This year-end marks the end of another quinquennium in the life of the British Union Conference and half a decade in the twenty-first century.

It seems like yesterday when some were concerned about the millennium bug and others the probability of some kind of apocalyptic event. What we have experienced since the turn of the millennium is an increase in the scale of international terrorism, and in the incidence and scale of disasters, tsunamis, hurricanes, and earthquakes. They seem to have dominated the media and our attention. The outpouring of grief on continents and islands could fill an ocean with tears. The image of hurting men, women and children and the painful gait of thousands of refugees on the march to nowhere fill us with horror as to the fragility of human life and the likelihood of a secure future.

Hope amid despair
We had our share of horrors and fears in the July suicide bombings. If disasters were to define 2005 then we would have lost hope. Our strategic intent has been made clear – of increasing our focus on evangelism and humanitarian outreach.

Calamities notwithstanding, we have reason to trust God’s providence. The words of Jeremiah affirm, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.) It is through his unfolding plans to bless us and do us good that we reflect on the good news of the year. There has been a spate of evangelistic initiatives, record numbers of new church plants, Bible study groups, and public and personal outreach projects resulting in many accessions. Many of our churches have also been
ADRA-UK responds to Unfolding South Asia Earthquake Disaster
by Mark Castellino

One month after the South Asia Earthquake, ADRA-UK continues to assist thousands of people affected by the catastrophe. According to the latest United Nations report the death toll currently stands at 73,216, with the numbers rising each day.

The ADRA network has mobilised to bring relief to the survivors, in a race against time to meet the basic needs of those who have been affected.

The harsh winter of the Himalayan region is the main cause of the increasing cost to human life, as well as the condition that causes the international humanitarian agencies are expecting the numbers to increase rapidly.

ADRA is providing relief supplies, including blankets, jerry cans for water and emergency medicines, to inhabitants of the Bhag district, an area which has suffered significant casualties.

ADRA-UK, together with a partner British charity, supported by partner Karachi Adventist Hospital, provided basic health services to thousands of injured people immediately following the disaster. For now, the most pressing need is shelter.

The demand for winterised tents to house the estimated 3 million homeless far outweighs support for food, and humanitarian organizations in Pakistan are finding it extremely difficult to find any other types of shelter.

The pregnant cow’s ovaries are not sufficient, an Australian measure like fat content has not been considered, together with the quarter of a million Adventists in Britain and Ireland gave after the tsunami.

Thus it will take a Christmas compassion to provide protection for the survivors.

The very first Christmas was certainly a costly business. It cost Heaven’s Son.

Wonderful pictures of grace unpublished in the Old Testament. The narrative books contained stories of grace. There were passages in Isaiah where it was hard to miss the message of grace. Hosea was a parable purposed in grace. But most didn’t see it.

They not only missed the God of grace in the Old Testament; they also passages in it to build up a picture of a God who was King and judge, true enough, but who was driven by wrath and vengeance and whose holiness drew him aloof and hid him apart from happenings on the surface of Planet Rough and Tumble.

When Heaven gave God’s Son, Heaven’s Government was making himself absolutely clear. He was coming to Rough and Tumble Planet in Person. He was saying in quiet but determined terms: ‘This is me. This is who I am. God in sharp focus.

The God who came to Rough and Tumble Planet could never again be a Stranger. Even when Rough and Tumble Planet is Crucified Planet, God is, in Christ, reaching out to reconcile, heal and enrapture: with his people, even to the end. In God there is no unrighteousness at all. God, in Christ, is the supreme Revelation.

If your need is for knowledge, Christ is Saviour. If your need is for renewal, Christ is Resurrection. If your need is for courage and empowerment, Christ is LORD.

When God came to Rough and Tumble, He was coming to the wilderness of your heart. The wilderness to which your heart is directed, the wilderness in which you are lost.

If your need is for freedom, Christ is liberation. If your need is for relationship, Christ is the supreme Revelation. If your need is for spiritual growth, Christ is the supreme Revelation.

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If your need is for freedom, Christ is liberation. If your need is for relationship, Christ is the supreme Revelation. If your need is for spiritual growth, Christ is the supreme Revelation.
People came from Canada, France, Serbia and Switzerland to celebrate sixty-five years of history for one Watford school, on Sunday 23rd October one hundred and fifty ‘Old Stanbroughians’ – former students of Stanborough School in Gants Hill – gathered at the school to meet friends and former teachers, and to reminisce. The day’s programme also gave them the opportunity to meet some present students and see the latest developments in the school plant.

