The largest BUC camporee, with over 1,100 attending during the week and a further 200–300 on Sabbath, was held at the Skreens Park Scout Campsite from Sunday 27 July until Sunday 3 August.

Advance party and planning
For a week prior to that, forty of the one hundred and twenty members of staff who formed the advance party were on site, setting up and preparing for the influx of numbers on Sunday morning. Their tasks varied from setting up the booths and tents for craft activities, building pioneer structures, and constructing the rope bridge, the aerial runway, the water slide and the bungee slide.

There was a shop on site which needed to be stocked. This meant trips to several wholesalers and fruit markets.

On Sabbath 26 July, the advance party took a break from the toil and labour of the week to enjoy the blessings of worship. Church was held outside in an informal yet meaningful way. During the study hour, the worshippers split up into groups to unpick the dynamics of what it means to live the Christian life as Jesus lived it.

‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood’ was the subject of the short sermon delivered by Kevin Johns, pastor of the Community Fellowship and Greenwich churches.

In the evening, the team celebrated the tenth wedding anniversary of Kieran and Sharon Pryce from Camp Hill church. The couple are avid Pathfinders and invaluable members of staff. When asked why they would want to spend such a special time at camporee, Kieran said, ‘We discussed it and thought that there was no place that we would rather be than right here.’

Opening ceremony
Around 9am on Sunday morning, Pathfinder clubs began to arrive.

Already on site was a party from Germany who had spent the previous week at Skreens Park. With precision and grace the camp head of security, Gloria Saville (NEC), ensured that cars were parked sensibly.

By the time the opening ceremony began at 7.30, the may-hem of the day had calmed, except for the beats of the drum corps and the military instructions from the Parade Commander, Natalie Simon.

The ceremony began with an inspection by the guests and
Brain usage –

Generally, girls – Males demonstrate more activity in the mechanical centres of the brain, while women have more activity in the verbal communication and emotion centres of the brain.

Communication – Generally, girls develop conversational skills much earlier than boys.

Visual accuracy and spatial awareness – Boys appear to develop better distance vision and space perception than most girls, which gives boys an advantage at some sports.

Language –

Boys appear to develop better – Males demonstrate more activity in the mechanical centres of the brain, while women have more activity in the verbal communication and emotion centres of the brain.

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Forgiveness is necessary

by Heather Haworth, Family Ministries department

Abuse Prevention Day is Sabbath 6 September

Have you gone to bed tired but found yourselfwide awake? You have put your head on the pillow and instead of experiencing the forgetfulness of sleep your mind has been replaying a memory of deep hurt, one that does not turn off, night after night. Sleeplessness seems to be the technique God uses when it comes to the effects caused by various types of hurt, Mario Peyería and his colleagues at Universidad Adventista del Plata, Argentina, for nearly a decade researched the attitudes resulting from emotional and physical hurt. In an article in Dialogue 16.1 in 2004 needless forcing and denial. Do you go to bed angry? Do you go to bed Offended? Peyería wrote that they found eight characteristic attitudes.

• Submission – a passive acceptance.

• Denial – a conscious forgetting.

• Hostile reaction – instant retaliation.

• Revenge – intentionally planning for revenge.

• Rejection – retaining feelings of anger and remembering the wrong.

• Explanation – confronting the other person as to how he caused the wrong.

• Reconciliation – includes explanation and forgiveness but adds the intention of rewinding a good relationship.

By studying people of different ages, genders, marital status, beliefs and origins, this study showed that these eight characteristic responses formed three basic groups of behaviours:

• The first included submission and denial.

• The second response group corresponded to behaviours of hostility, revenge, resentment, where upset sometimes resulted in punishment.

• Thirdly, the responses are channelled through dialogue and negotiation, actively seeking to achieve reconciliation.

