NEC Camp Meeting report 2015

Members who attended the North England Conference camp meeting received an arsenal of Christian weaponry to counteract Satan’s unrelenting assault on marriage and family life.

All the speakers emphasized the theme, ‘Strong Families, Strong Churches’ in some way. Former US marine, Sebastian Braxton; veteran presenters on family matters, Drs Robert and June Kennedy; lifestyle doctor, Dr Chidi Ngwaba; and former entertainer Elder Dwayne Lemon all stressed the need to allow God to transform our families in order to transform our church.

Even the specially written theme song, ‘Strong Families, Strong Churches’, written by Andrea and Newton Brown, captured the essence of the week-long programme at the Butlins resort in Skegness.

We were not alone at the resort. There were thousands of visitors there for the usual Butlins activities and secular entertainment, which led Pastor Ian Sweeney to remind the congregation on Sabbath that ‘Even in walking to and from the venue we are passing people for whom Jesus died.’

Pastor Lorance Johnson felt that ‘God has blessed us tremendously at Camp Meeting this year; we had wonderful weather, good accommodation and a capacity congregation. Each day the Spirit of God moved mightily upon our guest speakers and through their messages we were led to recommit to being spiritually strong people that would result in strong families and strong churches.’

Elder Dwayne Lemon ably tackled the question of the purpose of the Adventist home, concluding that: ‘The purpose of the third angel’s message is to produce an experience that enables you to stand when harvest time comes.’

He asked, ‘Why are we strengthening the family, why are we rebuilding the walls? So that our homes can become little lighthouses’ in a darkening world.

Later in the week he reminded the audience that God has offered us victory over adultery and that the whole process begins with prayer. He illustrated this with David’s plea for forgiveness in Psalm 51 when he sought God to reform him by giving him a new heart (verse 10).

Sebastian Braxton reinforced the camp meeting theme by further outlining God’s ideal for our families and what God expects of us. The family should really be the means by which others come to honour the Son of God.

Lifestyle doctor, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, shared valuable information on preventing, reversing and treating common lifestyle diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer.

He ably demonstrated that a plant-based, wholegrain, dairy-free diet is the most effective way to combat the lifestyle diseases that we have come to accept as inevitable because we ascribe them to genetics. He emphasised that ‘it’s not so much genetics, but lifestyle’ that determines whether or not we contract these illnesses.

Drs Robert and June Kennedy provided campers with very real, sometimes amusing, insights into family life and marriage in particular. Together they explored the issues that tend to cause hurts and upsets in families and the resulting resentment that can occur. In their interactive sessions they identified forgiveness as being the key to a long and happy marriage.

In closing, let us quote Pastor Lorance Johnson again: ‘Let us always remember that our homes are mission stations where people from the community can be invited – where the character of Jesus can be seen and lives can be impacted.’
**editorial**

How well do you play ‘second fiddle’?

What about the others?

What about the other four members of Scott’s ‘Polar Party? Do you know their names? Scott had a ship named after him: HMS Scott, the navy’s current survey and research vessel. A number of statues have been erected to honour Scott, one of the most impressive being the Scott Memorial at Mount Wise (Plymouth). His towering bronze statue dominates the memorial—the names of the others are etched below it: Dr Edward Wilson, Captain Lawrence Oates, Lieutenant Henry Bowers, and Petty Officer Edgar Evans.

If Scott’s last expedition was anything it was a team effort. He couldn’t have got near the South Pole without their help. Why then so much prominence given to Scott and relatively little to the others? After all, they gave their lives too! The answer is a simple one: c’est la vie—that’s life!

Someone must play ‘second fiddle’

It is a fact of life that someone must play the so-called ‘second fiddle’—the person ‘with a subordinate role to someone’ else, who will ‘be treated as less important’ as well. Unfortunately, the role of second fiddle generally has a negative connotation to it. But is this really justified? The term is drawn from the world of orchestral music and implies that the role of a second violinist needs less skill than than that of a lead or first violinist. Is this true? Not according to the legendary American conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein, who, when once asked which was the most difficult to play, replied:

“The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm—that is a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony.”

Time for a rethink?

If Bernstein is right, hasn’t the time come for a rethink? If the ‘second fiddle’ is not inferior but just different, then we shouldn’t feel cheated by life if it assigns us to that role. Frankly speaking, if the world’s ‘second fiddlers’ went on strike, where would our modern world be? Can you imagine what would happen if our country’s approximately 2,500 air traffic controllers (ATCs) unexpectedly took the day off? They don’t fly the planes, dress in smart uniforms and wear or brand on their sleeves—and even the experienced ones take home $100,000 less than a top airline pilot. That notwithstanding, these invisible ‘second fiddlers’ monitor and control the flight paths of 6,000 aircraft per day over our British Isles!

God has vacancies...

God always has vacancies for those willing and capable of playing second fiddle. Let’s look at one example. John Mark, who wasn’t one of the disciples, neither was he an apostle. In fact, he enters the Church’s missionary programme as a general factotum (who does all kinds of work, often the most menial). Notice how Luke puts it:

“Sent off on their new assignment by the Holy Spirit, Barnabas and Saul went down to Seleucia and caught a ship for Cyprus. . . . They had John [Mark] along . . . Their main mission? To help out as needed.” (Acts 13:4-5, The Message, emphasis supplied.)

