in British matrimony wards, were the products of the British schools and had enjoyed a significant measure of success in the British economic system. Islam are appearing on every new page and in blogs that these all Britain young men who murdered so many, including themselves, were in no way typical Muslims and that, at heart, Islam is ‘a religion of peace.’

But, even if a religion of peace, Islam is not a religion of grace. Nor is Buddhism, nor is Hinduism, nor is Confucianism.

Grace is to be found only in Christianity. And it can be had only from Christ’s founder.

Never has our society needed it more than now. Whatever makes us feel superior to other people is pride. Pride is grace.

Grace is not the catalytic converter that brings about the transformation that is the heart of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 5:17). Grace is also the means by which Christendom fulfils its mission of ‘being the salt of the earth’: the preservative agent in our country and in our world.

Never have grace-full Christians had a more important role to play. Are you up for it? Part of the grace with which grace is grace is grace.

The Blessed Hope is the return of the Son of Man to use grace-full people to populate a new society. That was how now is to represent a span of the new days on the old earth.

There are periods when time goes into fast-forward. Developments that take decades require only months.

One has a feeling that another such period has just begun.

Our challenge is to be grace-full Christians in a grace-less world.

Wanted, then: Not more fanaticism but grace-filled men and women awaiting the return of the Messiah Christendom.

Soon: The greatest annus mirabilis ever.
Freezing Hot!
by Darell Philip

Members and visitors gathered close together on Sabbath 26 April for a ‘Freezing Hot’ experience courtesy of the youth on Hackney’s ‘Youth Day. The programme focused on the warning God gives to his last-day church about being lukewarm and our need to make a conscious decision either for or against Christ, for being hot or cold (Revelation 3:14-22).

The youth leaders, dressed as flight attendants, made every effort to ensure the well-being of their passengers (the congregation) as they travelled to different locations, come hot and cold!

Special music was performed by different artists, including a rendition on flute by Leah, a song welcoming us into the presence of God by two of Hackney’s young people - Shance and Rhiann Brooks - and a special guitar-led performance and song by Joel and Derron which encouraged us to ‘Stand up for our rights and be a soldier’.

The main speaker during Sabbath School was Sam Gunagalo. Sam’s message was direct and to the point, ‘God finds lukewarm people disgusting so we must examine ourselves and make sure that our lives are right with God’. Sam made a heartfelt plea to everyone to ‘dilinate the jбедelt in your lives and be a hot five-star church’. Arthie Davis reminded the church of the role we are to play as God’s missionaries and how being an active Christian, in word and deed, reveals to the world the love that comes from being the servant of a risen and loving Saviour.

The main speaker for the day was the former SEC Teens & Youth Ministry director, Pastor Edgar Brooks. Pastor Brooks challenged us not to be microwave Christians – hot on the outside and cold on the inside – but to make every effort to do service for the Lord and to evangelise the good news of the Gospel to others.

By the end of the day, it was safe to say that the temperature had risen considerably with everyone leaving ‘hot for the Lord’, and long may this continue as we await our return.

Summer breeze
On 7 May the day started sunny with just a light breeze. Hove Park Upper Area 4 Day of Fellowship

On 7 May the day started sunny with just a light breeze. Hove Park Upper Area 4 Day of Fellowship followed by John Wilson accompanying the unloading of the truck and its contents. The authorities didn’t want to admit that they had set up the camp high up on a wooded hillside so that no one would know it was there and it and its occupants could almost be forgotten as the authorities didn’t want to admit that they had such a problem.

One of the wards the beds were only about six inches apart and all the mattresses were soaked as it had no coverings.

The piano was the last item to be unloaded. When the residents who had been assisting with the unloading saw and heard ‘it were overjoyed and had a wonderful few moments having a ‘real’ bath on it. I was assured that they had staff who could play and who would be willing to try and teach any resident who showed the slightest aptitude.

The residents almost mobbed me when I showed them their photographs on the small screen of my digital camera.

The top photograph shows Mike Thompson starting to unload the truck with the hose and saw and heard it they were overjoyed and had a wonderful few moments having a ‘real’ bath on it. The residents almost mobbed me when I showed them their photographs on the small screen of my digital camera.

The afternoon programme started with worship and emphasised the importance of making time in busy lives for private worship. He also underlined the importance of making worship practical, using the striking visual aid of a large yellow plastic duck, parachuting down an escalator. He said, ‘It’s no good waving in church, being told you can fly, and then waddling out again.’

During the break between the morning service and the evening concert, the band members, including student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. University student and accomplished musician, performed one piece. 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MANUEL MARCHÉN (1922-2005) 

5 May 2005, Spain

In recent years, the religious and social relationship of the people of Spain has been transformed. With this in mind, Manuel was born into a family of farmers where he only had the freedom to read and study. He believed in the power of religion to change the world and devoted his life to serving others. Despite facing many challenges, he remained committed to his faith and continued to work tirelessly for the betterment of his community. He passed away on 5 May 2005, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire those around him.

EDITH HELENA ALFORD (1923-2004) 

5 May 2005, United Kingdom

In her early years, Edith was the only child of a farmer in the UK. She and her family were separated from the church during the war, but she remained faithful to her faith. Edith went on to become a battle nurse in the Royal Navy and served as a medical officer in the war. She passed away on May 5, 2004, leaving behind a legacy of faith and dedication.

Johannes Gutenberg: The Invention of Printing

Johannes Gutenberg is credited with inventing the process of movable type printing, which revolutionized the way books were produced and distributed. Gutenberg's method involved creating individual metal or wooden blocks for each letter, which could be arranged and rearranged to form words and sentences. This invention made it possible to produce books in much greater quantities and at a lower cost than ever before, leading to a significant increase in literacy rates and the spread of knowledge. Gutenberg's work laid the foundation for modern book production and had a profound impact on the world of education and communication.