Long before any clinical studies had been done on the impact of abuse, behaviourists knew that the solution lay in taking these experiences to the Creativity of the human being. And when these emotions are most susceptible to cancer. The violent, explosive, showed denial and submission, and those in the second group, who responded in violent, hostile outbursts, finally came to these conclusions: ‘I know you cannot forgive, it is not humanly possible, but turn your eyes upon Jesus as he hangs on the cross carrying your debts.’ At that moment I saw my sinfulness and asked his forgiveness for all my debts. Again I shared my inability to utter words of forgiveness to the one who has so abused me. Once again God drew near and spoke. ‘I know you cannot forgive but I can say the words for you.’ ‘Oh yes, Lord,’ I replied, ‘say them for me.’ ‘Father forgive them,’ I heard Jesus say from the cross. Peace finally came after years of hurt, and that night at five o’clock I fell into a deep sleep.

In the article from Vórtice life issue one 2001 Forgiveness: A Key to Better Health, Alison Kitchen confirms that forgiveness is not usually a single act but starts off as a decision to allow the possibility of forgiveness to happen. ‘This decision leads to freedom from the effects of hurt and abuse,’ states Ran Schmitz, a Christian physiologist. It is this decision that enables those imprisoned by the hurt’s go to on a journey through the five steps of forgiveness.

1 Recognise the true depth of an injury. Overlooking the magnitude of the hurt is a stumbling block to forgiveness.

2 Grieve over your losses. Feel the depth of the pain. Let it surface. Examine how your perception of life has been intruded by this injury. Often faulty core beliefs result in unhealthy patterns of judgement.

3 Examine how your perception of the hurt. The mind is to take from the context of prayer where the human heart is reaching up to the divine. Here is one person’s experience of such a prayer.

I lay in bed with my mind replaying the emotional hurts I had experienced and found it difficult to forgive the person who had done this to me. ‘I cannot forget, let alone forgive such behaviour,’ my mind cried out to God. ‘I simply cannot forgive, I know I should.’ Instantly God answered my challenge, saying, “I know you cannot forgive, it is not humanly possible, but turn your eyes upon Jesus as he hangs on the cross carrying your debts.” At that moment I saw my sinfulness and asked his forgiveness for all my debts. Again I shared my inability to utter words of forgiveness to the one who has so abused me. Once again God drew near and spoke. ‘I know you cannot forgive but I can say the words for you.’ ‘Oh yes, Lord,’ I replied, ‘say them for me.’ ‘Father forgive them,’ I heard Jesus say from the cross. Peace finally came after years of hurt, and that night at five o’clock I fell into a deep sleep.’

How can sex slaves, emotionally damaged children or tortured prisoners be expected to forgive?

Adventists are not all that good at understanding depression and dealing with depressives with sensitivity. This is an attempt by a depressive church worker to help MESSENGER readers understand what depression is and what it feels like. It was written by a church worker, who is a qualified Christian counsellor, at the request of BUC president Don McFarlane. It has helped him understand depression and he hopes it will help you, too.

What is depression?

Depression is much more common than commonly thought. It is an unique self-take that comes on a life of its own. It is no respecter of persons and comes to you out of nowhere. Some depressed people are able to live fairly normal lives. For others it is not so easy, because some stages of depression are too dark and too painful for them to do anything at all. Some people cannot even manage the basic survival techniques, like getting out of bed, bathing, eating and drinking, things most people take for granted.

What does it feel like?

It is like a thick cloud that comes down on you totally unexpectedly. You feel as though you are in a black hole, unable to pull yourself out. The walls are closing in on you and you are paralysed by fear and totally incapable of climbing or even clawing your way out. You are screaming so loudly but no one can hear.

You speak but no one can hear or understand you. You become desperate and you want out of life.

Some people cannot even manage the basic survival techniques, like getting out of bed, bathing, eating and drinking, things most people take for granted. You feel as though you are in a black hole, unable to pull yourself out.

The walls are closing in on you and you are paralysed by fear and totally incapable of climbing or even clawing your way out. You are screaming so loudly but no one can hear.

You speak but no one can hear or understand you. You become desperate and you want out of life.