Among the group were four couples who had met at Stanborough School and later married. The youngest of the couples was Samuel and Amy (Swan) Neves who attended the school in the 1990s. Amy is an accountant at the SEC and Samuel is training to be a minister.

One of the oldest present was 80-year-old Selma Herrington of Worthing, who attended Stanborough School in the late 1920s when it was housed in three rooms in a building in Sheepcote Lane, Gants Hill.

Among the former staff present was Peggy Appleyard-Mason who taught English at the school in the late 50s and 60s, Mrs Mason, widow of Derrick Mason, a former Head of Stanborough School (1975-1984), and an accomplished pianist and choir director; led the former students in the singing of the school song, ‘Her renown is the Grand March from Aida’ – traditionally played during pupils’ entry to school prize-givings – was greeted with applause and foot-stamping!

Chris Young, a student from the 50s said:

‘Stanborough gave us a sound foundation on which to build our lives.’

**Stanborough School 65th anniversary**

**Adventists shine at 2005 GEM Awards** by Sharon Platt-McDonald

The Gospel Entertainment Music (GEM) Award ceremony is designed to highlight the diverse talents of numerous UK gospel artists. Now in its third year, this prestigious event seeks to honour those who have excelled in their arena of gospel music.

This year’s event took place on Saturday evening 29 October in the impressive Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich. Nominees were entered in ten categories with their respective sponsor: Best Female Newcomer — sponsored by SRC; Local Radio; Best Male Newcomer — supported by G-Force Radio; Best Group Newcomer — sponsored by The Voice; Best Established Female — supported by Barclays; Best Established Male — sponsored by MoneyGram; Best Established Group — sponsored by Premier Radio; Best Established Choir — sponsored by Talk Gospel; Best Album — supported by Str8up; Best Established Group Newcomer — sponsored by Talk Gospel; Best Album — supported by Str8up; Best Established Female Newcomer — supported by Talk Gospel; Best Single — sponsored by Str8up; Best Recorded Performance — supported by Premier Radio; Best Gospel Revue — sponsored by Talk Gospel. The Spirit was led by Adriel Lowe.

Then there was the exceptional performance from Jeharma South from Perseverance church in Wolverhampton. As performing guest artist, this outstandingly talented 11-year-old demonstrated a maturity beyond her years. The audience was wowed by her stunning rendition of ‘When You Believe’ for which she received a standing ovation and thunderous applause.

When the London Adventist Chorale was announced winner for the category of Best Established Choir, there was a rapturous outburst of applause from the audience. A significant percentage of the excited response came from a large contingent of Adventists, whose beaming faces, hand waving, feet stamping and exuberant cheers demonstrated their degree of support and appreciation for the Chorale. The award was picked up by Chorale member Oluwafemi Dore, second tenor. In his acceptance speech Oluwafemi thanked the audience and sponsors for their support and gave credit to God for bringing the choir this far.

Equally, when Blessed Voices were declared winners of the Best Album category, the response mirrored that of the Chorale. However, when Blessed Voices were asked for a live rendition of their song ‘Relations’ written by group members Cameron and Meshach, the atmosphere was electric as the audience stood to their feet in deafening applause and vocal expressions of appreciation. Cameron, in his acceptance speech, gave a glowing tribute to God for his leading in their lives and his hand in their current success.

This event attracted extensive media coverage and we extend our congratulations to all the winners and pray for their continued success as they seek to share the Gospel through the medium of music.

**Henley Green Visitors’ Day** by Simba Nduku

It was visitors’ day at Henley Green church, Coventry, on 21 May, and more than 200 people were present. People from the local community were welcomed and made to feel at home. Visitors were invited to stay behind for a potluck lunch, which they enjoyed very much.

*Inspirational music from the groups Joy Balls and Unlimited Praise lifted our thoughts heavenward. We were greatly encouraged by Pastor Stephen Burton-Schnull’s sermon, ‘We will reach the other side.’ The theme of the message was, ‘With Jesus in the vessel we can smile at the storm.’ In the afternoon, the Bible study on ‘Fruits of the Spirit’ was led by Adriel Lowe."

* — Sharon Platt-McDonald

**Moving on**

On Sabbath 24 September Stanborough Park church members were very sad to say goodbye to assistant pastor Russell Mantague. His partner Marie Russell and Marie came to us two years ago and are moving on because Russell is taking on the responsibility of ministering to Harrow and Hemel Hempstead churches.

Vocing our formal farewell, church elder Richard Poulton said, ‘We have enjoyed your time with us. You’ve helped so many of us and have run so many church programmes.’ Because we hadn’t known about the move for long, Richard presented Russell with a cheque as our leaving gift to the couple. Marie was also presented with a bouquet.

