Pastor Don McFarlane

NEC's new president, Pastor Ian Sweeney

NEC's incoming officers: Pastor Haworth, Pastor Sweeney and Rejoice Kampengele

Pastor Cyril Sweeney

Scarborough from the Spa

Marcus Dove

BIG changes in North England

Reports on the NEC Session, Scarborough, 26-29 June

pages 5-15
Jesus died, was buried and rose again. Later he ascended to his Father. When Jesus ascended he left behind a visible body on Earth. That visible Body was his Church. Since then the aspect of Christ that is visible to the world has been his Church.1 Not just them: NOW! So what does the world see? In our efforts to represent the Saviour how are we doing?

It is important to remind ourselves that the Church is the visible Body of Christ in the world because, at times, it is possible to get the impression that it is a federation of clubs for the middle-aged, or an international Company with a pyramidal hierarchy to be scaled by the ambitious. No. The Church is the Body of Christ. Can the Body of Christ have problems? Did Ephesus or Sardis or Laodicea? Does London or Birmingham or Watford? Bodies can suffer from elephantiasis. That happens when one member (organ) has grown so big the others cannot function. There is no room in the church for either a celebrity culture or a ruling class. Bodies can suffer amputations when members cut themselves off from a real commitment to one another. That’s bad. The body needs all parts to work properly. A body in which two thirds of the members don’t function is unthinkable. Bodies can suffer fractures. Fractures affect, not just one or two organs, but the whole body. Some organs of the Body can atrophy. That happens when there is no muscle-building activity in the spiritual life. Can arthritis happen, when bone grates on bone? What prevents arthritis in a healthy body is the seating of gristle between the bones. The Church equivalent of that is love.

Yet that is the Church God used to change the world. The world at its worst needs the Church – is for. When the Church began, the Pastor and the people accepted a responsibility. According to research, the desire to overeat can be controlled by the same part of the brain that controls cravings for drugs in addicts.

Is it ever appropriate to lie? We have all done it, and perhaps we are anxious to justify ourselves. Some would give examples of situations in which it would be wrong to tell the truth. For instance, let’s suppose you are living in a country occupied by foreign troops, and they are looking for an innocent member of your family who is hiding somewhere in your house, in order to kidnap him. When you are asked if the person is in the house, will you tell the truth, thus sending them to almost certain death? Most of us would consider that a lie would be justified in such an extreme circumstance. However, even if it is, the chance of something that extreme happening to most of us is very slim. Such an event, if it happened at all, might only occur once or twice in a lifetime. As Christians, though, we are admonished to tell the truth. ‘Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.’ Ephesians 4:25. One final thought. How do you feel about someone who has lied to you? Is that the way you want people to feel about you?

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**Changes in the North**

Session opening

A report of the NEC Session, Scarborough, 26-29 June

Reporters: Cedric Vine, Anita Marshall, Victor Hubert, David Marshall

Photos: Victor Hubert, David Marshall, Peter Smythes

UC president Pastor Don McFarlane was surprised at the number of delegates who had arrived and were in their seats by 2pm – 289 out of a total delegation of 393.

Following the Mayor’s greetings business began when Pastor McFarlane said, ‘You may have your own ideas . . . but God’s are the ideas that matter.’

It was refreshing and encouraging to see the choice of recommendations committee made so expeditiously. Someone who had attended both Union and SEC sessions in the last couple of years commented favourably about the warm yet efficient spirit evident in the north.

Four new congregations were voted into the NEC’s sisterhood of churches, and their delegates seated: Donetsk, Stanloke Close (Wellingborough), Bournville and Hardwicke Wood.

**A message from the SEC president**

We need an anchor

by Sam Davis

The Bishop of Rochester, The Right Revd Michael Nazir-Ali, said recently, ‘Many values respected by society, such as the dignity of human life, equality and freedom, are based on Christian ones.’ He warned that without their Christian backbone these values cannot exist forever, and that new belief systems may arise based on different values. He said this in response to Archbishops Rowan Williams’ statement that the adoption of some Islamic Sharia law in the UK seemed unavoidable and could be helpful in social cohesion.