Some years later John Mark is back in the narrative. This time as an assistant to Paul, who urges Timothy: ‘Get here as fast as you can . . . Luke is the only one here with me. Bring [John] Mark with you; he’ll be my right-hand man . . .’ (2 Timothy 4:9-13, The Message, emphasis supplied). In The Acts of the Apostles (page 455), Ellen White underscores Mark’s value to Paul:

‘In the face of severe trial and adversity, Mark continued steadfast, a wise and beloved helper of the apostle.’ (Emphasis supplied.)

Finally, we find John Mark playing ‘second fiddle’ once again. This time to Peter, as he patiently waits down the ageing apostle’s eyewitness account of Christ’s ministry—which has become known as the Gospel of Mark. John Mark had initially been taken along ‘to help out as needed’, then to be Paul’s ‘right-hand man’, and finally he ‘is like a son to Peter’ (1 Peter 5:13, The Message, emphasis supplied).

God has vacancies. Has God well do you play ‘second fiddle’?


**Enhancing Health**

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc

Health Ministries director, IIC

Going natural Part 3 – Living naturally

The Alliance for Natural Health International makes the following statement in the welcome to its website:

‘Poor-quality diets, unhealthy lifestyles, synthetic chemicals in our food and water, genetically modified foods, harmful radiation from cordless electronic devices and the breakdown of traditional medicinal cultures are among the key issues challenging our health.’

So what are these key challenging health issues that we face from twenty-first-century living? To get a glimpse of the scale of our current health challenges related to lifestyle, BIM Healthcare has identified the five big preventable health killers as: heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and liver disease. These conditions account for more than 150,000 deaths a year under-75s in England alone. The Department of Health estimates 30,000 of these deaths are entirely avoidable.1

What evidence is there to suggest that these lifestyle-related diseases may be linked to our current ‘modern’ lifestyle habits and ‘less natural’ living? The Natural Health Perspective website makes the following statement:

‘Lifestyle diseases are more common as countries become more industrialised. They are caused by an inappropriate relationship of people with their environment. Lifestyle diseases are different from other diseases because they are potentially preventable, and can be lowered with changes in diet, lifestyle, environment, and by supplementing with vitamin D.3’

However, it presents this additional note:

‘Nothing about natural health prevents its alternative healing methods from being used alongside conventional medical treatment. Thus, natural health can be viewed as a complementary or adjunctive form of therapy.’

Lifestyle doctors are now emerging and use a more integrative approach to health and well-being. As such, the options for addressing lifestyle-related diseases are becoming more popular—and effective. So are many of the lifestyle intervention programmes and resources currently available: especially the Complete Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) and CREATION Health, which are positively impacting the lives of those who follow through with the natural health principles they offer.

If you are interested in online help to commence your ‘natural living’ journey, Natural Living Ideas—ideas to live a more natural life (http://www.naturallivingideas.com/) offers suggestions relating to natural health, beauty, homemaking, and general ‘green living’.

In the next issue we will look at raising awareness of healthy living within the home environment.

Good health!

Pastor baptised along with entire congregation

The editor recently had the privilege of listening to this inspiring story of how God works, as told by Pastor Philip Gai, Publishing Ministries Director, East Central Africa Division. While Elizabeth was pursuing her studies at Bugema University in Uganda, she heard an appeal for those who were interested to join the Literature Evangelism ministry. Her interest was piqued and she signed up together with a number of fellow students. These student canvassing programmes are designed to assist the many students who work during the long holidays in order to raise their own college fees as it also gives them an opportunity to share the Word of God through canvassing.

The students were sent to different locations and Elizabeth joined the team that was going to canvass in Lubumbashi, a large city in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The students faced numerous challenges, including the fact that in the DRC the language spoken is French, while in other parts of East Africa they speak English and Kiswahili. Undeterred, however, these students worked hard and tried to see as many clients as they could each day.

One day, she met a pastor who was in charge of a Pentecostal congregation in the city. Elizabeth canvassed to him and he purchased several of her books. They soon became friends, and as the pastor was reading the books Elizabeth maintained close contact with him. Soon the pastor began to have some questions regarding the Sabbath. Elizabeth followed up with Bible studies, and after several weeks of study he was convinced that Saturday is the true Sabbath, as opposed to Sunday, as he had previously believed.

Having been convinced of the truth, the pastor accepted to be baptised into the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Lubumbashi. Surprisingly, when the day came, the pastor was not baptised alone, but was baptised together with 152 members of his congregation. In fact, because the whole church was baptised, they just changed the signage to indicate that it was now an Adventist church, and continued to use the same premises for worship every Sabbath.

Pastor Ngoy happened to be the shepherd of several other congregations. When his other churches learnt of the new development they also sought to know the truth, and, before long, two other congregations made the same decision, and there are now three congregations with over five hundred members who have become Adventists.

Adventists are called to conduct further Bible studies with the churches every Wednesday and Saturday to further ground them in Bible truths. Pastor Gai has since enrolled in the Philip Lemon University to study theology in order to become an Adventist pastor. Had it not been for God’s grace and the fact that a young university student had accepted to be used by God as a student canvasser, the truth would not have been revealed to them.

Please remember the 8,000 literature evangelists in East Central Africa Division as they share the light through the printed page.

