

ADRA-UK Annual Appeal



by C. R. Perry
Chief Promoter



On Boxing Day 2004 the world witnessed one of its greatest natural disasters. We were touched by the pain and suffering of the victims of the tsunami. The humanitarian response from organisations, the public, and governments was overwhelming. As I write, the total raised by our own Church members in the United Kingdom and Ireland has passed £170,000. The need is great and thankfully the response has been in proportion to the need.

But the world moves on and once again we are reminded of other needs in the world. Will the public outpouring of giving that we have seen in response to the tsunami disaster lead to donor fatigue, or will recent events have softened the hearts of an already generous public so that even greater funds can be released to relieve the suffering of the world?

Growing needs

On Sabbath 26 March ADRA-UK will launch its 2005 fund-raising appeal. Once again Adventist church members throughout the UK and Ireland will be working together to raise funds to help address the growing humanitarian needs around us. It is my view that, once again, we will find the public to be extremely generous. I believe that the tsunami disaster has awakened people to the needs around them and that

this year they will be more willing to give than ever.

However, in order to make the most of this favourable situation for charity donation we need to recruit more volunteer collectors from our churches, especially from among our young people. Every year some of our old stalwarts find that due to declining health they are no longer able to cover the territory they once did. The fertile ground that they have cultivated for so long now needs to be worked by new labourers.

Project selection

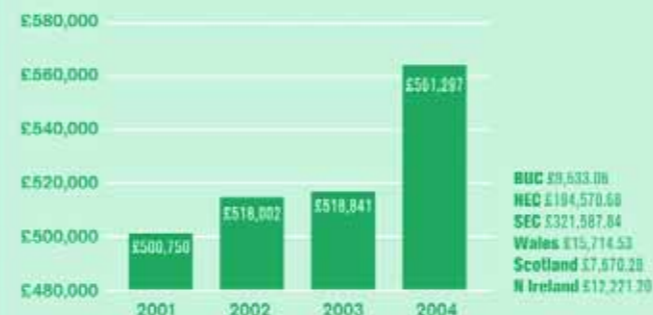
ADRA-UK is very careful in its selection of projects. Factors such as sustainability, local impact, and long-term efficiency are all taken into account. Again this year there is a balance in the range of projects that has been chosen. Some deal with the alleviation of poverty, others concentrate on working with children, while still others address medical or educational needs. Every year a percentage of money is also put aside for emergency disaster relief – a provision which proved its worth in the tsunami disaster. All of these factors can give us confidence as we approach the public in their homes. The money that they give will be going to genuinely good projects and, as less than 10% of what they give will be used for essential expenses, they can be sure that the vast

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Reader's Business/India, courtesy www.adra.net.org

Annual Appeal Totals 2001-2004



Annual Collection: 26 March - 10 April
(extends to 17 April in Greater London)



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majority of what they give will reach the end recipient.

Sponsored events

As well as door-to-door collectors ADRA-UK needs volunteers with other skills. Over the past few years we have seen the rise in popularity of sponsored events which run alongside the traditional fund-raising methods. These additional events can help to raise public awareness as well as boost the total amount of money raised. Once again this year BUC Personal Ministries director Pastor David Cox will be promoting the '13 Miles for Good' sponsored run and other events on 20 March, and we are looking for further initiatives from other creative people who are keen to broaden the range of Ingathering activities.

The exceptional amount of money raised specifically for the tsunami disaster appeal showed just how committed our church members are and there is no doubt that once again members will be making personal financial contribu-

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tions to the ADRA-UK Annual Appeal. Whatever we do as a Church or individually, either through door-to-door collecting, participating in sponsored events, or giving of our personal resources, let us make this appeal the best ever.

In closing may I say a big thank you to the many volunteers and supporters who helped us collect over £560,000 to support last year's projects – an increase of more than 7% over the previous year. May God bless you as you assist in the ADRA-UK Annual Appeal again this year.

www.adventistsinglesconnection.com

This is a site where single Adventists can meet other single Adventists. The staff at adventistsinglesconnection monitor the people joining the site and endeavour to delete anything untoward. Feel free to browse and access the credibility of the site.