Both men hit the fuse on a very interesting debate. But it was the debate that followed Nazir-Ali’s statement that particularly caught my attention. Do you have to be a Christian in order to be moral?

I listened as radio broadcasters and media pundits challenged their listeners with that question. The universal answer was a resounding ‘No!’ Some people were even offended at the suggestion that Christianity should be thought of as the benchmark for moral behaviour.

Matthew Parvis, in a Radio 5 Live debate, insisted that people were moral without the need for Christianity. Indeed, I would ask how many moral people you know who are not Christians? If the truth be told, we are surrounded by moral individuals in our workplaces, schools, colleges, and so on. I can think of many good moral organisations like Amnesty International, and Fair Trials International, just to name a couple. So what’s different about Christianity?

There are those who would argue that the case for Christianity is very weak. Christians have been responsible for some of the world’s most violent crimes. The Crusades, pogroms, anti-Semitism, and wars. We cannot argue with these facts. However, rightly understood and applied, Christianity is the foundation stone that underpins all societal values for men everywhere. You might well ask, ‘Why do you say that?’

The prophet Jeremiah describes the moral condition of man very well. Jeremiah 17:9 affirms: ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.’

The wise man Solomon was right when he declared, ‘Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.’ Prov. 14:34.

Integration of Faith and Learning Conference

Organised and hosted by the British Union Conference Education Department

Monday 1 September 2008

Newbold College Church, Binfield, Berkshire


Guest Speakers:

- Dr Larry Burton – Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Andrews University
- Dr John Wesley Taylor V – Professor of Education, Philosophy & Research, Southern Adventist University
- Dr Daniel Duda – Director of Education, Trans-European Division
- Dr Larry Burton – Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Andrews University

Contact:

Mrs Mary Kapon – tel: 01923 672251, Email: mkapon@adventist.org.uk

Registration:

Contact Mrs Mary Kapon for further information and a registration form.

Closing date:

Thurs 31 July 2008

**Correction**

**Messegion 113.13 page 11**

Dr Leslie Williams writes to clarify that his father, Dr A. H. Williams, was not a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Rather that part of his father’s wartime responsibility was to Shroedells Hospital, and call appropriate doctors drawn from a ‘roster made up of local doctors holding an FRCS.’

EDITOR
The president's report

Thurday evening's session was devoted to the presentation of the president's report, which reviews an overview of the Conference's performance in implementing its strategy, entitled 'Forward by His Spirit'. The report consisted of two sections: the first a brief overview of the week's activities at the Conference presented by President Pastor Egerton Francis (EF), the second a multimedia presentation of EF being interviewed by Jeanett Libuid (IL) that added flesh to the bones of the first section. The report was not open to the scrutiny of delegates on the basis that information would be presented in more detail in the following business sessions. The report covered six areas outlined in the Conference's Strategic Plan: community ministry; church ministry; education; leadership and training; property; and administration. Highlights of the report included the following:

1. Community ministry

The aim of community ministry is to reach local communities with the Gospel. In 2004, the Conference set the objective of planting six new churches. EF was pleased to report that during the first three months nine churches were planted. Over 160 Conference-supported evangelistic efforts were reported in addition to those run without Conference subsidies. In addition 21,000 homes were visited through the annual Door to Door outreach. In total just over £1m was spent on education during the term. EF concluded by thanking both the membership and pastors for their help in achieving Conference goals set out at the previous session.

2. Church ministry

Church ministry covers a broad range of activities. EF reported on the Aberdeen development programme and stated that the site is nearing its maximum capacity, being used for about thirty-eight weeks of the year for summer camps and church parties, necessitating further development. EF further reported on plans for the Ravenhurst Street properties in Birmingham to be developed as additional classroom capacity for the Harper Bell School.

