November 16, 2008, will be etched on my mind for the rest of my earthly sojourn. “Your office is on fire” was the message conveyed to me during a meeting in Montenegro. It wasn’t April Fool’s Day, so the likelihood that it was a practical joke was remote; yet it took me a while to come to terms with the gravity of the message. It was not until a few minutes later, when I saw live pictures of the burning building on-screen in the meeting room, that the enormity of what was unfolding on Stanborough Park registered with me.

Returning home as soon as I could, I met staff members who were shaken but courageous. Their positive attitude was an important factor in helping us as leaders to cope with some of the exigencies that accompanied the disaster.

In a relatively short time we found a building which we decided to use as a temporary office. Working together in an open-plan office had an amazingly cohesive effect upon staff, despite the lack of much personal space. However copious the blessings of our wilderness years, we were glad to return to Stanborough Park and to surroundings that were familiar to us. Sunday, 13 March 2011 was a particularly moving experience for me and the rest of the office staff, as we joined our General Conference president and our Division president in dedicating the rebuilt office.

While we are delighted to have a new and pleasant working environment, we must keep reminding ourselves that the building is not an end in itself, but needs to be a place in which ideas and plans arise from a dynamic spiritual experience, and a focused understanding of the mission of the Church.

The building symbolises the work to which God has called the Church: from the ruin and destruction of 16 November 2008, there now stands a beautiful edifice that is representative of our heavenly Father. Likewise, God takes broken and sinful lives and transforms them into things of beauty – vessels fit for his use and his Kingdom.

DON W. MCFARLANE, BUC PRESIDENT

Photos: Victor Hulbert, Bert Smit and Dan Sabatier
Health researchers, however, agree that adrenal fatigue has not been easy to diagnose in the past, as doctors generally look for the extreme signs of adrenal malfunction. For example, when the adrenal glands fail to produce enough cortisol, Addison’s disease is diagnosed, and when the glands produce excessive cortisol, Cushings syndrome results. It is increasingly recognised by health experts, however, that individuals can have a low enough cortisol level to produce the symptoms described in Addison’s, 1 April. These symptoms are linked with poor adrenal health.

Where chronic symptoms persist, adrenal function can be ascertained by taking a cortisol measurement. This can be useful in determining whether a patient may have decreased adrenal function. The investigation involves testing blood levels of cortisol, potassium and sodium.

Most research in this area indicates that the onset of adrenal fatigue, or adrenal exhaustion, as it is often called, occurs because of prolonged stressors like drug use, emotional stress, financial pressures, repeated infections, eating processed foods with high sugar and fat content, smoking, unemployment and a variety of other stressors. It is through experiencing many of these lifestyle events and health challenges over a long period of time that the adrenal glands tend to produce less cortisol. This reduces the body’s ability to cope with any level of stress, be it physical or emotional.

What can be done?

The following lifestyle modifications can help to fight adrenal fatigue:

- Routinely go to bed early and sleep up to nine hours.
- Exercise in moderation, not in highly competitive events.
- Laugh.
- Power nap or take frequent rests.
- Eat regular, healthy meals.

Good health!

In the same week that the Chancellor of the Exchequer graciously granted us a penny’s respite at the pumps, he announced that the enforcement of the Libyan no-fly zone would cost the UK ‘tens of millions of pounds’.1

Alex Barker, writing in the Financial Times, quoted ‘military experts at the Royal United Services Institute’ who ‘put the cost of the intervention at about £200m-£250m a day’.2

War may be unavoidable

Yes, it may be unavoidable — especially when innocent Libyan civilians face imminent death in Benghazi. It might be the last of two evils when rogue regimes threaten world peace. It could even be the heroic destiny of a nation such as ours, which holds that the basic rights of all men, everywhere, are sacred. But none of that changes the brutal fact that war — justified or not — always leads to incalculable loss.

I respect our servicemen and women, especially those on dangerous tours of duty. I applaud their efforts to bring peace and stability to Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. And every time a British province claims another life, my thoughts go out to those who will personally bear that loss for years to come.