Upper Room’s 10th anniversary

The Upper Room Seventh-Day Adventist church, Nottingham, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 12 September from 9.30am to 6pm. Our worship service speaker will be the BUC president, Pastor Ian Swenney, and the theme shall be ‘God is Great, God is Good’. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new visitors, as well as the elderly, deacons and deaconesses, other church officers and members who have been involved with Upper Room from its inception. There will be a thanksgiving and building fund offering. Young and old are welcome to join us for this special event.

Press Open Day – 13 September – Pastor Mark Finley will be there!
The Stanborough Press Open Day will host Pastor Mark Finley and some excellent gospel singers this coming Open Day. Don’t miss this special event.

Save the date: South England Conference Quadrennial Session

South England Conference Quadrennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a quadrennial session of the South England Conference will be held at Warwick University between Thursday 3 September and Sunday 6 September 2015. Registration of delegates will take place from 11am on Thursday and the business sessions are due to commence at 1.20pm.

Notice is also given that proposed changes to the South England Conference constitution will be considered and that these have been circulated to the delegates.

Press Open Day – 13 September – Pastor Mark Finley will be there!
The Stanborough Press Open Day will host Pastor Mark Finley and some excellent gospel singers this coming Open Day. Don’t miss this special event.

Tip: Have you ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I’l be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them. Andrew Puckering

‘Has the law been abolished, or not?’

On one hand, Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount: ‘For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled’ (Matthew 5:18). It makes sense: God’s law, like its Giver, is righteous, pure and perfect, as well as holy, just and good (Psalms 19:7, 8; 119:72). God’s law reflects God’s will for us and is to that benefit (Deuteronomy 12:20). He doesn’t change (Malachi 3:6), so why would His law change? On the other hand, Paul notes that Christ has ‘wiped out the handwriting of requirements’, having ‘nailed it to the cross’, so that now no longer ‘subject ourselves’ to regulations (Colossians 2:14, 20, NKJV).

Some laws, such as circumcision, are singled out as not applicable to non-Jews (Acts 15:24; Galatians 5:2). Has the whole law been abolished? Not clearly not (John 14:21–24) — but if some of it has, which bits? And how do we square that with Matthew 5:18?

Many Christians throughout history have distinguished the Ten Commandments (also known as the moral law) from other Old Testament laws. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), in his Summa Theologica, divided the ‘law’ into ‘moral, ceremonial, and judicial categories’, since Deuteronomy 6:1 mentions commandments (moral), statutes (ceremonial), and judgements (judicial). Other Christian declarations to distinguish the Ten Commandments include the Second Helvetic Confession of 1566; the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion of the Church of England (1571); the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647); the Baptist Confession of 1688; and the Methodist Articles of Religion (1784), among others.

A good biblical grounds for recognising the Ten Commandments as unique. They embody, in a special way, love for God and for our neighbour (1 John 3:22-24). They were spoken by God, written by God on stone, and deposited in the ark (Exodus 20:1, 2, 12; 31:10, 11; Deuteronomy 10:15), whereas the other laws, by comparison, were spoken by Moses, written by Moses in a book, and deposited next to the ark (Exodus 24:4, 7; Deuteronomy 31:24, 25, 26). God gave all the law, but the Ten Commandments are special, and early Christians continued to recognise them as binding (Ephesians 6:1–4; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 John 2:15). They are still today.

‘Has the law been abolished, or not?’

Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I’ll be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them.

Andrew Puckering

Dear Editor

With reference to your editorial, “Have you ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I’ll be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them.”

Pastor Michael J. Walker

Beautifully done. I love your point of view.
Not for the faint-hearted!
Four brave cyclists braved bad weather, cramped muscles and saddle-soreness to give orphans in India a better chance at life.

by Kish Poddar and June Coombs

Children in an orphanage in India will benefit from the proceeds of two sponsored cycle rides undertaken by Stanborough Park members.

Kish Poddar, a science teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, founded STOP International in 2001 to help improve the lot of children in orphanages in Tamil Nadu state. Since then he has taken many groups there to work on projects and undertakes an annual 262-mile London-Paris sponsored cycle ride to pay the annual school fees for children in one of the orphanages.

This year it was his third ride. He set off from Tower Bridge early on Sunday 24 May with Ricardo Wright and Ravindran Bassi.

They arrived in time to catch the ferry to Calais, where they were greeted with a heavy rain shower. This was to be the first of many setbacks, which included challenging hilly terrain, a satnav that refused to be charged, road signs that didn’t match the map, wrong turns; losing phone contact with the support vehicle; and getting lost in Paris.

The riders had planned to meet up with the support vehicle at the Eiffel Tower, but due to roadworks on the route through Paris they became disoriented while still a good 10km away from it. It was at this point that two young French boys, not more than 11 years old, offered to show them the way by riding in front of them all the way to the tower!

According to Kish, “Keeping up with these young God-sent “angels” was a challenge as they were more familiar with the back-street route than we were. They led us to the Arc de Triomphe, where we took photographs, and then set off along Kleiber Avenue to the Eiffel Tower. Our two young escorts became a few pounds better off that day. When told that they were more familiar with the back-street route than we were, the support vehicle was parked up and waiting for us at the Tower. We then took lots of pictures in the warm sunshine and offered a prayer of gratitude to God for helping us achieve our goal.”

A trip to India is planned for the school summer holiday in order to present the cheque to the orphanage staff to pay for the children’s school fees for the next academic year.