3. Education

EF reported that Harper Bell and Dudley House schools have received glowing reports from Ofsted and are in the process of seeking voluntary aided Status. This should enhance their future financial status. Additional financial support was given to sponsored students at Newfield College and to Conference employees continuing their education through other institutions. In total just over £2m was spent on education during the term. EF concluded by thanking those who have diligently served and noted those who have retired since the last session.

4. Leadership and training

Leadership and training include all programmes and support for lady and Conference employees. These included three one-day Pastoral Team Meetings per annum, an annual three-day Pastoral Training and support and training tailored for ministerial interns and licensed ministers. Annual training was also provided each January for these three members serving as church officers in their churches.

5. Property

During the term, five properties were purchased and five churches undertook extensive development.

6. Administration

Administration covers a broad range of activities. During the term, the Conference ordained seven ministers and employed six ordained ministers, three licensed ministers, three Bible instructors and three ministerial interns. Nine ministers and two Bible instructors left Conference employment due to retirement, further studies or the seeking of employment opportunities elsewhere in the Church. EF concluded by thanking both the membership and pastors for their help in achieving Conference goals set out at the previous session.

Departmental budgets

EF outlined the various budgets for the different departments and proposed the creation of director positions for Children’s Ministries (full-time), Health Ministries (part-time) and Women’s Ministries (part-time). Discussion ensued with Pastor Gary Gordon expressing his concern that Family Ministries receive a greater emphasis. Pastor Steve Palmer, self-designated ‘Bishop of Coventry’, suggested that Personal Ministries and Church Growth departments might be combined. Further suggestions were made regarding the expansion of different departments’ budgets. EF responded by remiding delegates of the need for financial prudence. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recommendations committee report

Chair: Pastor Don McFarlane led the presentation of the report from the recommendations committee, read by the respective committee, Faith Marms of Leeds. The following names were nominated and voted upon:
The ordination

Pastor McFarlane thanks outgoing treasurer Marcus Dove

Marcus began by giving the
his attention to detail and accuracy, will be missed at NEC. Dove’s courteous manner and polished style, together with outgoing treasurer Marcus

Treasurer’s report

O utgoing treasurer Marcus Dove’s courteous manner and polished style, together with his attention to detail and accuracy, will be missed at NEC.

Marcus began by giving the aggregate figure for tithe for the quarter.

Marcus reflected on the way in which Church minutes had been dis- bursed. ‘These questions come to mind,’ he said. ‘Are we becoming more of an establishment and less of a movement? Are we spending more on ourselves and less on reaching the communities around us?’

To reassure the economists among us he concluded. ‘We have a good working capital and a good liquidity ratio.’

From the floor Andy West (Bradford) asked if it was not possible to have a reciprocal relationship with SEC with regard to workers. John Francis (Nottingham C) expressed concern at the number of ‘drop-offs’ — those who, having been baptised following a campaign, subsequently fell away from the church. He stressed the importance of ‘grounding’ prior to baptism.

Partially in response to John’s point, Annette Kowarin (Wilmslow) stressed the importance of nurturing new members. She also suggested the need for a diversity audit. Pastor Haworth though such an audit might be a useful exercise.

Disappointment at the relatively small level of evangelism grants currently available to local churches. Lorraine Warden (Manchester South) suggested that an advisory panel, made up of lay professionals, be set up to advise the treasurer.

Personal Ministries

Pastor Roy Morgan — characteristically alluding to the delegation as ‘Beloved’ — presented the PM report at 11am. For a decade and a half Pastor Morgan’s style and commitment have been synonymous with Personal Ministries and Sabbath School in NEC.

His summarised report had three points of emphasis. 1. The training of members to witness. The L.E.T.S. programme had no equivalent elsewhere in the TED territories. 2. Training leaders to lead. Pastor Morgan urged delegates to ensure that their leaders were encouraged to go to his training programmes. The PM department had been giving Daniel and Revelation materials free over the quarter. 20 had been baptised as a result. 3. Promoting the ADRA appeal, more than half a million pounds over the quarter had been collected in NEC. Twenty-five percent of the membership had been involved.

From the floor Daniella Taylor (Manchester South) referred back to the list of unentered towns given in the executive secretary’s report. What programme existed, she asked Pastor Morgan, to enter them?