My father

My father enlisted in the Royal Durban Light Infantry within a week of the outbreak of World War II; sailed by troopship to Egypt; then fought his way to Tobruk, only to be captured by Rommel’s Afrika Korps. He bumed some of his comrades in the Libyan Desert, and a few more in the PZDR camps of Poland. He suffered dysentery, malaria, black water fever, frostbite and malnutrition. He worked at bayonet-point in Polish coal mines, and dragged his frosty feet on a three-month-long winter ‘death march’ that ended in liberation — for those who survived with him!

He will always be my hero for what he did, and the sacrifices he made. But when all is said and done, my father lost six precious years of his life in doing so!

Just imagine if we took Jesus seriously at the first sign of conflict (or injured ego). In the place of this wise council, we have those ready to engage the services of a good solicitor ‘round-house right’ than they are at humility and anger management. I fear too that some have torn 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 from their Bibles:

And to decide what is right and wrong; to love what is good and hate what is evil (NIV.)

What about war in the Church?

Conflict in the Church is another tragic paradox! In some congregations members practise ‘cold’ war, aloofly icing out their opposition. In others there are hotbeds of smouldering factional conflict. What about war in the Church?

There has been much debate around the term adrenal fatigue. Dr. Todd Nippoldt, an endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic, states: ‘Adrenal fatigue is a term applied to a collection of non-specific symptoms, such as body aches, fatigue, nervousness, sleep disturbances and digestive problems ... but it isn’t an accepted medical diagnosis.’ Dr. Vicky Wade, an associate professor of pharmacology, shares her perspective: ‘Although there is increasing physician awareness, many are not familiar with adrenal fatigue as a distinct syndrome.’
The British Union Conference (BUC) office is the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. It is situated in North Watford, Hertfordshire, on acres of beautiful park and woodland known as Stanborough Park.

The BUC office houses the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), which is a health and Bible correspondence school, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK), an independent humanitarian agency established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of individual and community development and disaster relief.

The Adventist Media Centre is also located in the BUC office, as is the BUC Leadership Institute, a training centre for church leaders, and the ABC Bookshop that stocks a wide range of Christian literature for both adults and children, as well as CDs, DVDs and gifts.

At the upper end of the park are Stanborough Secondary School and Stanborough Primary and Nursery Schools, catering for children from 3 to 18 years of age. Next to the BUC office is Stanborough Park Church, with a 700-strong congregation.

Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer

Great cathedrals speak to us about the connection between spiritual symbolism and architecture. Norman L. Koonce suggests that their goal is to make ‘transparent the boundary between matter and mind, flesh and the spirit,’ and Richard Kieckhefer observes that ‘entering into a religious building is a metaphor for entering into spiritual relationship’.

Though our headquarters could rightly be seen as ‘the seat of a bishop’ or other such religious leader, we intend no such grandeur. For many years we have operated a cloister-missionary model, where church leaders do their reflective work in small offices, then emerge to distribute and proclaim their findings in print or public speech. Under this model, while the building might be expected to be congenial to spiritual thought, its presence had little representational value.

In an image- and media-driven century one expects things to be different. Both the Church and the greater public expect to be able to come into the cloister, both virtually and in person. Our space, in this new building, therefore adopts the dynamic of a college and studio rather than a production centre. Our book centre now becomes a treasure trove of discovery rather than a supply point, and our communication systems have a global reach far beyond the rounds of the local postman and the parishioner over-the-desk chat. Committee rooms are centres of conversation and learning rather than parlaments of power.

The devastating fire of 2008 gave us the opportunity to reflect on these values and to build with the future in mind.

Our first concern was to establish a sense of connection and transparency with the passing public. We felt it important that real people see church leaders in a work-a-day context, and essential that we reflect beyond the spiritual aura to the needs of people hustling and bustling through life. To this end we oriented our southern face to the street to make our presence ‘un-missable’. Our reach is around us.