In reply, Russell thanked the members and said, ‘I’ve had a great time here. It’s been a great experience, thank you for your support.’

He then went on to say that when thinking about his charity abseil which was reported in an earlier Mississauga. Certainly a memorable experience arising out of his work here!

Later on, the couple were surrounded by members and visitors anxious to say their own goodbyes, and sorry to part from such caring young people. Hopefully, we’ll see them when Harrow and Hemel can spare them for a visit to us.
**Bury St Edmunds: Rededication**

*by Robert Buckley and David West*

Church leaders, civic dignitaries, friends and fellow members (joined us to fill our recently redeveloped church building. It was a service of rededication because it has been a place of worship for a couple of hundred years – most of those as a Railway Mission Hall, which explains its close proximity to the main station.

Purchased by us in 2002, it was a Grade 2 Listed building in need of major renovation; one of an elite group of ‘Treasure Sites’ in this country. Local historian and former Railway Mission member, Gloria Abbott, gave an engaging account of the life story of the building. A member of the Bury Society, Gerard Trelawny, shared with us how, as a young lad, he had sung in it and now many years later he had been able to assist us in getting approval for our renovation work.

Once the project was completed in May this year, the members planned and prepared thoroughly for the big day. We were delighted to have representatives from the Conference, the Union, the Division and the General Conference, with Dr Jonathan Gallacher as our main speaker. The Deputy Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Councillor Paul Hoffspenster, a Roman Catholic, told us that he had personally met the present Pope when he was still Cardinal Ratzinger. After looking at our beliefs on the Internet, Paul felt we had much in common and he wished us well.

Appropriate musical items were rendered by the Advent Singers from Ipswich, and our own Ruby-Pier sang ‘Bless This House’. Pastors Jonathan Gallagher and Robert Surridge were involved in establishing an Adventist presence in Bury in 1985. Jonathan spoke about the early days and reflected that although people are often unwilling to discuss religion they are often happy to talk about their view of God. He encouraged us to talk to neighbours and friends about the loving, gracious God whom we know and worship.

The service was followed by delicious refreshments, which provided an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Then we closed the day with a praise service, led by David Andrews with Nicky, Tricia, Jose and Steven.

The Advent Singers

**Ipswich Gospel Extravaganza**

The Advent Singers and special guests thrilled a capacity audience with a Gospel extravaganza in a packed-out Ipswich church. This was raised for a local charity, East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH) which operates was planned and prepared thoroughly for the choir.

Pasted this year’s Autumn Society, Asha, coming to England just over a month from before, Asha works as a nurse. She first heard about the meetings while chatting to her work colleagues about what they did during the weekend. Hearing about the Hope for Today series and the previous evening’s message which was ‘Warrington’? And hope for you’, and how an Indian pastor was presenting the messages, Asha asked if she could come along and listen. She came, and made friends with us immediately. She was pleased to meet Pastor Gill and hear the message. The evening, also join us for several more after that.

One gentleman walked by the church one evening and saw the huge invitation banner outside the church building. Subsequently he joined us for the evening, enjoying the vibrant singing with the praise team and the message.

In total over fifteen new contacts were established from the Hope for Today seminar. Many people from the meetings out of curiosity or by personal invitation from friends and family, and others from a pamphlet pushed through a letterbox. Night after night the church was filled as Pastor Gill led the congregation through the Bible. Each evening he showed how God dramatically changed his own life. He told of his experiences of meeting people from all walks of life and sharing Christ with them. Following an all call on this theme, the entire congregation came forward surrendering their lives to Christ. The final event of this seminar series was the Sabbath evening concert. New faces were spotted amid the large crowd gathered that evening, many of whom were young people who we welcomed into our community as the Micklefield and the Sands churches led a lively service followed by exceptionally good gospel music from performers from both churches.

One high point of the evening was a testimony from Sonia, who told of her move to the area earlier this year. Not long after, the former owner of her house invited Sonia to the Adventist church and soon she made friends with the church family.

**High Wycombe’s ‘Hope for Today’ campaign**

From Sunday 4 September to Sabbath 17 September the High Wycombe churches hosted a community evangelistic seminar entitled ‘Hope for Today’. The speaker for the series was Pastor Thomas Gill from the North India Union whose message was the Sabbath evening concert.

Nicky Saunders and the General, with Dr Jonathan Gallacher as our main speaker. The Deputy Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Councillor Paul Hoffspenster, a Roman Catholic, told us that he had personally met the present Pope when he was still Cardinal Ratzinger. After looking at our beliefs on the Internet, Paul felt we had much in common and he wished us well.