3. To evangelise districts which did not, as of now, have an Adventist presence. Pastor Haworth’s PowerPoint included a long list of northern towns of 10,000 population or more where there is no Adventist presence. Pastor Haworth, who was chairing the session, conceded that 43% of the list had been ‘entry last year’. Pastor Francis, who was chairing the session, conceded that 43% of the list had been ‘entry last year’. Pastor Francis, who was chairing the session, conceded that 43% of the list had been ‘entry last year’.

John McGoldrick (Manchester North) was worried about losses to the NEC pastoral team and that insufficient effort was being made to train and recruit members.

Conference officers Paul Haworth, Ian Sweeney and Refjae Kampeengle

President Francis welcomes President Sweeney

Allan McFarquhar and John Francis raised a number of concerns, among them that candidates were being baptised after inadequate study. Pastor Morgan said that, internationally, 34% of those baptised subsequently left the Church. He believed that our response to this should be a comprehensive programme of nurture. ‘People need to be integrated into the church,’ he said. That was why the PM department was running workshops on how to nurture members.

Community Services and Family Ministries

Pastor Cyril Sweeney has been a fixture at NEC for many years. Longer, even, than Pastor Morgan. His first assignment was as Youth director. For many years his current department has made use of his excellent counselling and people skills. Members from other conferences and missions have spoken in glowing terms of Cyril’s work as, for

President Francis welcomes President Sweeney
Pastor Morgan had the unenviable task of nominating committee had a partial report but, in the absence of bodies, suggested that we continue with the scheduled report.

From the floor Susan Mathson (Conference church) stressed that ‘children need to be involved and they need to be listened to’. She agreed with Heather that more classes need to be made available, and the need to use outside agencies.

A Manchester delegate said that many children who came to Aberdeen camps had ‘very adult problems’. Nevertheless, she encouraged both children and young people to get away from the pressures and influences of the cities and to spend time at Aberdaron.

When we broke for lunch at 12.30 we were very much aware that we had not yet heard from the nominating committee.

New president and treasurer

Report: David Marshall

Pastor Ian Sweeney’s acceptance speech were in a position of privilege at working with such a fine team of pastors. One of those pasto...rion.” There had been a number of youth study weekends, there had been a doctrinal weekend and, in addition, there had been such an amazing number of the Schools of the Prophet.

Ingrid Sharpe (Northampton) expressed her thanks to Pastor Fred Mapp for being such a great leader. ‘We had to wait until Sabbath to meet the new treasurer. The re-election of Yorkshireman Pastor Paul Haworth, who had only served half a term, was over in seconds.

Marcus Dove had expressed his intention of standing down as treasurer in advance of the session. The name the nominating committee had added to the place before the delegation as treasurer was one of the few unfamiliar to the delegation: Rejoice Kampenge.

The central debate for the after-luncheon session was on the North Central department’s report presented by Pastor Alan Hush. Pastor Hush said that his theme had been ‘For youth to be totally committed to a radical relationship with Christ and with his “Remnant Church”’. There had been a number of youth study weekends, there had been a doctrinal weekend and, in addition, there had been such an amazing number of the Schools of the Prophet.

Daniella Taylor thanked him for his leadership in which she had been blessed by it. Delegates Annette Kowari (Willsboro) and Hazel Layland (Leicester) spoke jointly from the floor, as mothers of young people in the church. The programmes sponsored by the youth leadership, they said, were aimed high on the spiritual ladder. A programme was needed to address the needs of the young people whom they were aware who had yet to step on the bottom rung of that ladder. ‘If major changes have been made to feel they no longer belong,’ said Annette and Hazel. ‘Our youth have been made to feel they no longer belong.’

Maureen Clark (Oldham) said that insufficient information about the importance of “praying home the prodigals” and was concerned that ‘the heart of the Father’ was not present in some of the meetings.