One of the worst things in deepest depression and despair is the utter loneliness. In the depths of night, fear grips your heart and paralyses your mind. But most of all, you feel very, very alone and so afraid. You try, most often in vain, to reason away that you cannot run away from yourself. The symptoms of depression are many and varied. You may experience a multiplicity of symptoms which will include uncontrollable crying, feeling into your bones, a lack of reason, irritability, withdrawal from everyone, anger, weight loss or weight gain, lack of concentration, violent mood swings, fear and anxiety, an over-awareness of and sensitivity to criticism, feelings of guilt, hopelessness, inadequacy, a changed pattern of sleep – either waking up too early or being unable to get to sleep – no interest in food, or overeating as a kind of comfort. Food may be used instead as a gain- ing control, where the person literally starves himself, adding to an uncontrollable feeling of total despair.

Many depressed people experience overwhelming exhaustion. While they need plenty of sleep, they are often afraid to go to sleep and will force themselves to stay awake until the early hours of the morning. This creates a vicious cycle of tiredness and total exhaustion. They become so far into despair that they abuse themselves with drugs (including prescription drugs), sex and alcohol.

And nothing to look backward to without fear. Nothing to look forward to with hope.

No matter how you react to people, you get on the wrong side of God. His word must be carried to everyone. He is praying for you. If I say ‘I cannot pray,’ do not stand in judgement on me. Instead, pray for me. One of the things that I find helpful is when someone who does not know or does not understand the turmoil I am in says to me: ‘I am praying for you.’ I have an intellectual under- standing of my depressive episodes, but I have become totally paralysed and cannot untangle myself from this ‘thing’ that is dominating my life.

I have been in deep despair that I abuse myself with drugs (including prescription drugs), sex and alcohol. Far into despair that they abuse themselves with drugs (including prescription drugs), sex and alcohol. Far into despair that they abuse themselves with drugs (including prescription drugs), sex and alcohol.

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Pastor Kirk Thomas only had fifteen minutes left for his sermon before baptising two strong young men during divine service. Alex Castle, 18, nicknamed ‘Pastor’ by Pastor Thomas, and Eusi Anderson, a student who has just completed university, Pastor Thomas and Eusi, who phoned ‘Pastor’ to insist that he be baptised, attended the same church in Gogara. The mothers of the candidates were present to witness the baptism of their sons.

Pastor Thomas’s sermon, titled ‘Only for the weak’ and taken from 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10, pointed out that Christianity was only for the weak. Not only the congregation, but even more so the candidates needed to be reminded that when Paul wrote about his weakness, he had us – the Christians down the ages – in mind. He boasted of his achievements only in God’s strength, as he himself was affected by a chronic ailment. He was perfect in strength through the consciousness of his own weakness, and so it should be with us, since we are sinners saved by grace.

Willesden baptism

In a change of venue this year, women from Scotland – and England – came to the seaside town of Saltcoats on the Ayrshire coast for our Women’s Ministries retreat. We were blessed with fine, warm weather, and Adela House is right on the shore with fine sea views.

The theme for the weekend was ‘In His Image – For His Purpose’, presented by Geraldene Farmer, who is a coach by profession. At thirty-four, it was our purpose for each of us. Heather Haworth, BUC Women’s Ministries leader, also attended for part of the week and she brought us the theme for the weekend was ‘Discipline is the rebellious, the haughty and the hypocritical,’ he said, ‘but not those who are struggling. We need to be encouraged and affirming Church, where sinners can come and know that they will not be condemned. The highest standard of the Church is the standard of love.’

JUDITH MARTIN

Sunday afternoon was not really ready to go home. Comments from the women, when asked for suggestions for future retreats, included the possibility of having a longer weekend, or a full week.

