



2 September 2009

Letter to BUC Ministers

Office of the President

British Union Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
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Dear Colleagues

Re: Development of Newbold College

I am writing to you regarding an institution that is dear to your hearts and to mine. Newbold College has been furnishing the British Union and the world church with workers for several decades. This highly respected college, which occupies eighty acres of land near the town of Bracknell, Berkshire, has been pivotal to the work of our church in these fair Isles.

Over the years Newbold College has modified its programmes and approach to teaching and learning in order to keep abreast with the changing needs of the church and the wider challenges of our society. Plans are currently afoot to expand the academic programme significantly in order to position the college close to the top of the choice list for a number of young people, both inside and outside the church.

The expansion programme envisions:

- A Media Arts degree whereby young people can pursue their love of media to create moral and ethical offerings to a world in rapid decay – media that feeds the soul.
- Development of a one-year Diploma in Social Sciences, which will afford young people entry into higher education when they might not have previously sensed their potential. This starting point would then transfer to a full degree should the student so choose.
- Development of the Arts & Humanities degree programme to ensure a sampling of the entire world of education rather than settling on just one focus. This is a good path for those thinking to pursue anything from a law degree to teaching as a profession.
- Introduction of an MBA degree (2010-2011) as a complement to the degree in Business Management.
- Introduction of a degree in Community and International Development (CIDP) in 2010 for those interested in working in the non-profit world, for organizations such as ADRA, World Vision International, World Bank, the United Nations. Young people would be equipped to work with communities to devise a plan that would provide cleaner food and water sources, reduce domestic violence and drugs, care for children with AIDS, etc.
- Introduction of a full Counselling Course in 2011-2022.

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Newbold College is committing itself to being the Resource Centre for British Adventists – where one can come and utilise the library, organise or attend a conference, schedule a personal retreat, and interact with Biblical scholars. The College is also considering how best to offer programming outside the classroom that will support our membership of any age.

Educationally and academically Newbold College is among the very best within the Adventist educational system. It is also highly respected within the British academic community and has been awarded the much-coveted recognition by the British Accreditation Council.

In addition to the development of its academic programme, the College Board realises that much work needs to be done on the physical plant in order to stay abreast with modern demands. The College is seeking to create residence halls for students of the 21st century. Current plans are geared towards upgrading and expanding the resident halls.

The plan provides for:

- 25 new modern en-suite study/bedrooms
- Upgrading of Keough House and Schuil House
- Modern facilities for students with physical disabilities
- An isolation unit for students experiencing short-term illnesses
- Linking of two halls of residence – Schuil House and Keough House
- Provision of a common entrance into the halls of residence which is attractive, bright and airy. This one-entry point would make a more efficient and cost effective administration of the residence halls – having one where there are currently have two.
- Offering of a communal café-style area in which the students could congregate and socialize
- Provision of office space for staff of the residence halls.

These 25 new rooms will make up for some space that will be lost when Keough House and Schuil House are renovated and upgraded.

Newbold College needs the British Union and the other fields that it serves to bring the college facilities up to an acceptable standard. Those of us who have travelled a little, and have had the opportunity to visit some of our universities and colleges in other parts of the world, realise that Newbold lags well behind most of the others in the quality of the facilities it provides for staff and students. Dormitory accommodation, for the most part, leaves much to be desired and is often a deterrent to prospective students.

There is an oft-repeated story about a father who brought his son to Newbold to enrol him for a year's study. On entering the room that had been assigned to his son in one of the dormitories, the father looked around and said, "Son, you are going back home. I cannot allow you to stay here." This was an extreme response to the situation but it is widely believed that the poor quality of accommodation at the college has turned away a number of would-be students.

The British Union, along with other fields in the Division, has undertaken to play its part in helping to make our College what we all want it be. In this connection, we are endeavouring to raise £ 1 million as our contribution to the Newbold Development Project. The Union office itself is unable to come up with this kind of money, but it is a reachable target if each church were to play its part in making a meaningful contribution.

I have enclosed a list of churches in the British Union with a suggestion as to what each church could give in order to make the £1 million a reality. Here I have in mind the fact that our churches, for the most part, have benefitted substantially from the Gift Aid Programme and are in a position to let some of the Gift Aid benefits flow to the College. Some churches may be in a position to give even more

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than is being requested. We are recommending that each church gives no less than what is being recommended.

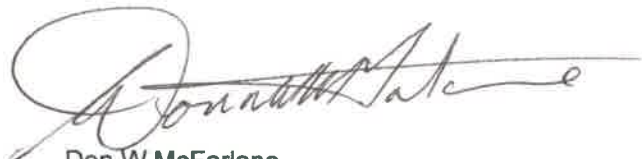
We are aware that some churches have had major church building expenditure fairly recently and are now strapped for cash. We would strongly urge those churches to come up with a plan whereby they can make a contribution to the development of our College.

We will be contacting you again in two months time regarding the amount your church(es) will be contributing to the Newbold Appeal and the time that contribution will be available.

A promotional video regarding the College has been uploaded to the BUC website. Please feel free to download this and share with your board or church as part of your promotional strategy.

Together we can make Newbold College a first choice academic institution for the youth of our church.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don W McFarlane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Don W McFarlane

DWM:jj