At the same time John Cooper, who is also a trustee of the charity, set out from his Aylesbury home on an even more gruelling 873-mile ride from Land’s End to John O’Groats.

With his wife Lorraine driving the family car in support, he had planned to cover the route in 10 days with Sabbath off. However, unexpected bad weather in the Scottish Highlands forced him to reconsider that decision.

Speaking after his return home he said, “I completed my Land’s End to John O’Groats cycle ride on Thursday last week – a day earlier than planned! I compressed three of the days into two while in Scotland in the hope of avoiding bad weather. The conditions in the Highlands seemed to be the worst in June for many years!”

Cycling through Glencoe with strong winds and torrential rain falling as snow just a few hundred metres above was tough going! But somehow I had the strength to continue and on that particular day covered 126 miles!”

John explained that the money raised is being shared between two projects. Firstly the money going to STOP will help with ‘the cost of school fees for 50 children in one of the STOP orphanages situated in Dinkankottai, Tamil Nadu, which needs around €4,500 for their fees and student equipment’. The rest of the money he raised will be going towards the costs of running the Park Church’s Community Chaplaincy Service, which aims to demonstrate Christian charity by meeting the needs of the local Garston community in whatever form is necessary.

The support vehicle was parked up and waiting for us at the Tower. We then took lots of pictures in the warm sunshine and offered a prayer of gratitude to God for helping us achieve our goal.”

Thankfully, as planned, the support vehicle was parked up and waiting for us at the Tower. We then took lots of pictures in the warm sunshine and offered a prayer of gratitude to God for helping us achieve our goal.”

News from Smethwick
Breath of Life Church in Smethwick, Birmingham, has just completed a two-week series during which Pastor Wilmot James from the US Virgin Islands preached to packed audiences. This culminated in the baptism of nine new members, bringing Breath of Life’s total to 149. Pastors Wilmot James, Richard Jackson and Eric Lawrence officiated at the baptism.

Breath of Life has since had to move premises after 15 years at the Methodist church in Price Street, Smethwick, to its new Sabbath home at the Baptist church in Regent Street, Smethwick. After the successful series and a wonderful baptism, Breath of Life members had to load 15 years of equipment to move down the road. Pastor Eric Lawrence said: ‘It has been a very busy two weeks with members working very hard to make it a success. The Lord blessed us with nine baptisms. Now we have to work hard on moving Breath of Life to its new home on Sabbath.”

Karl Foster, one of Breath of Life’s original members 15 years ago, observed, “This is a strange feeling, moving from our home of worship after so many years. We know the Lord will bless us in our new home and in due course provide us with a permanent one.”

Baptismal candidates: Joel Ngwenya, Danika Edwards, Lorencia Gage, Remona Gwayi, Zinzile Mloyi, Chemwemwe Mtawali, Jenascia Smith, Charlene Smith and Pauline Humphrey

Praise day at Reading Central
The praise team at Reading Central Church hosted a House of Praise day at the end of February. The church choir took the opportunity to unveil their new burgundy-and-gold uniforms, and everyone was blessed by their glorious and harmonious singing.

The programme continued into the evening, with members and visitors en masse. There were special items by the choir, and even a few games and exercises that kept the members and visitors in good spirits. For Michael, a neighbour to one of the church members, it was a very special day. He explained that although he normally watches Reading Central sermons online, on this occasion he had felt compelled to attend as he loves watching people sing live.

The House of Praise day ended with the song ‘Bless the Lord’, and it was certainly a blessing to see that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the day.
Youth

One thing is certain. Camp Meeting this year was different. Yes, the site was new – Butlins in Skegness – but that was just the most obvious change. Apart from the new venue there were fewer than usual attendees, which could be viewed as a shame, but in this case offered a real sense of intimacy to our camp meeting; intimacy which allowed Pastor Anthony Fuller to walk through the congregation into a vacant seat, as he both told and showed listeners his experience of growing up in church; intimacy that allowed the youth to engage more fully with each other and the speakers.

All the speakers demonstrated a genuine care for the welfare of their audience, and an earnest desire to see them walking right with God.

Attendees noted the ‘realness’ of the messages: whether it was speakers being honest about their own struggles, or the clear, straight messages about who God is and what He expects of us. Many appreciated the willingness of those speakers and leaders who agreed to take part in the nightly interview spotlight section, ‘On the Sofa’. The genuine way in which they shared about themselves as ‘the men behind the suits’ (to quote the interview host), as well as their roles and aims within their church positions, inspired confidence and respect from those listening.

The spirit of co-operation was seen everywhere, from the teams and individuals facilitating the programmes, to organisers and attendees working together with the Butlins staff. A sense of friendliness and a willingness to accommodate each other was present everywhere, presenting a real opportunity to turn our faith into practice.

While we were not able to undertake outreach in the same format as in past years, we were encouraged to get to know a few people around the site, share a bookmark with them and invite them to the Saturday evening’s History of Redemption concert – which portrayed the story of salvation, from creation to the earth made new. During the event I sat next to three young Butlins staff members. One of them had been invited by our members while she was cleaning their chalet, and she immediately asked for more bookmarks so she could bring her husband and newly-arrived friend. Their feedback was very positive!

