

ACROSS THE AISLES

BUC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS UPDATE



ISSUE 2 ~ 2008

Simple Reflections—Images of God's Love

For the first time, women from the British Union linked with another Union to run a joint retreat at de Bron in the Netherlands. The BUC/Netherlands Women's Retreat ran the weekend of 28-30 March with guest speakers from the General Conference, Mrs Heather-Dawn Small, Women's Ministries director, and her Associate Mrs Raquel Arrais.

Their presentations focused on how women can reflect the images of God's love in a practical caring way in their home, workplace, college and church. "It was inspiring to hear quality women preachers who were totally passionate about what they were sharing," stated Marci Neal from Ireland after the event. "I hope to get Heather-Dawn Small to Ireland next year I was so impressed. They are gifted communicators." In her Sabbath afternoon workshop, Raquel also spent a special time with the young ladies challenging them to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. "Like Esther of old," she said, "God needs women today to put His cause

first." Another workshop speaker was Mrs Karen Holford. Her room was crammed in by



Women enjoying the creative art evening

over 100 women wanting to learn how to not only pray creatively themselves, but also to share these activities with their church. Valerie Fidelia's seminar was musical. She turned 60 ladies into a choir whose Sunday performance of the 23rd Psalm received an ovation.

The joint nature of the event was reflected in the programme. The

song leader, Renate, was Dutch; the Sabbath mission appeal was by the British, Judith, Ruth and Malika. A number of Dutch women translated the speakers but a majority of those from the Netherlands understood English. When it came to the creative arts evening on Saturday, a favourite feature of the Dutch retreat, translation was not really needed. All eyes focused on the sample picture of a vase with, of course, tulips, and happy chatter accompanied the painting. Although not Rembrandts, the ladies proudly packed their canvas very carefully so it could grace their wall at home.

Although a BUC student had her laptop stolen at the Amsterdam airport, she still felt blessed by attending. Three other women rejoiced as their

visas finally arrived the morning of the retreat. Clair Sanches, the Netherlands Union Women's Ministries director, commented at the end of the retreat what a joy it was to see the ladies from two Unions enjoy fellowship and spiritual renewal.

Heather Haworth, the BUC Women's Ministries director, announced, to the jubilation of the congregation, they were planning to invite the Dutch ladies over in 2010. She continued saying "the BUC is looking forward to doing a UK and Eire style of retreat" and thanked Clair and her team for their hospitality.

A selection of pictures from the retreat can be seen on the BUC picture gallery:

www.adventist.org.uk



Part of the group who attended—braving the drizzle!

Ladies Leading Out in Church

You will have experienced leading out in the Women’s Day of prayer and now you will be planning the Women’s Emphasis Day (see enclosed booklet). Heather-Dawn explains in her letter of introduction how to involve all ages in taking part.

The General Conference dates may not fit into your church calendar but please work with the Pastor in having them included. In the BUC, we have the Abuse Prevention Awareness Day on the first Sabbath in September so it does not clash with the summer holidays.

The material for these respective days is sent out two months ahead of time. If you want it earlier, go to the GC

website, www.adventist.org/ and click on *Directories*, then *Directory of GC Organizations*. Scroll down and click on *Women’s Ministries* then on *Special Days*.



<p>Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day 21st June 2008</p>
<p>Abuse Prevention Awareness Day 6th September 2008</p>

Leading Ladies in the BUC

Our church system means that you in the local church receive support from a Conference/Mission leader. It is my pleasure, as the Union Women’s Ministries Director, to introduce these leaders.

This newsletter is being written in Ireland where I have been working with the latest lady to join our leadership team; this is **Marci Neal**. Her job in administration, her counselling experience, as well as understanding the joys and challenges of being a wife and mother, have taught her skills a Women’s Ministries Leader needs.