In the Women’s Ministries report Pastor Heather Haworth spoke of the impact of a ‘regional ministry’. ‘Many were taking a break from church’. She agreed with Heather that more...
Friday evening

F ollowing a hard day at the office, the evening session opened with a time of prayer for the newly elected officers and the global Church led by Pastor Victor Marshall. This was followed by a much-anticipated period of personal reflection set against a musical meditation on the piano presented by Dr Diana Sinclair. Music Advisor to the Conference. Thoughts were then focused on the soon return of Jesus in which we are busy witnessing. 'That shepherd boy had to encourage Saul. David was jealous for the good name of God, and that is how we should feel.'

Scarborough Session Sabbath

R eporter: Anita Marshall

I n Scarborough’s beautiful South Bay, a regatta was in full sail. It was a lovely day, and might have tempted delegates and visitors to the Session to spend time outside, but not so. The Spa complex buzzed with activity. The Spa was certainly the warmest inside the Spa theatre originating from the Sun, the hot sun.

After a lovely opening song by Geraldine Farmer, Noah Naylor called us to prayer and an exuberant song service, reminding us that Jesus is Lord. And the Senior lecturers at one of the universities in Birmingham.

Nominating committee

A nother report from the nominating committee was presented at 5pm. 'There has been a wonderful spirit at this session,’ said Pastor McFarlane. Prefacing the report, he quoted Pastor Francis as saying, some weeks previously, ‘There must be women on the team in the next term.’

The nominations voted:

Pastor Michael Simpson, Personal Ministries and Church Planting director
Pastor Trevor Thomas, Pathfinder director
Pastor Egerton Francis, Missionary Association director
Pastor Alan Rush, Youth director
Pastor Jeff Nicholson, Stewardship and Communication director
Mrs Grace Walsh, Family Ministries and Community Services director

Sister Walsh, we were informed, was an elder of the Dudley congregation and the senior lecturer at one of the universities in Birmingham.

Dr Ella Simmons (ES), one of the vice presidents of the General Conference, presented the evening address in which she made a practical application of Matthew 5:13. ES challenged the delegates to re-appropriate the stories of Lot’s nameless wife, from one who looked back and was turned into salt to one who was ‘salt already, salt in motion’, then simply ‘frozen’. The ‘frozen’ rather than the ‘salt’-conversion was the punishment. To establish this interpretation ES quoted Matthew 5:13. ‘Are you the salt of the earth? We are to be salt bringing out the god-flavours of the Earth.’

As we went on, the words were from science fiction, they could equally be applied to the spiritual world in which we live. ‘It is all about Star Wars – only we call it the great controversy!’

We are a peace-loving people, but war is our reality, and we are called to engage in spiritual warfare every day. If you really want to be a witness, you’re going to have to fight Satan!’

Pastor Egerton Francis, introduced by Pastor Ian Sweeney, said: ‘I woke at 4am, thinking I had people wondering whereabouts in the works of Ellen White they would find the following: ‘Along a time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...’

The Times

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Dr Simmons made a strong point, too, when introducing the new president, he recognised the service given by Pastor Egerton Francis. ‘He is a man in whom there is no guile! It has been a pleasure to work with him for sixteen years, the last fourteen as president of the North England Conference.’

His wife – a gracious, dignified lady – should be up here, sitting beside him,’ Pastor McFarlane urged, and the lady was brought up to the platform. Asked earlier for her reaction to the news that we had a new president, Sister Francis was reported to have said, ‘I have my husband back! We do indeed thank this devoted couple for their years of service, and wish them rich blessings from God as they continue to serve.’

The new president, Pastor McFarlane said, ‘is well-known as an evangelist. Pastor Ian Sweeney, winner of the ‘The Times Preacher of the Year’ award, has very broad shoulders, but only physically – but spiritually! His wife Jennifer is a sweet lady. If you see her on the street be sure to greet her.’