There were the usual opportunities for social interaction with sports tournaments, including basketball, football and netball, an afternoon barbecue, an evening scavenger hunt and simultaneously held girls’ and guys’ nights in. New activities included the art of crafting poetry in a writing workshop, getting creative in a needlecraft session, and learning to take better shots in a professional-led photography workshop.

This is just a taster of the many wonderful things that made this year’s NEC camp meeting a tremendous blessing!

(Photos from the youth programme are available on the NEC Youth Facebook page. Recordings from the messages can be watched online on the NEC/youth YouTube channel.)

Children

Pastor Patricia Douglas and her team of volunteers worked with the children, using the overall theme of the week for their meetings too.

The children enjoyed studying the life of Joseph during their worship together. Mike Baker, one of the Children’s Ministries leaders, said, ‘Our children see the results of hatred and jealousy in the family. They also saw that God was able to re-unite the family. God can do the same with modern families.’

The event that most attracted parents to the main hall on Sabbath afternoon was the ‘Children’s Showcase’, during which the children confidently delivered a programme of a very high standard. Parents were assured that they had made the right decision to come to camp meeting, despite the increased financial commitment of the new venue.

Samantha and Naison, children’s worship leaders, showed that their songs were not simply a convenient ‘add-on’ designed to keep the children occupied for a white. Top-class singers and musicians enhanced the children’s worship experience and their theme song, ‘God’s big family’, should become a strong church favourite as the words model a complete church life-style for children and adults alike. The line ‘Some of us are very loud’ drew an enthusiastic response from the children, and the audio-visual companying ‘you and you and you and you’ even had the media team singing and painting from the back of the hall.

(Photos from the children’s programme are available on the NEC/youth Facebook page.)

Teens

The teen programme involved the delivery of ‘SMART Love’ training workshops presented by Pastors Ian Filipps and Obinnaa Iheoma. ‘SMART Love’ was developed by the late Nancy van Pett and provides teens with valuable tools for relationship-healthy, pure, untainted love.

Unlike sex education delivered at school, the approach was thoroughly biblical, and during the week the younger teens were helped to make smart choices in life partners and SMART relationship development. They looked at the development of healthy self-esteem, the proper stages of dating and how to spot the difference between infatuation and real love.

One adult commented, ‘I wish I had learned all of this at an early age’, emphasising the importance of sharing this vital information with our young people. As certificates of completion were presented to all of the young teen participants the audience learned that the aim was not to ‘fall in love’ but to ‘stand in love’. The young people on the course were certainly not planning to fall. Summarising the event for the youth, Lion Naiken said, ‘I know the difference between an appropriate relationship and an inappropriate relationship ... I’ll wait.’

(Photos from the teens programme are available on the NEC/youth Facebook page.)

Commem service

Pastor Richard Jackson’s team served communion to the large Friday evening audience with military precision. He told members that communion is an opportunity to come to Jesus for cleansing, not for running away, and that we should esteem it a privilege to do so.

The speaker, Dwaine Lemon, contrasted Lucifer, who was created and then cast out, with Jesus, who is the light of the world, and who was sent by God. He inspired a desire to ‘walk in the light’.

All the speakers demonstrated a genuine care for the welfare of their audience, and an earnest desire to see them walking right with God.

Women’s Ministries

As usual, the Thursday morning prayer breakfast hosted by the Women’s Ministries department was packed. The topic this year was ‘Through it All’. NEC Women’s Ministries Director, Geraldene Farmer, and BUC Women’s Ministries Director, Sharon Pitt-McDonald, both shared personal testimonies that clearly demonstrated God’s faithfulness through both the highs and the lows of life. Hyacynth Gayle, one of the Area 3 Women’s Ministries co-ordinators, led the women in prayer, but all too soon, breakfast packs in hand, the women had to vacate the lakeside venue to make way for the ensuing youth meeting.

(Photos from the youth programme are available on the NEC/youth Facebook page.)

The prayer room

The powerhouse of every ministry lies in the prayer room, where faithful prayer partners started each day from 5.30am. These sessions were well supported. It was a wonderful experience to be with a praying church where members and friends were able to make prayer requests, seek prayers for themselves and others, and share their concerns and cares with a prayer-team member.

The prayer room was open throughout each day and was led by the NEC Prayer Ministries department, consisting of Carol Douglas, Eseata Steele and Frederica Reed, together with Pastors Curtis G. Murphy and Lloyd Lambert. The team also led the assembly in directed prayers at the commitment service each evening.

(Peter Curtis G. Murphy - NEC Prayer Ministries Co-ordinator.)

The Art of War

When a camp meeting speaker starts by telling you that a good book to read is The Art of War you’d be forgiven for expecting to hear something very special.

Pastor Sung Kwon, a South Korean pastor currently working at the General Conference, did not disappoint. He was a late addition to the list of excellent speakers and spoke on the role of pastors and elders in our congregations.

Among the many excellent points he made were the following:

- To grow our churches in a healthy way we need to run excellent relationship-developing events, over extended periods of time, for those people we know about.
- Our pastors and elders are there to equip us.
- They are there to grant permission for the work and not hold it back.
- The General Conference website has multiple training modules designed to equip pastors, elders and members to grow, to change and to serve. The International Institute of Christian Ministries has materials which show that many of the things that we all thought we could not do are actually things that we are supposed to be doing.