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Scottish Mission Family Camp
Scottish Mission Family Camp is held annually, led by the Mission’s Family Ministries sponsors, on the Cowal Peninsula, which forms part of the picturesque south-west of Scotland. The remote and friendly Christian Port Ban Holiday Park, with its outstanding views of the islands of Jura and Islay, every year welcomes a group of families from around the Mission to have their family camp. The event, although small in its beginnings about twenty years ago, now welcomes representatives from almost every church in the Mission. This past two years even drew a family all the way from Dalrington in England. This year nineteen families, making the number around fifty-five, arrived on Friday 27 June and stayed until 4 July.

Although the weather forecast for the week was dreich (a Scottish word for dull, overcast, miserable and rainy weather) the spirits of the attendees were optimistic, looking forward to a relaxing yet Spirit-filled week together.

Family camp usually includes craft activities for children, sports sessions for everyone – which always are joined by other visitors to the caravan park, the odd golf putting competition; a praise evening for Saturday vespers; a fun auction – of which the proceeds go to the caravan park for their generosity and friendliness; a talent evening; camp fires; and a trip to the beautiful nearby town of Tarbert.

There is a favourite camp meeting song which goes: ‘It only takes a spark to get a fire going . . . And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing . . . .’

Light the fire
by Ingrid Wellman-Francois

The ‘spark’ behind the Bath church Ingathering happened to be a dynamic octogenarian, Eleanor Friend.

Sunday 7 September
8.30am - 4.30pm
Special guest:
Nancy Van Pelt
world-renowned marriage and parenting expert

Wallington raise £800+
for Burma
The Wallington church is in its infancy, but on Bank Holiday Monday 26 May the few members of the church walked in the rain in Mellows Park, Wallington, to raise money for ADRA in aid of the Burma Cyclone emergency. Dressed in ADRA attire and holding the ADRA banner, both the young and not so young were not put off by the non-stop rain.

The church, under the leadership of Pastor Susan Uzelac, is part of the various churches which senior pastor, Dr Brighton Kavalogh, is responsible for, and to which he and the Croydon members give a lot of support. The church meets at St Thomas CE Church, Wallington SE21 7ND.

There is a membership of thirty-six, of whom a good part went door to door, coupled with those who literally went the extra mile for the Lord’s work, a goal was set for £300. The faith goal was £500. God superseded these paltry expectations with a total of £1,835.70.

As famed architect and city planner Daniel Burnham stated, ‘Make no little plans; they have no magic. Make big plans, aim high in hope and work.’ A youthful spirit motivating a small congregation, combined with great faith, truly reminds us that miracles are still in the making. Let’s also not forget the text found in Ephesians 3:20 and 21. ‘Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.’
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25 years leading branch Sabbath School

The basement at Camp Hill church was recently filled to bursting when Olga Quarrie celebrated her 75th birthday and twenty-five years of leading the branch Sabbath School. Interviewed by Jeff Hall, she gave us a little insight into her experiences in children’s missions.

Sister Quarrie told us that the branch Sabbath School began in 1982/3 after another church member, Sister Greenaway, suggested the idea to the church board to extend the regular children’s Sabbath School out into the local community. The church agreed to provide funding so that a space could be rented at a school in Small Heath and Sister Quarrie was appointed leader. Sister Quarrie, Sister Greenaway and several other sisters went to their neighbours and friends and asked if they could take their children to the branch Sabbath School for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon. The children would be picked up from their homes to meet for songs, Bible stories, quizzes and refreshments. They would then be returned to their homes. The response was amazing. At times, there have been up to fifty children at the branch Sabbath School. When the Birmingham Community Association (BCA) in Small Heath offered to let us rent a room for £5 a month we jumped at the opportunity and the branch Sabbath School settled there until 2005.

Sister Quarrie explained that right from the very beginning it has been a joint effort supported by several faithful church members. She said, ‘Some would come to tell Bible stories or lead out in the singing. Some regularly used their own vehicles to ferry the children to and from their homes for many years until Camp Hill bought its own minibus. There were others who would bring biscuits and snacks for the children. We also organised a yearly day trip for the children, which has only been possible because of the support of individuals who have felt inspired to support us with finances. Many times when what little funds we had were long spent, several members would approach me with five or ten pounds to help out with the branch Sabbath School.’