Claradell Morgan, North England Conference sponsor for the Midlands, is the longest serving leader. Preacher, teacher, evangelist and tease are some of the qualities she is gifted with. Claradell’s philosophy for women is based firmly in the first couple of chapters of Genesis. She sees women as being a “special edition” from the very hands of the Creator of the universe who has placed her in His church for a purpose.

Up to a year ago, **Carleen Rafferty** was the sponsor for the far north of the NEC. Due to her husband’s appointment at the Adventist Discovery

Centre, she has passed her “mantle” on to **Geraldene Farmer**. Geraldene is a professional in the area of coaching and mentoring women. The Westwood Christian Centre article will tell



you a bit more about her goal of giving women a vision of how God can empower them.

Our next longest serving leader is **Judith Martin** in Scotland. A much traveled lady who teaches English language to non-English speakers. Women’s Ministries played a part in her recommitment to Christ. Judith’s cultural and work background, plus counselling studies, help her interact and serve the women in her local church and Mission.

Since September 2007, **Malika Bediako** has found the quickest way to loose weight is to become a part time Director in a job that has full time demands. Willingly she has taken up this challenging work because of her sense of God’s calling.

Malika travels between offices in the Advent Centre, London and the South

England Conference in Watford, as well as churches from Milton Keynes to Lands End. Her legal training and community work in Islington, London, provides her with the “know how” to envision women to be involved with especially the “Just Two” ministry.

Jane Wells is a multi-tasker you may identify with. A wife, Mum to tweens, counsellor and secretarial assistant. Whether confronted by learning how to use email, launching small groups or doing more counselling training courses, Jane accepts the challenges. A role model for other young women she wears her love for Jesus on “her sleeve”. Jane wants more women, young and older, to attend the Welsh Mission retreat so they too can be spiritually, mentally and physically “refuelled”.

Your Retreats

Retreats were at the heart of the birth of Women's Ministries. Ladies would come for a weekend break and go home enthused about starting Women's Ministries in their church. Thirteen years later this still happens. Also, you are feeling comfortable at bringing along non-church attending friends and family, who often find the retreat started them on their baptismal journey or recommitment to Jesus.

Your Conference and Mission leaders put a lot of time and budget into running the retreats. Many hours are spent by their secretaries to enable the weekend to run smoothly. The following are some points which would help us when organizing a retreat:

1. Encourage your ladies to start retreat fundraising early in the year—concert, cake sale, sponsored swim, walk, etc.
2. Announce the date in plenty of time so women can get the Friday off work and arrange child care.
3. Educate the women in the way booking at a hotel works, ie once you book, the hotel takes a full payment, no refund. If, later,

they cannot come then they must find someone to pay them and take their place. They must remember to notify the organizer of this change and also to give the new lady's name and details.

4. Note the Conference/Mission, often a year before the retreat, have to book bedrooms, meals, workshop rooms and a meeting hall for a certain number. If these are not used they still have to be paid for. Some venues will not charge the full amount if they are notified in plenty of time and can sell on the rooms. As you can see, **it is imperative the ladies book early.**
5. Don't forget to look at ways you can support the teens and students in finding the money for their fees so they can attend their Conference teen track.
6. As a leader, we are dependent on you to pass out the booking forms, to announce the retreat date and put the poster on the notice board. Look to see if this information is on your Conference/Mission website.

FUTURE RETREATS

In 2009 we are working on doing special retreats:

- The Irish Mission is planning a 3-Mission retreat, possibly in May.
- The SEC is putting an emphasis on running regional retreats.
- The BUC is looking for a venue for a Mums & Daughters' retreat.
- In 2010 we are hoping a joint Dutch/BUC retreat will take place.

This year the Mission and Conference run retreats are:

The North East retreat this year is

Welsh Mission	May 9-11
Scottish Mission	June 6-8
Irish Mission	Sept 12-14
NEC (North East)	Sept 19-21
SEC	October 24-26

being run by Geraldene. She will be in contact with the North East Women's Ministries leaders. Her last retreat is featured next.