Pastor Sweeney said: ‘I woke at 4am, thinking ‘My God, what have you done?’ Now I can sleep anywhere, any way, even in economy class, but I couldn’t sleep last night! Then I thought, ‘I’m working with the greatest team in the greatest conference. ’

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Pastor Egerton Francis, introduced by Pastor Ian Sweeney, said: ‘I woke at 4am, thinking I had people wondering whereabouts in the works of Ellen White they would find the following: ‘Along a time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...’

The Times

A dult with the story of David and Goliath – ‘the giant-slaying time!’ There are dark valleys in this world, places where wisdom says, ‘don’t linger here’, but sometimes we have to. ‘If victory is long in coming, enthusiasm is dampened. Even so in witnessing.’ We should encourage each other, as ‘that shepherd boy had to encourage Saul. David was jealous for the good name of God, and that is how we should feel.’

Dr Simmons made a strong point, too, when introducing the new president, he recognised the service given by Pastor Egerton Francis. ‘He is a man in whom there is no guile! It has been a pleasure to work with him for sixteen years, the last fourteen as president of the North England Conference.’

His wife – a gracious, dignified lady – should be up here, sitting beside him,’ Pastor McFarlane urged, and the lady was brought up to the platform. Asked earlier for her reaction to the news that we had a new president, Sister Francis was reported to have said, ‘I have my husband back! We do indeed thank this devoted couple for their years of service, and wish them rich blessings from God as they continue to serve.’

The new president, Pastor McFarlane said, ‘is well-known as an evangelist. Pastor Ian Sweeney, winner of the ‘The Times Preacher of the Year’ award, has very broad shoulders, but only physically – but spiritually! His wife Jennifer is a sweet lady. If you see her on the street be sure to greet her.’

Pastor Sweeney said: ‘I woke at 4am, thinking ‘My God, what have you done?’ Now I can sleep anywhere, any way, even in economy class, but I couldn’t sleep last night! Then I thought, ‘I’m working with the greatest team in the greatest conference. ’

“We are a peace-loving people, but war is our reality, and we are called to engage in spiritual warfare every day. If you really want to be a witness, you’re going to have to fight Satan!'
Sunday session closure

Reporter: Victor Hubert

S
unday morning started off with a clear air of expectancy. A new day, a morning to complete business and a new president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, starting that day with a devotional thought based around Jesus’ words of comfort in John 16:3-4, ‘Whatever you are going through,’ Pastor Sweeney said, ‘there is no need to worry for we trust in Jesus, the one who has gone through it for us.’

Project. A short DVD enhanced her presentation, showing how people’s lives have already been significantly changed through the CHIP lifestyle changes. Health questions also focused around mental health with delegates asking what the Church was doing to reduce the stigma around it. Delegates also suggested that a database of Adventist professionals in the areas of mental health should be developed.

Lastly, Pastor Kyriacou was introduced by Pastor Geoffrey Mapiki. Pastor Kyriacou was born in 1961 to the unusual combination of a German mother and Greek Cypriot father in London. He grew up in an affluent home and became involved in left-wing politics. In 1983, he completed a BA in Philosophy at Nottingham University, after which he obtained a degree in the Derby City Council’s housing authority. In 1989, he met one of his old school friends, and they started to attend the Normanton church (now Derby Bethel).

Following Bible studies he was baptised in 1990. In 1999, with Dee and her two sons, Louis and Johann, Solomon moved to Newbold church, where he completed a BA and MA in Pastoral Ministry. Since then, Solomon has served in the Nottingham and Leicester districts and currently serves the Humberside district.

Dr Daniel Duda, Ministerial Association secretary for the Trans-European Division, then addressed the ordinands on the topic of false expectations, bashing his message on seven words taken from Exodus 4:10, ‘Neither in the past nor ever now.’ Moses, his currently exasperated by the burning bush, responded to Yahweh’s call to go and liberate his people from Egyptian oppression by questioning why Yahweh had not blessed him with the gift of speech. What was Moses really asking for? He sought an easy, quick, God-given solution to his problems, inadequacies and weaknesses. He desired to emerge as a spiritual Superman, the Billy Graham of the burning bush.