When asked to describe what she felt were the highlights of her many years of leading out in this mission, she said, ‘One of the most satisfying aspects of the branch Sabbath School has been preparing the children to take programmes to senior citizens’ homes and to churches, both local and further afield. It would give us an opportunity to invite their parents (who did not usually go to church) into the church to see their children sing and recite poems and Scripture. To see the pride on their parents’ faces was priceless.’ Sister Quarrie was delighted to tell us about what she called ‘the fruit’ of the branch Sabbath School. She spoke of one young girl who started attending at the age of 3, accompanied by her older sister. Although her sister eventually stopped attending, she continued to come and took part in many of the branch Sabbath School programmes, even leading out in a children’s evangelism programme. In time she was baptised and soon afterwards her mother started attending church and was also baptised. Another one of her fruits is also a baptised member of our church and has been teaching the regular Primary Sabbath School for several years.

When a tornado hit Small Heath on 25 July 2005, the roof of the BCA building was ripped off. After more than twenty years of the branch Sabbath School meeting at the BCA, we were homeless. The branch Sabbath School started to meet in the basement of Camp Hill church and has continued to meet there since. With the move into the church building many of the children from the community gradually stopped attending. However, their places were filled by the children of church members. Our format has changed to accommodate this. We now focus on getting the children to study the Bible in depth, reading the Bible for themselves. We have worked our way, chapter by chapter, through books like Esther, and first and second Samuel.

We asked Sister Quarrie, ‘At 75, what plans do you have for the future of the branch Sabbath School?’ She answered, ‘My son Worth has taken an increasingly central role. He is a natural storyteller, a talented musician and brings a lot of fun into the Sabbath School. I have been able to sit back a little and let him take the lead. I think as long as I am able I will continue to be involved with the branch Sabbath School even if I am only propped up in a little corner somewhere just looking on.’

For those of you who are reading this and are inspired to start your own branch Sabbath School, Sister Quarrie has this advice: ‘You must have a lot of patience, love children with all your heart, and be firm. Don’t take all the responsibility on just your own shoulders. Get help. Seek support and listen to sound advice from others, because even after twenty-five years you still won’t know it all.’

We at Camp Hill are very proud of Sister Quarrie and the work she is doing with the branch Sabbath School. We pray that God will continue to bless her efforts and bring the seeds of truth that she is sowing in the hearts of these young children to fruition.

Jeff Hall

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The Gloucester church Children’s Ministries team has introduced Children’s Church; this is held on the first Sabbath of the month barring any other church commitments. It is held in the youth hall after the formal part, like the main church service, comprises Scripture reading, offering and prayer and a short sermon. The informal part is the actual activity time, but this, too, is designed to reflect the sermon. It is the practical aspect which helps to drive the sermon home.

Children’s Church, however, is geared totally for the kids. The leader, Fiona Fishley, explains that her motivation for running this is her awareness that children are the future, and the joy they feel when they are active in church is magnificent. In fact, throughout the month they keep asking, “When is Children’s Church?”

The Children’s Ministries team appreciates that, apart from the fifteen-minute slot for Children’s Church; this is held on the first Sabbath of the month barring any other church commitments. It is held in the youth hall after the service. The formal part comprises Scripture reading, offering and prayer and a short sermon. The informal part is the actual activity time, but this, too, is designed to reflect the sermon. It is the practical aspect which helps to drive the sermon home.

Sabbath afternoon was about praise, worship and preaching, based on the theme for the weekend ‘Reach out and Touch’. The sermon was based on the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22).

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**Middlesbrough Adventurer Day**

On Sabbath 24 May, members of Basildon church paid a visit to Ghyll Grove Nursing Home in Basildon. We were taken to a lounge where residents had been gathered. The children shared what they have been learning in a very positive way – and did some teaching themselves! Four Adventurers with bold clear voices came to sing and chat with them because we care. Our voices were so melodious that there was no need for us to use our microphones. The hymn ‘We Have This Hope’ thundered out as Ken played. It was a moving and memorable moment.