Secondly, we wanted the profile of the building to say, ‘Look up’, to this end the bricks, windows and sun filters are mostly vertical. We want to remind people that there is ‘One’ who is above.

In contrast to those who separate the spiritual from the corporeal, the Advent faith is about the harmonious development of the whole person. Our object is to be rounded in character, belief and destiny. We speak of perfection as a process that removes the ‘rough edges’, and as such we aspired to project roundedness throughout the construction.

As a moving people, our journey begun in Eden, a place of labour, beauty and rest, leads to our destiny in the earth-made-new. While our campus will never match the timelessness of eternity. Our boundaries have been adjusted to invite people to capture our view, to see what we see.

To change the building has had its challenges, short-term as they were; to be changed ourselves first, then to offer that invitation and inspiration to others, is the work that remains to be done.

1. The three presidents (Don McFarlane, BUC/Ted Wilson, GC/Bertil Wiklander, TED).
2. Paul Godfrey (Cosmor Construction).
Mr President, thank you:

Secondly, Christ is our all in all. Our Lord and Saviour should form the foundation of our beliefs and our Christian practice. And as we lift up His Word, we should also use the wonderful gift of the Spirit of Prophecy to deepen our understanding of Scripture.

Pastor Wilson: Married daughters, and four wonderful grandchildren, with pace of work and travel is hectic. When I do get some time off, which, unfortunately, is not often these days, I enjoy hiking, mountain climbing, biking, garden work, carpentry, and home repairs. I have purposely planned my time to ensure I have a good work-life balance.

When I met my wonderful wife, Nancy, who is a physiotherapist, while we were at Loma Linda together. We have three happily married daughters, and four wonderful grandchildren, with another to arrive any moment! We praise the Lord for our children and their husbands, and their love for Jesus, his precious Church, and its mission.

Editor: Thanks for that little glimpse into your family life. You were telling our readers about your employment history before I interrupted you.

Pastor Wilson: After New York, we served for about nine years in the Africa-Iceland Division, based in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. That was followed by a stint in the General Conference Office of Secretariat, then three years in Moscow for the Euro-Africa Division. After that I spent time at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, and most recently – for the last ten years – back at the General Conference.

Editor: That’s a great journey. Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

Pastor Wilson: Yes, Julian, the role in co-coordinating the Church’s progress.

Firstly, the Word of God should be the focal point of our lives, and of our witness to others. The righteousness of Christ is our salvation! When we accept Christ, we accept his justification, which covers us with his gracious robe of righteousness.

Pastor Wilson: I believe that God has called the Seventh-day Adventist Church to a unique proclamation of the three angels’ messages. We know that we are living in the last days of this history and that Christ is coming soon. What an opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to use each of us in a powerful witness for him as we lift up Christ, his life, death, resurrection; his current intercession as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary; and his soon return. This is our mission.

Regarding the question of revival, let me quote from Selected Messages, Book 1, page 121, which says: ‘A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. … A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.’ As we participate in the Church’s ‘Tell the World’ initiative, we need to realise that little will be achieved without the Holy Spirit’s power. We cannot produce revival and reformation; that is the work of the Holy Spirit – but we can pray for it.

Editor: Capture briefly for our readers the experience of Adventism as you see it.

Pastor Wilson: Firstly, the Word of God should form the foundation of our beliefs and our Christian practice. And as we lift up His Word, we should also use the wonderful gift of the Spirit of Prophecy to deepen our understanding of Scripture.

Secondly, Christ is our all in all. Therefore it is imperative that we lean on Jesus every day, in everything! To know Christ personally and daily accept his robe of justifying righteousness, and the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying power, is crucial for every Seventh-day Adventist.

Thirdly, I have a unique message to share with the world – that of the three angels of Revelation 14, with all that it embraces, including the creator-ship of Christ and the Sabbath truth.

And then there is the blessing of hope. It’s the current hope of my precious 90-year-old father. He was a strong church leader, a wonderful father, and one of my best friends. I miss him, but I know that the separation will not be for long. Jesus is coming again, and that is good news for this day and disaster-wearied world.