Instead of granting his request, Yahweh affirmed Moses’ dependence on his brother Aaron. Dr Duda suggested that entering the ‘rarest spiritual atmosphere of Newbold College’ does not convert the introspective rascal into an outgoing evangelist. The key that unlocks the door to instant Christian victory has not been found.

Pastor Fred Mapp then led in the prayer of ordination. He thanked God for the calling he has placed on the ordinands and sought his grace to be poured upon them in their ministry. In particular, he requested strength and patience for their wives when family time is scarce. Pastor Don McFarlane charged the ordinands to live worthy lives and to minister as servants rather than as masters or leaders. He charged them as pastors to live among their sheep, to love the stubborn sheep, to preach in and out of season, to teach the Word, to research materially properly, and to teach in a manner that children might understand.

Warm words were then shared by Cynthia Francis and Heather Haworth. On behalf of the British Union Conference, Pastor Alan Hodges welcomed the ordinands into service and called them to lose focus of the goal of spreading the gospel. He advised the ordinands to let fellow ministers minister to them and to draw strength from each other’s examples.

Pastor George Kumi responded on behalf of the ordinands by recalling the 1996 Olympic marathon in Mexico, following the completion of the race, the last participant completed an extra 10km, with injuries around the last lap. When asked why he bothered to complete the race he responded that his country had not sent him 7,000 miles merely to start the race, but also to finish. He knew for whom he was running.

Noélle Harvey

Ministerial Association

Pastor Fred Mapp then shared his Ministerial Association report. Questions included items on ministerial development and how to encourage more ministers.

Publishing

Technical problems bedevilled the Publishing report. Pastor Curry Murphy almost burst into song in praise of his PowerPoint presentation. However, long lines at the microphones indicated that members are still passionate about using Christian literature to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Education

Education was also highlighted, with Dr Keith Davidson introducing the heads of Harper Bell, Dudley House and Stanborough Schools. He reported on the good academic progress of all three institutions. He also talked about the hope for Harper Bell to expand and become more accessible with voluntary-aided status.

During question time Dr Davidson noted that some churches in the North were working towards starting their own church schools. Questioned on home schooling, he also emphasised that the Church was working to provide more support for those who choose this route for their children.

Credentials and licences

Sunday morning is traditionally reporting time. The credentials and licences committee renewed and voted ministerial, teaching and missionary credentials for NEC employees, then recommended almost 500 names for lay-preacher’s licences.

The plans committee reported back and their plans will be passed to the new executive committee for action. This brought the chair to the end of business except for one item. At 12.40pm the delegates were still discussing the final report from the nominating committee. Given the choice of coming back after lunch or waiting for a few minutes the delegates unanimously voted to wait, and a few minutes later Pastor McFarlane came on the platform with the names of the remaining departmental directors and the new executive committee.

With Pastor Carl Sweeney asking to return to pastoral ministry after many years at the NEC office, the Family Life baton was handed on to Pastor Felix Jack. This was referred to the incoming executive committee for clarification of role and function before the appointment is made.

With Pastor Cyril Sweeney asking to return to pastoral ministry after many years at the NEC office, the Family Life baton was handed on to Pastor Felix Jack. This was referred to the incoming executive committee for clarification of role and function before the appointment is made.
The Gower peninsula, with its rugged beauty, idyllic beaches and good accessibility, is a popular destination for outdoor types and has a long history of hosting Adventist camps. For many years the South England Conference ran its summer youth camps at Oxwich bay, a sheltered spot on the south-eastern coast of the Gower. In contrast, the western end of the peninsula faces directly into the Atlantic, making the beaches of Rhossili and Llangennith a Mecca for surfers.

Surfing wasn’t one of the activities on offer at this year’s ‘Club Creation’ camp, which for the second year running was held at the St Madoc Christian Youth Camp, just a few minutes’ walk from Llangennith beach. The camp was held over the weekend of 20-22 June, but the forty mile an hour winds would have made it challenging even for that elite band of surfers who brave the waters year round.

For details of the Welsh Mission’s youth and camping programme contact Jeremy Tremeer on 02920 832559.