On Sabbath 21 June, Midsummer’s Day, was a wonderful celebration of music and thanksgiving in the Brighton and Hove church. The visiting speaker, Pastor Paul Tompkins, presented our theme for the day: ‘Jesus Our Hope’. He urged our youth to be active in their Christian witness, encouraging participation on the field rather than spectator passivity on the terraces.

The largest event of the day was the GBK Pathfinder Fun Day. On 14 June the Pathfinder team at GBK staged a pleasant and enjoyable event. On show were creative and artistic displays, as well as a variety of stations from Sabbath School through to diverse service to pick up more passengers. A highlights of the journey was the sermonette delivered by 11-year-old David Banda entitled ‘Heaven is for Kids’. David reminded us all how we need to become like children to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, how our bodies will be youthful and changed when we get there, and how we cannot even begin to imagine some of the wonderful things God has in store for each of us.

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**Investiture day at Leicester**

‘Heaven-bound Kids’ was the theme for the Pathfinder, Adventurer and Eager Beaver investiture day held at Leicester on 21 June. A filled church witnessed thirty-five children and young people proudly being invested and charged by Pastor Trevor Thomas to consider the seriousness of what their PAEB insignia represents, as well as being the best examples they can be. The Heaven-bound kids, in the form of Leicester Central’s PAEB club, stopped at a Baptist church in Andrew Street to sing songs from the church hymnal and, interestingly, some residents were singing along and even making their own choices.

The most emotional moment was when we paused for a while and took time to interact with the residents. Quite a few of them had very touching stories, and this was a reminder of how important it is to understand the spiritual and social needs of the elderly and work out how we can effectively help them.

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**Basildon church visits nursing home**

On Sabbath 24 May, members of Basildon church paid a visit to Ghyll Grove Nursing Home in Basildon. The smiling nursing home staff were already at the car park waiting when church members arrived. We were taken to a lounge where residents had been gathered. We introduced ourselves as Basildon church members who had simply come to sing with them because we care. Our voices were so melodic that there was no need for us to use our singing group, ‘The Loving Arms’, which was on standby to throw in special items if needed. We sang songs from the church hymnal and, interestingly, some residents were singing along and even making their own choices.

The most emotional moment was when we passed a woman for a while and took some time to interact with the residents. Quite a few of them had very touching stories, and this was a reminder of how important it is to understand the spiritual and social needs of the elderly and work out how we can effectively help them.

After our closing prayer, the supervisor said she felt indebted to us. She opened the door to us and invited us to visit any time we wished. Ghyll Grove Nursing Home has a capacity for 150 residents. We are now planning to visit the home once every month.
Pastor David Spearing (1960-2008) d. 23 June by Pastor Sam Davis

I was King David who said to his servants, ‘Do you not know that a prince and a princess has fallen this day in battle?’ (2 Samuel 5:8). I can truly say that for all those who knew Pastor David Spearing these sentiments sum up perfectly the feelings of his family, fellow pastors, and members of the church.

From his early years, David confessed that he wanted to grow up a good man and become a pastor. He also demonstrated great compassion for all God’s creatures, even the very tiniest of animals, and had a special fondness and love for little children. Dave attended the Stanborough Park Secondary School, and then Gossio College for his A Levels, and from there went on to study for the ministry at Newbold College.

Pastor Spearing started work for the South England Conference in 1980 as an intern at the Stanborough Park church. He went on to pastor successfully in various church locations including, Canterbury, Folkestone, Chatham, Oxford, Aylesbury, and laterly in Cheltenham and Swindon. Dave was a jovial, sensitive, caring, and loving pastor who cared deeply for those to whom he ministered. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife Lillian, his parents, Otti and Tony Spearing, his brother Robin and sister Sylvia, along with other family members.