Editor: Finally, there is anything that rises above all in your theological understanding?

Pastor Wilson: Yes, Julian, there is. It is so important that we lift up Jesus in all that we do – in our words and actions. Christ, and his righteousness, is to be the focal point of our lives, and of our witness to others. The righteousness of Christ is our salvation! When we accept Christ, we accept his justification, which covers us with his gracious robe of righteousness. When we accept Christ, we also accept Christ’s sanctifying power at work through the Holy Spirit. We let him make us more and more like Jesus each day. Our responsibility is to be humble and teachable, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

Editor: Mr President, thank you for your time. We have response to these questions. Please accept the prayers and support of our BGC members for your challenging work.
Hello Christian Stars!

Last month’s activities reminded us that the Holy Spirit helps us in every part of our lives. In this edition we will begin to look at each of the fruits of the Spirit. When we promise to follow Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts and we receive the fruits as gifts. The fruits are really virtues or qualities of God’s nature. We can’t grow the fruits ourselves. It is by living close to Jesus and allowing him to interact with us that the fruits will develop and grow.

Unravel the clues to find the text where the fruits of the Spirit or virtues are listed in the Bible

1. I am in the ninth book of the New Testament
2. Find the smallest three-digit number possible
3. Subtract 50
4. Divide by 10
5. Find the largest three-digit number possible
6. Subtract 899
7. Divide by 4
8. Subtract 3

Look up the text to find out what the nine fruits of the Spirit are.

Write them in the spaces:

Unravel these clues to find which fruit we are looking at this month

I have three letters,
My second letter is the fourth vowel of the alphabet,
I am the second fruit in the list in Galatians,
I am the fruit of the Spirit called:

Wordsearch
See how quickly you can find the eight words in the ‘Joy family’ wordsearch, and then find the hidden text about joy in Nehemiah 8:10. Write it down in the space and try to memorise it:

At Easter we can thank God that Jesus promised to give eternal life to Others, and that includes Yourself too. Till next time, have a blessed Easter!

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The email address is children@adventist.org.uk. Heather Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC.
Celebration in Fulham

On Sabbath afternoon, 12 February, Fulham church members welcomed their new sister in Christ – Ethlyn Brathwaite.

The service was conducted by Pastor Des Boldeau, and the baptismal vows were read by Elder E. Samuel. Pharaoh Necho was passing by on his way to Carchemish, minding his own business, when Josiah charged right at him (2 Chronicles 35:20-21). He chose to stop, saying he was on a mission from God, and Josiah wouldn’t listen, ploughed right in regardless, and was fatally wounded in the process (2 Chronicles 35:21-24). He had reigned for thirty-one years (2 Chronicles 34:1), so his death came at the tragically young age of 39.

But the story doesn’t end there – Pharaoh Necho took time out to replace the following king of Judah with another of Josiah’s sons, Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36:2-4), who ended up resisting Josiah’s son, Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36:2-4), so his death came at the age of 39.

The ‘super eight’ were then officially accepted as members of the church, with Andrew Puckering officiating. Fulham church members welcomed their new sister in Christ – Ethlyn Brathwaite.

On Sabbath 13 November 2010, members and friends at Greenwich Church witnessed the baptism of eight people by Pastor E. Samuel. The service was conducted by Pastor Des Boldeau, and the baptismal vows were read by Elder E. Samuel.

Dimples Piter was the first candidate to be baptised, followed by Michael Mazara, mother and son, Liz, Sasha and Xavier Pickard – a very emotional moment for Liz – then brothers Jessie and Christian Samuel, sons of Elder Allan and Isabel Samuel, and Aaron Johns, son of Pastor and Margaret Johns. Pastor Johns said it gave him great pleasure to baptise his son. The ‘super eight’ were then officially accepted as members of the church.
The Personal Ministries leaders’ retreat, ‘Living the Evangelistic Life’ (28-30 January at the King’s Park Conference Centre, USA), led out during the weekend. Based on John 4, David stated how the fields are ripe for harvest: there are many people in our communities who are ready to hear about Jesus. It is important to make friends with the unchurched, to not give too much spiritual information all at once, to listen and be a genuine friend, and to speak about Jesus whenever we have the opportunity, also to visit people in their homes and to visit the sick, and to share the Bible effectively.