(Peter Jones)

At least two people in the audience were heard to say at the end: ‘Our pastors should hear this.’ We could do with having this man back in the United Kingdom to train our pastors and elders.

(Peter Jones)

Camp Meeting DVDs are now available for purchase from the NEC office.
further at each event as they see the positive impact they have had on people’s lives,’ said Dr Borges.

“We started out by faith, and our team’s faith has been strengthened...”

Sabbath 30 May and Sunday 31 May the team, augmented by qualified volunteers and observers from sister churches in...”

“The professional services provided by the team over the last year...”

1,000+ and counting

Early in 2013 Dr Dina Borges (MD) pulled together a team of voluntary healthcare workers drawn from among church members to form the core of a Community Health Outreach Team. The objective of the team was to provide clinical diagnostic services and health advice to people...”

Minister and church planter Pastor Simon Martin was relatively unknown in Wales until he came to speak at this year’s Brecon Camp, which was held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of 22 to 25 May. Now there are dozens of members from churches in the Welsh Mission...”

Day of Fellowship programmes are usually about just that – fellowship. They are structured around our need for worship, good Adventist music and mutual affirmation. During the recent Area 8 DOF, however, the district’s pastors decided to break the mould...

“Day of Fellowship programmes are usually about just that – fellowship. They are structured around our need for worship, good Adventist music and mutual affirmation. During the recent Area 8 DOF, however, the district’s pastors decided to break the mould…”

A DOF that was different

Day of Fellowship programmes are usually about just that – fellowship. They are structured around our need for worship, good Adventist music and mutual affirmation. During the recent Area 8 DOF, however, the district’s pastors decided to break the mould!

Instead, they took a hard look at our planning and how to prioritise the needs of those outside the church rather than those already on the inside. Time was also spent discussing why it seems so difficult to make any real breakthrough among the host nation, a problem we have faced for many years. It was an opportunity to reflect on how we do church, how we dress for church and how we conduct our services.

In the beautiful Kingsgate Conference Centre in Peterborough, the morning service focused on inspiring worship and messages that all focussed on ‘Reaching Out’. Nearly 500 people were present to be challenged to commit to serving their communities in new and vibrant ways. Paul Lee and his praise team from the South England Conference led the worship experience and took the congregation to what can only be described as a heavenly level.

Keynote speaker, Eddie Hypolite, challenged the audience to put Jesus at the centre of all that we do, and all were blessed by his honest, humour-filled presentations. He encouraged them to share their lives with those they know, and practise living a Godly life with those with whom they come into contact.

Other presentations were given by Pastor Adrian Peck, who addressed the issue of making our church accessible to the community, including such matters as the way we dress for church and our traditional order of service. Pastor Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director, spoke about being effective both in our outreach to the teens and youth and to the wider national audience.

In the afternoon, BGUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, spoke on the need for change, being prepared to change and being relevant – all essential in order to be effective in evangelism. Later Pastor Colin Stewart chaired a panel discussion made up of Ian Sweeney, Eddie Hypolite and the rest of the Area 8 pastors. Questions on the theme for the day were sent in via text messages from the congregation: should we dress up or down for church; how do we implement change for the better into our churches; how do we accommodate new believers; how do we understand the idea that people, including ourselves, should come as we are to church and be accepted?

The day overall was a refreshing experience, ending with everyone pledges to give more thought, more time and more energy to God’s service in their communities.

COLLEEN STORRIANT (AREA 8 CO-ORDINATOR)

Cleanliness is next to Godliness

In Ladywood, one of the more deprived communities of Birmingham, many Seventh-day Adventists congregate for weekly worship in their recently constructed church. The building is adjacent to a commercial shopping area and at times litter is strewn around carelessly. We believe that cleanliness is next to Godliness, so recently our members swapped their Sabbath suits for work clothes, grabbed garden gloves, shovels and rakes, and set out to clean one area greatly affected by litter. The Community Services department, under the leadership of Thomas Lindsay (elder), and with the support of the young and not-so-young, worked tirelessly to weed, pull, shovel, rake and pick up trash from around the entire block. Many passers-by saw this and voiced their great appreciation of the clean-up.

This was a repeat of last year’s massive clean-up and will now be an annual event for the years to come... because cleanliness is next to Godliness.

GLENDORA LINDSEY

Rescued from the ordinary – Brecon 2015

Minister and church planter Pastor Simon Martin was relatively unknown in Wales until he came to speak at this year’s Brecon Camp, which was held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of 22 to 25 May. Now there are dozens of members from churches in the Welsh Mission as well as SEC Areas 1 and 2 who are asking, “When can Simon come and preach at my church?” Simon has a heart for community ministry. His mission is to reach people with the Gospel right where they are, making friends with ordinary people and gently leading them to Jesus without necessarily exposing them to the less important ‘baggage’ that some church congregations carry.

Simon began his series of talks with a quote from John 10:10 (NIV), “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” He illustrated this principle with a 30-metre length of white polypropylene rope, the first 10cm of which was coloured red. The red bit, “said Simon, ‘represents your life on this earth. The rest of it – which actually extends to infinity – represents the life to come. Too many people,’ he continued, ‘are simply living in the red bit, with no idea of what could lie ahead for them.”

Throughout the rest of his talks Simon challenged his congregation to think differently about what is really important in life. Too many people, he said, spend their time leading ‘red bit lives’...”