Dinner'ntime in Uganda

In October 2004, I had the privilege of travelling out to the ‘Pearl of Africa’, Uganda, as a group of volunteers to help the local churches from the charity Education Action International. Our purpose was to work with teachers and especially to observe the Literacy and Basic Education programmes which aim to provide parents and their children with basic literacy skills so that they can do simple things like reading and understanding prescriptions, signing their pay packets, etc. Of one of the schools we visited was the Kyaliwajj Secondary School which had a wonderful opportunity to meet the enthusiastic students and teachers and learnt a great deal about resourcing classrooms with natural products to enhance learning. After about noon the usual signs of hungerstart, the usual rumbling stomach, lack of interest, etc. We needed to eat, and fast. The group from England all piled into the minibus and enjoyed the scenic views on the drive in, arriving at the local restaurant, where we sat down to order our meal of rice, chicken and chicken chops, topped off with a chilled bottle of lemonade. After eating our fill we wanted back to school to continue our assessments. I got thinking about this fact the entire week and was able to order a variety of foods at our fingertips. We all experienced a personal challenge in helping to provide school children in Uganda with hot and nutritious meal services. We worked out that it costs only $5,000 to provide a whole academic year, as well as employing cooks to prepare the hot nutritious meals.

A message from the Bishop

On 29 March 2005, the Bishop of the Kajiuku Baptist Church School was sent to Uganda for the first time in the school's history. The Bishop was there to hold a special service in the school, and to meet with the students and teachers. This was a significant event for the school and its community, as it marked the first time that the Bishop had visited the school. The Bishop's visit was very much appreciated by the students and teachers, who were eager to learn from his experience and wisdom. This visit was an important step in strengthening the relationship between the church and the school, and in building a strong foundation for the future of the school.
Not Fear of the Future - Faith in the Father

personal encounter with Jesus Christ. The purpose of Christ’s community is to provide a safe place for people to meet the real Jesus. Christ’s community should be a safe place for people to discover what Jesus believes about them. The testimony of Christ’s community is reconciliation and redemption. Christ’s community is best experienced when it is about other people. When we do not accept people unless they conform to our beliefs, they may conform but have no genuine faith. Deal gently; respect all questions. How we treat those who do not believe is the greatest test of our community. People will come to you with a small problem to see if they can trust you with a large problem.

Workshops

Bible study gave way to an opportunity for campers to attend any of a variety of workshops presented by main speakers (Dr Alexon & June Smith; Dr Ron du Preez), invited guests from the Trans-European Division (Pastor John Arthur), the BUC (Mrs Heather Howorth, Pastor Richard Wills), the NEC (Miss Angela Purkiss), and a student (Dr Ayuba Mavalla). Dr Alexon Smith teamed up with his wife Dr June Smith, a professor at Long Island University and a National Certified Counsellor, to present very timely and informative Family Life seminars/workshops in an engaging and practical style. Relationship is at the heart of our Christian experience, they told their listeners. Understanding the dynamics that exist between members of the family is important if families are going to survive the conflicts they will face. The Smiths showed that when couples view problems from the “Linear Causality: cause and effect” perspective, there is a tendency to blame the other when things go wrong. “Circular Causality”, where A causes B, but B affects A which, in turn, affects B and C may even extend to D - some outside source that is negatively impacting the relationship. “Because the family is viewed as a system and not as a component of parts,” they warned, “couples need to be careful how they involve third parties in their relationship.”

“When someone hands out more punishment than reward, gives out more negative feedback than positive feedback, sets boundaries that are rigid and inflexible, has unrealistic expectations of their partner, has unresolved childhood wounds that now affect relationships, or are frequently in denial about their reality, and project on each other, we know that the relationship is going bad.” In such a situation, couples should dialogue rather than argue differences of opinion, and accustomate the positive in each other.

Dr Ron du Preez quickly connected with the youth attending his workshops. They had some times of laughter, but they also shared times of serious heart searching. Through the presentations of Scripture interwoven with real-life experiences, particularly from his dating years, some valuable lessons were stamped upon the minds of the young listeners. Under the general theme, “Faith and Ethics Facing 21st Century Youth”, Dr du Preez’s workshops presentations focused on the motives that moved us to action. Answering the objections of Muslims’ and ‘Finding effective ways to win Muslims to Christ’, constituted the main thrust of Pastor Ayuba Mavalla’s presentations in the Personal Ministries workshop. Other workshops addressed Church Growth, Small Groups, Church Planting, Worship, Women’s Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Publishing, Family Finance, and Health.

Power Hour

The oft-quoted expression from the writings of Ellen G. White, “We have nothing to fear for the future…”, provided the background for Dr du Preez’s portrayal of God’s guiding hand as he reviewed Adventist early history and traced the development of key doctrines. The details of these historical excursions are contained in the early chapters of his book No Fear for the Future. The message he sought to convey is expressed in this maxim: ‘Don’t live by fear of the future, but by faith in the Father.’

After power hour, campers took time out for lunch, shopping, fellowship, street witnessing, beach games, or other organised or impromptu activities before coming together again at 7.30pm for the evening Commitment service.

Friday evening Commitment serv-ice included Communion, a fitting ice included Communion, a fitting introduction to a Sabbath evening to express his gratitude to all who had gone well while he was away at field leaders’ meeting. If campers apply the principles shared, the lessons learned, to the management of their relationships with God and man, Camp Meeting 2005 will have gone a long way to preparing a people.