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The Advent Singers

**Ipswich Gospel Extravaganza**

The Advent Singers and special guests thrilled a capacity audience with a Gospel extravaganza in Ipswich on Saturday evening 8 October.

This witnessing event was entitled ‘Why We Sing’, and followed on from last year’s fund-raising concert in a packed-out Ipswich church. This year the concert was held in the grand hall of the centrally located Ipswich school. A total of £500 was raised for a local charity, East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH) which operates hospices in Ipswich, Cambridge and Quedham in Norfolk.

The Advent Singers, under the leadership of Tricia Evelyn and Nicky Saunders, consists of several bands of the Ipswich church, originally from several countries. The choir performed many new songs as well as some well-loved gospel favourites interspersed with brief testimonials telling the audience why we sing.

Also taking part in the extravaganza were Sisters in Christ, in the city of London, as well as England. Born and brought up in the northern State of Punjab, India, Pastor Gill comes from an Adventist family and is the eldest of three brothers. After leaving the city of Luton in England where there is a growing community of Adventists. He also ministers to medical students at the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana. Bible studies to Hindu children in a school for the blind.

Here in High Wycombe, Pastor Gill was called to speak at the Hope for Today series held at the St John’s church. Chosen for its suitability, it is ideally located just a five-minute walk from the town centre. Each of the twelve evenings was well supported by the church members, with their friends, family and neighbours. One young lady who came to these evening services was Asha, coming to England just over a month from before, Asha works as a nurse. She first heard about the meetings while chatting to her work colleagues about what they did during the weekend. Hearing about the Hope for Today series and the previous evening’s message which was ‘Warrington’? And hope for you’, and how an Indian pastor was presenting the messages, Asha asked if she could come along and listen. She came, and made friends with us immediately. She was pleased to meet Pastor Gill and hear the message. The evening, also join us for several more after that.

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**Now with regular home Bible studies**

Sonia is involved in church activities and is committed to following Christ. A testimony from Sonia, who is involved in church activities and is committed to following Christ. A testimony from Sonia, who is involved in church activities and is committed to following Christ.

**Mables Halls (1915-2005) – d. 19 October**

The Adventist church is sad to report the death of Mrs Mables Halls. Mrs Halls was 90 when she died, having spent her long retirement in the Retired Nurses’ Home at Fishpool, St Neots. She was born in West Ham, London, and she and her mother are remembered attending the Administrative and Education churches west of London for forty years. Mabel remained close to her parents and cared for them into old age. Indeed, her chosen profession was one of caring, specializing in midwifery/paediatrics, in which she excelled, rising to a senior position and receiving commendation for her work. She retained to Burnham and faithfully attended the local church and still held her membership.

**Reverend Tom**

**Pat Stanley**

**Dr Grace Pinto**

**Felix Patrick and Dailey Wals**

**Second Coming**

The co-ordinated programme saw Pastor Felix Jack and Dailey Wals contributing to the programme using arts, crafts and early morning worships and prayer time.

Games, walks and prayer vigils encouraged the friendly and loving atmosphere.

The food – plenty of it and very tasty – and prayer vigils helped the forty or so guests to feel relaxed, safe and in a mood to grow closer to God.

The closing moments of Earth’s history, as seen by a teenager, were accompanied by impactful thunder and lightning effects, and an earthquake percussion. An emotional finale saw nine young people from around the Conference make decisions for Christ.

**2006 Devotionals**

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES and SABBATH SCHOOL**

**Let’s Festival of Lady**

Sabbath 3 December

Clarendon College, Pelham Avenue,

Manchester Road, Wellingborough NN1 2LA.

**Hackney 25th Anniversary**

Sabbath 24-26 February 2006

For NCPC Pastor Ninette, and Sabbath School, contact Pastor K. Manges on 015 9600512

**07949 760663
07944 148954
**
God’s leading in 2005

enriched the inflow of immigrant members from overseas.

LIFEdevelopment.info

The Life Development evangelistic initiative, launched four years ago, has produced the Mind the Gap series – the second batch of resource materials designed to connect with postmoderns. The reception of the LIFEdevelopment.info concept/process may be slow but more and more people are showing interest in it both in this country and abroad.