Ruth Tuckton

To attend our next camp, which will be held from 27 to 30 May 2016. Put these dates in your diary now and check our website for more details nearer the time.

For more pictures from the camp see the Welsh Mission website at: http://wem.adventist.org.uk

PASTOR J. SURRIEQUE

1,000+ and counting

Early in 2013 Dr Dina Borges (MD) pulled together a team of voluntary healthcare workers drawn from among church members to form the core of a Community Health Outreach Team. The objective of the team was to provide clinical diagnostic services and health advice to people living in communities within the Bournemouth area.

Over a four-day period later that year, a team made up of doctors, pharmacists, nurses and other qualified healthcare workers, and led by Dr Borges, was able to screen over 350 members of the public at the annual Bournemouth Air Festival.

A DOF that was different

Day of Fellowship programmes are usually about just that – fellowship. They are structured around our need for worship, good Adventist music and mutual affirmation. During the recent Area 8 DOF, however, the district’s pastors decided to break the mould!

Instead, they took a hard look at our planning and how to prioritise the needs of those outside the church rather than those already on the inside. Time was also spent discussing why it seems so difficult to make any real breakthrough among the host nation, a problem we have faced for many years. It was an opportunity to reflect on how we do church, how we dress for church and how we conduct our services.

In the beautiful Kingsgate Conference Centre in Peterborough, the morning service focused on inspiring worship and messages that all focussed on ‘Reaching Out’. Nearly 500 people were present to be challenged to commit to serving their communities in new and vibrant ways. Paul Lee and his praise team from the South England Conference led the worship experience and took the congregation to what can only be described as a heavenly level.

Keynote speaker, Eddie Hypolite, challenged the audience to put Jesus at the centre of all that we do, and all were blessed by his honest, humour-filled presentations. He encouraged them to share their lives with those they know, and practise living a Godly life with those with whom they come into contact.

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COLLEEN STORRIANT (AREA 8 CO-ORDINATOR)
PASTOR S. MATTHIAS ESSON, TREASURER OF LAAC (2006-PRESENT)

standards by preparing pupils for academic qualifications. I also commend her for her commitment to prepare pupils, from... Long may Hyland House School continue to serve, ever faithful to the ideals of her motto, 'Dominus Magister Ludi Nostri'.

I commend the school not only for seeking passionately to meet national progress in the good quality of education she has offered over the years, despite the many inadequacies endured. After 25 years, the school... anew and larger home with greater and much-improved facilities, which will no doubt serve to enhance her effectiveness.

I commend the school's leadership, teachers and support staff for the steady... Following an hour of crafts the children are led in song with tunes the founders, governors, administrators, staff, pupils and parents of Hyland House Primary School. Firstly, for their... secondly, on their move to their new property after 76 years of solid operation, having been established in September 1939.

JENNIE HALL

Congratulations Hyland House School

Fletewodo School
Position vacant

The head teacher and governors of Fletewodo School invite applications for the post of deputy head teacher starting in September 2015. Fletewodo prepares students for the 11+ examination and is highly regarded in the local community, and by inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards. Our aim is to provide a holistic education and develop the talents and abilities of every child.

Our school community is looking for someone who:
• Has a clear vision of and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the inclusion of all learners. As we are looking at succession planning, with a view to the successful candidate taking over the headship of the school in 2016, the successful candidate is required to be a practising Seventh-day Adventist;
• Has a strong personal faith which will enrich the life of the school;
• Has proven leadership skills and the ability to encourage, support, and introduce new ideas to further improve our practice;
• Is an effective communicator with good inter-personal skills who will support and inspire pupils, staff, governors and parents/careers;
• Can provide evidence of excellent classroom practice across the curriculum;
• Has experience of working with gifted and talented pupils, as well as with those who have additional needs;
• Has a clear philosophy and the ability to put it into practice;
• Is hard-working with a good sense of humour;
• Has experience in the UK school system and has the right to work in the UK.

If you feel called to join the team in this successful school please request an application form, job description and person specification by either emailing: cramford@secadventist.org.uk or writing to Mrs Jacqui Crawford, South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1JZ.

Fletewodo Preparatory School

On behalf of the London Area Advisory Council (LAAC) I would like to congratulate the school's leadership, teachers and support staff for the steady progress in the good quality of education she has offered over the years, despite the many inadequacies endured. After 25 years of successful operation, it is about to take over a new and larger home with greater and much-improved facilities, which will no doubt serve to enhance its effectiveness.

I commend the school not only for seeking passionately to meet national standards in preparing pupils for academic qualifications. I also commend her for her commitment to prepare pupils, from early on in life, for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. I commend and congratulate her for the strong Christian ethos she has consistently maintained. Long may Hyland House School continue to serve, ever faithful to the ideals of her motto, 'Dominus Magister Ludi Nostri'.

What do Messy Church and Pathfinders have in common?

Last year the Plymouth congregation had great success in its first year of running its Messy Church. The children of Fletewodo School were invited to come once a month to join in with a range of creation-based crafts. This year the team decided to combine Pathfinders with the Messy Church programme, and the children love it! The parents love it too, and even asked if there was a song and pledge for the children to... The team have now incorporated the Adventurer Flower honour into the Messy Church 'curriculum', and the children, aged 3 to 11, have been... The team enjoy coming up with new and imaginative crafts every month and always have a rewarding experience interacting with the children.

