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 convened 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 emphasized the need to build people up, he bided 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 emphasized 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?poetld=1692.

Ingathering Dates 2008
METROPOLITAN AREA: 29 March - 20 April
PROVINCES: 29 March - 13 April
**The voice of freedom**

David Marshall

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, the final chapter. 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 forever. Jesus will come again, not this time to suffer but to reign. And his coming will settle the question of evil for ever.

In his commentary, R. T. France 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.”

Isaiah 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 anywhere. 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 come again! He has said: “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 shall come again and take you to myself.”

### 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 as a administrative assistant in 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.

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 appointment form: Paul Haworth, Executive Secretary, North England Conference, 22 Jula Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 6DS. Email: admin@nepconference.org.uk

### 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 in Britain. Although the course is for anyone with a personal and/or professional interest, it will be of mutual benefit to educators and leaders within faith-based organisations.

The course will run over a period of 12 sessions (exact dates to be arranged) at a cost of £20.

To further details contact: Dr Kay Traill on 01344 407471, ktraill@newbold.ac.uk or Val Bernard on 01344 407468, vbernard@newbold.ac.uk

---

**Enhancing Health**

by Sharon Platt, McDowell 600, NN, NIV, NCV. Health Minister, Newbold ECC.

Part 2

**Brain Health**

### Key principles

There is no greater or more complex system than the human brain. This collection of neurons weighing approximately 3 lbs controls all of our thoughts, emotions and behaviour. There is no greater or more complex system than the human brain. This collection of neurons weighing approximately 3 lbs controls all of our thoughts, emotions and behaviour.

- **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.

- **Drug alert**
  - Many drugs have a damaging effect upon neurotransmitters, the chemicals which crucial for effective brain function. However, certain medications (e.g. some acid suppressing drugs) can adversely affect the brain, causing difficulties from reduced learning ability to motor function problems and impaired mobility.

- **Pain it or play it**
  - Acute and chronic pain can make these essential or ‘good fats’ called lipids, which are crucial for effective brain function. However, ‘bad fats’ (e.g. saturated and trans fats) affect the brain, causing difficulties from reduced learning ability to motor function problems and impaired mobility.

- **A proactive and lifelong lifestyle for brain health encourages the development of brain reserves that may delay the onset of neurodegenerative disease.**

- **The influence of the mind upon the body and of the body upon the mind, and the laws by which they are governed.**

- **A proactive and lifelong lifestyle for brain health encourages the development of brain reserves that may delay the onset of neurodegenerative disease.**

- **Do not provide building blocks to make these essential or ‘good fats’ called lipids, which are crucial for effective brain function.**

- **Exercise changes the structure and function of the brain.**

- **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.**

- **The coming of the Lord will indeed be like a lightning-flash, that lights up the earth at end from end to end, will the Son of Man be in his day.**

- **For further details contact: Dr Kay Traill on 01344 407471, ktraill@newbold.ac.uk or Val Bernard on 01344 407468, vbernard@newbold.ac.uk**

---

**References:**

Donna Palmer

Vera Machell

Maureen gave a brief history of the members of the Crieff church Pathfinder club were delighted and excited to have the Scottish Mission Youth and to attend the next Division Camporee.

The sermon, based on Philippians 4:10-13, was delivered by 17-year-old Kangas Green, assisted by Maureen Johnson-Kerr.

The programme on the last Sabbath of November was organised by theCrieff church. It was 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.

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

Under the enthusiastic and able leadership of D. Ashby and L. Green, the Pathfinder club has been formed under the musical direction of S. Mckivin and has much achieved. The children share Scripture with the seniors, give the seniors a well-deserved rest. They share Scripture with the seniors, give the seniors a well-deserved rest. They shared Scripture, sang solos, duets and trios, all on the theme of Jesus’ love.

God has blessed our young people throughout the year and there are some special achievements worthy of mention. Estian Schoonraad obtained top marks in his three A levels (Business Studies, English and Mathematics). He has shown good behaviour, work and contribution to the school; and Rita Mwanza has reached grade 4 in gymnastics at the age of 10.

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.

Newport: Youth achievement

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. 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.

Praise and worship to Sabbath School which was confidently led by Kanika Green, assisted by Maureen Johnson-Kerr.

A choir has been formed under the musical direction of S. McKenzie and has much achieved. Several events have been organised: days off for fellowship, evangelism in the park, sponsorship camps and car boot sales, to name but a few.

A special achievement worthy of mention. Estian Schoonraad obtained top marks in his three A levels (Business Studies, English and Mathematics). He has shown good behaviour, work and contribution to the school; and Rita Mwanza has reached grade 4 in gymnastics at the age of 10.

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.

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 increased 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 parallel of the talents, ensuring that no church leader in the congregation would dare hide their one talent, but that together the talented people were to come to learn what would make a real difference for God’s kingdom.

Following a short presentation emphasising the needs of Protection and policies on Keeping the Church Family Safe (NCFS), 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 oversaw 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 Wallach 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 pledged how beneficial the training had been for her. ‘Durs 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 role of the 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 ministrers up were 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.

Birmingham, 28 January

BUC Communication director

Words and photos by Victor Hulbert,

News Break

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

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 grandchild 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 Roundlewood and Heather becoming a nurse.

Adrian 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 and 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. Ghiolda, 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.

NEC 2008

Crieff: Fifth-generation Adventists baptised

The members of the Crieff church Pathfinder club were delighted and excited to have the Scottish Mission Youth and Pathfinder sponsor, Pastor M. Ghiolda, present for their recent investiture service. The congregation was delighted at how smart and well trained the Pathfinders were. A special ceremony was performed in which Pouya, 17, and Marla, 16, were baptised.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

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. Ghiolda, present for their recent investiture service. The congregation was delighted at how smart and well trained the Pathfinders were. A special ceremony was performed in which Pouya, 17, and Marla, 16, were baptised.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.

The ceremony was performed in front of a large and enthusiastic audience, which included some of the senior members of the church. The service was a moving and inspiring moment for all who attended.
Does your church know its own profile?

by Dr Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries director, SEC

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 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?

In 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 parent’s farm that would serve him well in ministry. At the age of 11 he began attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Whitefish, 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 heart 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 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?

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 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?

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 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?
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 Jenge, 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 flipping 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. A collection of watches taken to 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 flipping 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 beavering 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.

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!’

JIMMY HIL.