General Conference year

This was the year of the 58th Session of the General Conference. Hundreds of our members attended the meet- ings in St Louis to hear riveting stories of the expansion of the global church and its mission in more than 200 countries. Our world membership has exceeded the 14 million mark. Twenty million, including visitors and unattached members, attend our churches worldwide every Sabbath. With this report comes the universal call for the church at all levels to make as priority the following:

- Unity in the body of Christ
- Quality of spiritual life in Christ
- Growth in the body of Christ
- The overarching theme of the world Church for 2006 will be ‘Journey of Hope’.

Lights Across London

We are pleased that London has been chosen as one of the thirteen cities around the world for the launching of a special initiative to establish new church plants among the different people groups in mega urban centres. The South England Conference is on its way to making twenty new church plants.

Throughout the year we faced many challenges in operating our institutions and nurturing the churches but God has been faithful to us. We thank our workers who carry out their duties, both on the front line and behind the scenes, for their loyalty and faithfulness to the task.

Membership

Membership at the beginning of the year stood at 24,502, but is likely to be over 25,000 based on growth trends at the end of the second quarter. Thanks must go to our faithful members and volunteer missionaries who have been so committed in their support of the church spiritually and financially. Despite the slow down in the country’s economy the church has been able to meet its many commitments. The trend of our giving - in tithes and offerings and gift aid - is a sign of God’s blessings upon his people.

ADRA

ADRA has experienced record donations from its appeal through INgathering. In the Tsunami Appeal over 278,000 was collected. Many other humanitarian projects met with a healthy response. Such demonstration of love and compassion as seen in the outpouring of help for the victims of poverty and disasters will not go unnoticed by God.

Changes

There were changes of leadership in the South England Conference and Irish Mission. Pastor Don McFarlane was succeeded by Pastor Humphrey Walters, and Pastor Curtis Murphy by Pastor David Neal.

Departmental changes also took place at both levels of the organisation.

At Roundelwood the baton passed from Pastor Martin Bell to Malcolm Hayles. The former director, after twenty years of service, goes into semi-retirement with the brief of overseeing the retirement properties.

I am grateful to God for the quality of leadership in the Conferences, Missions and institutions.

The Publishing work has been given a new lease of life by the appointment of a new Publishing director. The Starburn Press stands in the vanguard of the production and distribution of our literature. Thanks to the leadership at the Press for their successful financial management in the face of stiff competition in the marketplace.

More could have been said of the many blessings we have experienced this year. We have come this far by faith, knowing that God has led us all the way.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in this country has nothing to fear for the future unless we forget the way God has led us in 2005. Our mission is wrapped up in the imperative, ‘Go Tell the World’, and we are encouraged to use all means at our disposal to give to the world the good news of the Lord’s love and soon return to restore harmony to his universe.

We at the British Union Conference wish you a well-deserved break this year end. Remember our senior members who may be lonely and infirm. God has given us his greatest gift, Jesus Christ. We can make him real to others by extending kindness and compassion to the vulnerable and supporting God on behalf of the socially and spiritually needy. Do not forget that God’s plans are formulated to do us good.

Have a blessed New Year as we take together the ‘Journey of Hope’ into 2006.

Brixton campaign:
Fifty-two baptised

On Sabbath 17 September Pastor Telemaque heralded the ‘Better Days are Coming’ campaign with power and conviction at the British church. The title was fittingly chosen as a stark reminder that, in spite of our pre-occupation with a world that is rife with disaster, disease and death, there are better days a-coming. Pastor Telemaque came to us from the Caribbean Union College, Trinidad, where he serves as the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director. He is also the Prayer co-ordinator for the Caribbean Union Conference.

Pastor Telemaque’s emphasis on prayer ministry formed an integral part of the campaign and was evident in the training of, prior to the campaign, and dispersal of several dedicated prayer warriors throughout the service each night. Their main focus was to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the service and on those who attended. He firmly believes in the power of intercessory prayer.

He was assisted in his ministry by a singing evangelist, Patricia Garnett-Radlein from Ontario, Canada. Her singing ministry and golden voice proclaimed the Gospel of Christ to all who had the privilege to hear her. The Brixton Praise Team accompanied her.

Sabbaths were special days dur- ing the campaign, not only because it was Sabbath but also because we veered from our usual programme to one of an inspirational prayer con- ference. This involved celebrating God’s goodness and mercy through prayer, renewed commitment and anointing. It was an awesome experience for all present.

At the end of the three-week campaign, fifty-two candidates took up the challenge. Many of them who may be lonely and infirm. God has given us his greatest gift, Jesus Christ. We can make him real to others by extending kindness and compassion to the vulnerable and supporting God on behalf of the socially and spiritually needy. Do not forget that God’s plans are formulated to do us good.

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