More details and information on upcoming events can be found on the Plymouth Church website: https://liskeard-adventistchurch-org-uk.adventist.eu/.

Hyland House School

Hyland House School and

Congratulations Hyland House School

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we pause to remember

Ellen White
On the morning of 13 February 1915, as Ellen White was entering her comfortable study at Elmhurst, she tripped and fell, and was unable to rise. Help was summoned, and it soon became clear that the accident was serious. An X-ray examination disclosed a break in the left hip, and for five months Mrs White was confined either to her bed or a wheelchair. Her words to friends and relatives during the closing weeks of her life indicated a feeling of cheerfulness, a sense of having faithfully performed the work God had entrusted to her, and confidence that the cause of truth would finally triumph.

Ellen’s life ended on 16 July 1915, at the age of 87, and she was laid to rest at the side of her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan. She had lived to see the Advent movement grow from a handful of believers to a worldwide membership of 136,879 – and that now exceeds 18.5 million.

Should you be interested in watching an informative and inspiring video in commemoration of her remarkable life, please click on the following link supplied by the Adventist Media Centre UK:
http://www.hopex.org.uk/content/media-library/media-storylist/ml/buc-news/ellen-g-white/

Adapted by the editor from information available at http://www.hopex.org.uk/about/hopex_whp/

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of a former North England Conference president, Pastor Egerton Francis: a gentle Christian giant in the faith who had been in declining health since his retirement in May 2012.

He passed to his rest at 1am on Wednesday, 24 June 2015, in Nottingham City Hospital.

Born in Jamaica on 5 March 1944, Egerton attended Morant Bay Primary School on the south-east coast, east of Kingston. He was baptised and joined the Church on 20 March 1962.

The annual senior citizens’ party, held at St Peter’s Church Hall in Reading, was packed with the beaming faces of senior citizens. Among the guests were Gladys and Kevin, who were invited by Huldah Coutain from Reading Central while waiting at a bus stop. They accepted the invitation, went to the event and claim to have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it.

Another guest said she found the senior citizens’ party heart-warming and friendly, and she was happy to see young people helping out at the event ‘in this day and age’. Everyone agreed that it was a well-spent Sunday afternoon.

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Lay Institute for Global Health Training
is offering a month-long intensive training course on the fundamentals of health evangelism.

Classes include: hydrotherapy, massage, nutrition, healthy cooking classes, how to prevent and manage common diseases, health expo training, how to train Christ through health, and so on, and will be delivered by Wildwood Lifestyle Centre.

Location: UGC House, 136-170 Shields Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1DT
Phone: 01912 659992
Dates: 1-30 August 2015
Mondays to Thursdays: 5-8pm
Sundays: 9am-5pm
Cost: £250 Evenings only
£350 Non-residential
£550 Residential

www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion

Egerton graduated from Handsworth Technical College in Birmingham, England, and subsequently worked in the NHS as an operating theatre technician until he left to study for the ministry at Newbold College in 1976. This was a challenging thing for a family with four children to do, but together Egerton and Cynthia made it work. Graduating with a BA in 1979, Egerton commenced work as an intern with the North British Conference in September of that year. He was ordained on 9 June 1984, and continued to serve the NEC as a district pastor until he was called to serve the conference as executive secretary in October 1991.

Following a period as acting president during the sickness of Pastor Mike Stickland, Egerton was elected as NEC president on 17 July 1994, and continued to serve the conference in that capacity until 30 June 2008. At the time of his re-election in 1999 he demonstrated a humble spirit wholly consistent with his Christian character. Pastor Francis then went on to serve as ministerial association secretary from 2008 until his retirement on 31 May 2012. Having started work for the Church in his mid-30s, Egerton served the Church for nearly 33 years.

Our sympathy, prayers and best wishes are with Cynthia, their children Dave, Daliah, Judith and Angela, and their families.
Whit and Wild 2015

Those of you who know Aberdaron will have no doubt about the special ‘magic’ that it has, and the annual Whit and Wild Camp which is held there has it in bucket (and spade) -loads.

If you look at the glossy travel brochures they will show you clear blue skies, sunset over Aberdaron Bay, high-speed boats, golden sands and sun and sand-kissed people wearing glorious smiles. All of this is true. But what really makes it so special?

• The sun, the sea, the surf . . .
• The food, the fun, the games . . .
• The friendships made and renewed . . .
• The worships, the singing . . .
• The freedom from mobile phone and internet access . . .

For the past 10 years, individuals and families have attended this event, organised by Phil and Beryl Emm and their amazing team – and year on year the numbers are increasing. This year we were more than 120 strong, and each of us went home with our own highlights — but none of us will forget the image and sound effects of a small boy baptising the potatoes, or the picture of another small boy with only a triangle to play. The laughs and smiles give us the triggers to remember the reason for the stories — that we are chosen by God. This year we celebrated a life dedicated to Christ by baptism in the sea — a confirmation of the truth of the Bible, the acceptance that Jesus is who He says He is, and the first step in a lifelong — in fact, everlasting — life with Him.

Thank you to each one who made Whit and Wild 2015 an extraordinary event beyond words and even Joel’s pictures. If you want to come next year – book now — it is already three-quarters full!

DEBBIE SANDERS

PHOTOS: PETER MARSHALL

It doesn’t have to be this way