My Weekend at Westwood Christian Centre

- Joanna Daniel



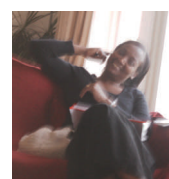
The narrow single lane roads that led to Westwood Christian Centre hinted of hills and valleys; we passed the odd car, houses became further and further apart. Silence hung in the air and gave the place a serene feel. This is the perfect location for a retreat, I thought to myself as I inhaled deeply and exhaled, relaxing. I was joined by eight women from Leeds, Huddersfield and Newcastle, we had come together with one common purpose, that of discovering, our purpose and

how to fulfil our God-given potential. Some were looking for ideas on how to change, others wanted direction.

The main hall appropriately named, 'The Lookout' was a comfortable and beautifully decorated room. Space was used with stylish efficiency. Peering through the glass door, distant lights seemed as though splashed across the hills, giving the image of a beautiful starry night. All was revealed, on Sabbath morning. The view was breathtaking. Indeed this was the perfect place to come away from the business of life to listen to God.

On Friday night Geraldene shared 'In His Image for His Purpose.' We discovered, or rediscovered, that there was a special design in the mind of our Creator for us when he made us.

Our Sabbath topic explored the fact that life is meaningless without Christ. We were encouraged to spend time with the 'source' and in so doing we would be given a picture of what we were designed to function as. Geraldene encouraged us to 'live fully so we can die effectively' she adds that God has given us potential. Then came the challenge: 'Are you going to use it all?' One was left with a sense of anticipation wanting to know more, what was I created for?



Sabbath evening gave us an opportunity to identify our spiritual gifts. Knowing them, should give credit to God and bless others.

One woman described the timing of the retreat for her in these words

'when the student is ready the teacher comes' she was at the place where she was ready to 'turn up for the job that God has for her', the retreat gave her the how to's. One woman said 'I came for ideas for change and it was worth the journey.'

The prayer walk on Sunday morning was energising, we went out for an hour interceding on behalf of the people in the area. One woman is happy that she now understands that she is divinely created for a God-given purpose that was ordained for her before

she was born. That's pretty special and to top it all off, on Sunday we looked at 'Larger Living- on Purpose.'



We were challenged to identify our values, conduct a swot analysis and write a personal mission statement.

'Finally brethren whatsoever things are honest..... if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.' 'Pursue your dreams.'

(Joanna Daniel has a dream to write; this retreat prompted her to use her talent for words. Thank you Joanna.)

Reporting

Each quarter the General Conference expects a report on the work in each Division so they can let the world church leaders be aware of your activities and needs. Enclosed is the report—which can now be filled in on line. Thank you for faithfully filling it in before the end of April. Please forward to my email address.

Newsletter on the Web

The newly designed newsletter can be printed in full colour by going onto the BUC website. Print it off and put on your notice board so others can enjoy its news too.

BUC Women's Ministries Director

Heather Haworth

Home phone/fax: 01159 164125

Email: hhaworth@adventist.org.uk

Secretary:

Dawn Tompkins

Email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk

Phone: 01923 672251

Fax 01923 893212

LetsConnect Ministry

Enclosed, as this quarter's resource sheet, is an outline of how to minister to those who no longer attend church and their loved ones.

The Women's Emphasis Day may be a good time to launch the ministry by handing out the 'R U Missing Someone From Church' leaflet and the LetsConnect website card.

Websites

BUC—www.adventist.org.uk

SEC—www.secadventist.org.uk

NEC—www.necadventist.org.uk

WM—www.adventistwales.org

IM—www.adventist.ie/drupal/

Prayer Corner

- *For those preparing retreats and the joint department Conference (December 5-7) and that the attendees will be refreshed physically and spiritually empowered.*
- *The areas featured on the Women's Emphasis Day.*
- *The North England Conference Session, especially in choosing a Women's Ministries Leader.*
- *The LetsConnect ministry for those taking a break from church.*