We look forward to the resurrection morning when sin and death will no longer blight our joy, and we will be reunited with our loved ones who have been so cruelly taken away. A memorial service for Pastor Spearing will take place in the Newbold College church on 5 September at 10am.

Pastor Abrey Elias Spearing (1918-2008) d. 24 May

A man of renown by Pastor Philip Anderson

Pastor Kenneth Aubrey Elias Spearing was born on 27 January 1916 at Southport in Lancashire. He was raised on an Adventist family farm in Perth and at Woodside Secondary School in Glasgow. He left school with the Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate.

In 1935 after his birth, his father was called to serve in the British Army in World War One. As an Adventist he joined the Non-Combatant Corps. He was posted to Northern Ireland. In common with many Adventists who served as non-combatants in the 1914-1918 war, Father Elias fell foul of the military authorities by refusing to do non-war work on Sabbath. He was court-martialled for refusing to obey a direct order and sentenced to be shot at dawn some days later. Earnest prayers ascended, and the sentence was never carried out.

Private Elias was not only released from prison, but allowed to have his Sabbaths free from that week onwards. Back home in Scotland young Ken was called to serve in the British Army in World War One. As an Adventist he joined the Non-Combatant Corps. He was posted to Northern Ireland. During the conference he was appointed the manager of the farm and its small herd of cows. The gardens and farm were a source of employment for the students and so to pay for his college fees.

Ken's route to his primary school in Perth started morning when sin and death will no longer blight our joy, and we will be reunited with our loved ones who have been so cruelly taken away. A memorial service for Pastor Spearing will take place in the Newbold College church on 5 September at 10am.

Pastor Spearing was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1939, along with colleagues Nerval Myrie, Emmanuel Osei, David Neal, Michael Hamilton, Winsley Hector and Finbar Benjamin.

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Herbert George Crocker (1910-2008) d. 29 June by Greta Ascombe

H erbert was born in 1910 in Plymouth, the middle son of Herbert and Edith Crocker. His older sister was Audrey (later Mrs Frank Mills) and his younger brother was Harold. When his father retired from his career in the Navy he bought a small market garden near Plymouth. It was there that Herbert, at a very early age, began to help his father with the work of growing vegetables for sale in Plymouth. Herbert worked for his father from leaving school until his mid-twenties.

Herbert's grandmother had been left with eleven children when her husband had been lost at sea. Gran Crocker, together with some of her children, accepted the advent message. Herbert's mother, inspired by her mother-in-law's faith, was baptised in 1917. Sadly, Herbert's father opposed her stand and they parted.

Herbert chose to follow his mother and was baptised in 1926. Baptised at the same time was Eileen Stacey Herbert and Eileen, together with theswap of Herbert's cousins, took an active part in the life of the Plymouth church. Romance blossomed and Herbert married Eileen in 1915. The following year Donald was born. In 1930 the family moved to Newbold Revel where Herbert took on the job of head gardener. Their daughter Greta was born. They moved to Binfield with the College where Herbert continued to develop the gardens, growing fruit and vegetables to supply the College kitchens. Two years later he was stationed at Oakington during the war, a small herd of cows. The gardens and farm were a source of employment for the students and so Herbert had a close association with many students over the years. Many found a needed and welcome refuge on the gardens and farm with Herbert acting as an unofficial councillor and friend. Herbert and Eileen's home was a source of comfort to many a homesick student.