‘Living the Evangelistic Life’
by Terry Messenger

The Personal Ministries leaders’ retreat, ‘Living the Evangelistic Life’ (28-30 January at the King’s Park Conference Centre, USA), showed that evangelism isn’t simply an event but a way of life. This is the concept behind Relay 2012, during which reaping evangelistic events will be run by all districts and churches in that Olympic year. This year is the preparation year, with training and sowing events taking place.

Pastor David Khinedist, resident evangelist in St Louis, Iowa Conference, USA, led out during the weekend. Based on John 4, David stated how the fields are ripe for harvest: there are many people in our communities who are ready to hear about Jesus. It is important to make friends with the unchurched, to not give too much spiritual information all at once, to listen and be a genuine friend, and to speak about Jesus whenever we have the opportunity, also to visit people in their homes and to visit the sick, and to share the Bible effectively.

Assisting London Ghana’s witness to Muslims
Rubina F. Arthur

On Sabbath 22 January, Pastor Petras Bahadur, the SEC co-ordinator of Adventist-Muslim relations, shared with the London Ghana church a message that “The children of Ismael must come”, delivering a series of biblical texts that look at the role of all Abraham’s children. Pastor Bahadur (the associate director for the Adventist-Muslim relations of the General Conference) voiced concerns about the lack of people with Islamic origins in the Adventist Church, saying Adventists must fulfill their prophetic role.

Pastor Bahadur said we should think about sharing the love of Jesus in more practical ways, such as giving and helping the needy, and that we should have an understanding of the Quran and these discussions can carry on for thirty minutes or more! Then, after these discussions, we send them away with literature and DVDs personally suited to them.

They came, and they kept coming. Last week, an estimated fifty people came. “I was particularly surprised by how many young people stopped to talk”, said one outreach member. One passer-by said the professional-looking stand had encouraged him to stop.

We thank ‘InSwindon’ for permission for the programme’s current eleven-week run, and praise God for touching the hearts of so many of the people of Swindon. We ask that you pray for this programme.

‘Know Your Future’ in Swindon
Justin Cockett

Swindon members began outreach activity at the beginning of March in the town centre, and all church members are reporting the same—it’s going much better than they thought possible! The mission was to answer the town’s questions by showing them God’s Word. Under the theme of ‘Know Your Future’, members are going out in groups of three and meeting people from the whole spectrum of society—young and old, rich and poor, Christian and non-Christian. Almost all the time is spent simply talking to people—their problems in life, their questions about God—and these discussions can carry on for thirty minutes or more! Then, after these discussions, we send them away with literature and DVDs personally suited to them.

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One church, double the witness
A Church of Scotland in the Fafley area of Clydebank, Scotland, has doubled its witness by welcoming Seventh-day Adventists to use its premises each Saturday. The inaugural Sabbath worship took place on 29 January. Rev. McIntyre recalled that when he received the request he said, “As soon as we learnt that you were seeking to share the love of Jesus, the decision to allow for our church to be used became very easy.”

The Fafley church plant grew out of families who started meeting in their homes. The first appointed leader was just 16 years old: she was assisted by adults under the leadership of Glasgow minister Clifford Herman and his colleague David Hatch from East Kilbride and Irvine.

A video celebrating the day, along with a selection of photos, can be seen on the BUC Picture Gallery.

Paisley patterns for church growth
In 2008 a group of members led by Pastor David Hatch were encouraged to form small groups and meet in their local area to plant a church, in accordance with the Glasgow church’s mission statement: “We are Christians with a mission to share this faith by constantly seeking to serve the needs of our community.”