Herbert's wisdom and common sense benefited many students over the course of twenty-three years. After leaving Newbold, Herbert and Eileen worked for a wealthy Berkshire landowner. Due to a recurring back injury, lighter work was sought. Herbert and Eileen took on the duties of caretakers for a primary school in Maidenhed, where they worked until they retired. The school was often used to show other caretakers how a school should be maintained. Shortly after their retirement they went to live in Leeds with their daughter and her family. Here Herbert enjoyed a close association with the family for twenty years. His mother Edith spent the last two of her 105 years in the same house and three years later Eileen died there as well. On the retirement of Bruce and Greta from their business, Bruce and Greta came to live in Watford. There Herbert met and married Myrtle Hyde and they enjoyed four happy years together before Myrtle died. Due to his lack of sight Herbert moved into a residential home but he still continued to work at Stanborough Park church until the beginning of this year. His health deteriorated he was cared for wonderfully by the Fletcher family in their residential home where he died. The service was conducted by Pastor Roy Burgess (one of his College boys), assisted by Pastor Ian Sleeeman.

A memorial service for Pastor Sherrington will take place in the Newbold College church on 7 September at 10am.
Activities

During the week more than thirty activities were provided for the children. These included gentle activities such as glass painting, tie dying, puppetry and sign language. The more vigorous pursuits were abseiling, aerial runway, rope bridge, box climbing, canoeing, bungee slide, water slide, and archery. In addition to this, the young people learnt skills such as how to build a fire from one match, camp cooking, pioneering and raft building. There was a daily excursion to Colchester Zoo and a variety of arts and crafts, as well as drilling and marching.

The choir activities enabled a group of young people to deliver a message in song each evening and on Sabbath morning.

Community outreach

As part of the week’s activities, three community outreach projects were planned. These included trips to local care homes, a market to raise funds for a local children’s hospice and the creation of a butterfly garden for the Skreens Park campsite.

The theme for the week was ‘Serve Our Saviour’. As well as visiting those in the care homes, the young people sang to them and brought them gifts. A total of £1,612 was raised from Friday’s market day. This money was graciously received by a representative from Little Haven Children’s Hospice in Chelmsford.

In addition to this, eight staff volunteers worked the ground around a 600-year-old tree to create a beautiful butterfly garden as part of a Pathfinder conservation project. The garden is designed as an area of tranquillity and peace for weary campers. In speaking to the Scout warden, Mick Barlow, it was agreed that the title of the garden should not only reflect Adventist values, but also the ethos of the Pathfinder movement.

Adventist values and the Pathfinder ethos were reflected in the life of Wayne Hill, a Pathfinder co-ordinator, who tragically lost his battle with cancer a few years ago. Wayne lived in the Chelmsford area and was an active member of the church there. It seemed only right and fitting for the garden to be named The Wayne Hill Memorial Butterfly Garden.

Honour where honour is due

Jo, wife of the late Wayne Hill, attended the closing ceremony and was presented with a special plaque of thanks for all the work that Wayne had done for Pathfinders in the British Isles.

Several other senior members of staff were also given awards for their duty to service. Des Boideau, in consultation with Paul Tompkins, chose individuals who had gone beyond the call of duty for many years in the work of Pathfinders to receive the diamond award. Mille Williams, Pam and Paul Catchpole, Pat and Terry Dykoff, Valerie Clarke-Eccles, Roz Parsons, Pastor Mike Joy, Warren O’Hara, Len Stewart, Alex Simon, Dr Andrew West, Ken Burt, and Pastor Egan Breaks. In absence, awards were given to Jon Meredith (Welsh Mission), Mike Rossiter (former NEC Pathfinder director) and Trevor and Cynthia Harewood (SEC).

Closing ceremony

To ensure that camporee runs smoothly, many volunteers, apart from club leaders, are required. One hundred and twenty-three Pathfinders and two leaders volunteered for the week’s activities. Without their dedication it would be impossible to run such a large camping event, and the BUC Youth director acknowledged their service to Pathfinders.

In the closing ceremony, awards were also given out to each club. On a daily basis, the clubs were inspected for safety, hygiene, tidiness, grooming and decorum. This camporee’s winner was the Ilford church. Other certificates were given for fire building, advanced drilling and archery.

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On Saturday night, after the closing ceremony, volunteers worked into the night to load the van, dismantle structures, tidy up, and clean the toilets. On Tuesday morning, the packing away and the returning of equipment was still taking place.