This initiative was rewarded on Sabbath, 5 February 2011, when the upper room of the Christian Growth Centre in Paisley, Glasgow, witnessed the formation of the second Adventist company in just two weeks! Young people were involved in every service of the day, which thrilled all present, including the Scottish Mission president, Pastor Berrie Holford.

Religious education

KISH PODDAR, ASSISTANT HEAD

12

13

14th Anniversary

Thanksgiving Day

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

Saturday 23rd April, 2011

At the
St Margaret’s & St George’s Reform Church
67 Nicholl Road, Craven Park Road
London NW10 2SY

BUC News 11, 2005 2006

Let’s Study Together
Special Speaker Rev. Ron Patrick

Let’s Worship Together
Special Speaker Rev. Ron Patrick

Let’s Feast Together
Special Speaker Rev. Ron Patrick

Let’s Pray Together

Evening of Praise and Thanksgiving in Concert

BUC News

God always makes a way.

If you would like to know more about the International Baccalaureate Diploma course at Stanborough School, call the registrar on: 01923 673268. God always makes a way.

As one Year-12 student said, “It was a new experience for me, and the most inspiring time of my life. It made me feel really welcome.” It was interesting for the staff to observe how they were developing into budding teachers! The BESSE students were thrilled to have ‘teachers’ from England. The little children began to bond with the volunteers, and responded to their teaching enthusiastically. Every day the delivery was more enjoyable, committed and passionate than the day before.

Philip Hussey (Year 10) was the Chief Guest, and Nhimba Mwinga (Year 12) was the Special Guest. Both gave confid- ent speeches. Wook Hwan Bae (Year 12) was given the Best Teacher award, and Oulide Cquateji, Naomi Theelwell, Amber Best, Nhimba Mwinga, Philip Hussey and Wenyam Bi were highly commended for their teaching.

One Year-12 student said, ‘God has a crazy way to show his power. When I failed my A-Levels last year, I basically thought it was the end of my life. . . . Coming to Stanborough has quite possibly been the best thing to happen to me. And my visit to India has been the most inspirational time of my life. . . . God will always make a way.’

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BUC News
Sheffield Manor Pathfinders sent packing!

On a Sunday in March, eighteen Pathfinders and Adventurers led by Mrs Marlene Lee of the Sheffield Manor church spent four hours helping customers pack their shopping, raising an incredible £350. Many commented on their courtesy and helpfulness, and we are very proud of them.

Andrew Wiseman

Charity fundraising in Wolverhampton

On Sabbath 29 January, the Great Brickkiln Street church presented a cheque for £100 to the local Sheltered Refuge Centre in Wolverhampton, to provide for the underprivileged at the Haven Centre.

The money was raised throughout collections during an evening of praise. Melanie, a manager at the refuge centre, has attended the church several times.

Derek Campbell

Adventists to make contact with the wider world rather than withdraw from it. ‘Is our theology driving us to an unwelcome fear of the wider society?’ he asked. ‘Do not tell me that you care about your neighbours when you go around frightening and being frightened of them. We need to develop our capacity to engage in the wider world.’

Pilmoor emphasised. He finished by encouraging conversation are central to the business of trust, Pilmoor emphasised.

BUC treasurer speaks on trust

Victor Pilmoor, treasurer of the British Union Conference, gave a Diversity lecture on trust at Newbold College on Tuesday evening, 8 March.

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Permanent Junior Teacher Vacancy

The headteacher and governors at Stanborough Primary School are seeking to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner for September 2011. Stanborough Primary School is a small, friendly school, situated in the idyllic surroundings of Stanborough Park. Through dedication and teamwork, we provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment in which every pupil is encouraged to excel.

The successful applicant will:

- Have QTS
- Have excellent organisational skills
- Be a reflective practitioner
- Be reliable and professional
- Be an excellent communicator
- Be flexible and creative
- Be committed to the school’s Christian ethos and the education of the whole child.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check.

To request an application form and pack, please contact the school secretary at Stanborough Primary School, Appliance Works, Waltham, Hurst, WF5 0DG.

Tel: 01923 672001

Email: info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday 10 April 2011.