ASHLEIGH SEMMONS

Auditing Service vacancy

General Conference Auditing Service (Trans-European area) will have a vacancy for a travelling auditor (qualified or near-qualified) after 1 March 2005. Requests for further details and applications (with CV) to Terence de Villiers at GCAS, 119 St Peters Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY.

ALAN REDFERN

LETS CONFERENCE

Pentecost 2
23 April 2005

Aston University Central Hall, Birmingham.
All NEC lay members who are running or have run a successful evangelistic outreach should send details to Pastor Roy Morgan, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB.



Want to know the Number One Reason for the decline of Christianity in the British Isles? Could *this* be it?

'The world is tired of Christians who proclaim that they know the right beliefs but in whom there is no grace.'¹

'Theological rightness should be more than correct doctrines. It should demonstrate a vibrant relationship with God, "a visibly better product", and be offered attractively and compassionately.'²

I believe that the first of these quotes applies especially to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. And the second quote was written specifically about the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles.

What is being said is this:

Being a Christian has got to make a difference. It is not enough to have the truth. The world has got to be able to see that we have internalised it and that it has changed us for the better.

'By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.' (Ephesians 2:8.)

You know how you can tell who is saved?

They have received grace *and, therefore, they are gracious.*

Grace makes a difference. It *has* to!

Am I saying that the ungracious are unsaved? That is *exactly* what the New Testament says.

The Church does not exist to keep you healthy but sinful. The Church does not exist to make you rich beyond the dreams of avarice. The Church does not exist to provide a little demi world where you can strut your stuff and, if the mood takes you, bully, intimidate and exploit. The Church has only one commodity that the world cannot get from anywhere else – and that is grace.

The Church is a means of grace or it is nothing. A Church whose members are ungracious, aggressive, fanatical and legalistic is a failing Church.

People who believe that they are saved by works are cowards. They suspect that if they accepted the idea of salvation by grace through faith, that Jesus would want to interfere in their lives.

And they suspect rightly!

The new birth experience comes to those who, in repentance, reach out and grasp forgiveness and grace.

Those who grasp grace get miracles.

'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.' (2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Grasping grace does not mean that you will live happily ever after. Grasping grace does not inoculate you against pain and suffering. Grasping grace and forgiveness from God does, however, make you gracious.

Why did Jesus come?

'To all who received him . . . he gave the right to become children of God. . . . From the fullness

of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.' (John 1:12, 16, 17, NIV.)

Not all in the Church (or outside it) reject Jesus. Those who accept him *become* God's children.

There are some children, says Barclay, who 'use their home but give nothing to it in return'. They accept the Father's sacrifice as a right, but do nothing to show their love of the Father.

There are other children who, in embracing what the Father has done and is doing, 'show their gratitude by trying to be what the Father wants them to be'.

The first child grows further and further away from the Father. Even those outside the home know he brings discredit on all the home stands for.

The second child grows nearer and nearer to the Father. Even those outside the home see this – and want to become part of the family.

Both are children of God *in a way*: but their idea of being a child of God is very different. The second child has *become* a child of God in a way that the first never was.³

'From the fullness of his grace . . .' The word used for fullness is *pleroma*: it is the sum total of all that is in God.⁴ In Jesus dwelt the totality of God's grace. We can go to Jesus with any need and find our need supplied. The grace of God in Christ Jesus is inexhaustible. Those who draw on God's grace become gracious and find salvation.

You will not enter God's Kingdom of Glory unless the Kingdom of Grace is inside you.

Through Jesus, God the Law-giver became God the Father. Grace made the difference. And those who receive grace will become gracious.

It is not enough to have the truth. It is not enough to be right. The truth must manifest itself through the quality of your relationship with God. The truth about grace makes you gracious. Being gracious makes you an attractive, compassionate representative of Jesus in the world.

The world really is tired of Christians who proclaim that they know the right beliefs but in whom there is no grace.

Grace *is* the one commodity the Church has on offer that the world cannot get anywhere else.

Those who have grace can be used by God to transform society and conquer the world.

The graceless who connect their names to the Name of Christ and his Church hinder the cause of Christ and defeat the Gospel.

With grace: God can use you.

Without grace: God cannot use you to win because you are not winsome.

Simple, but true.

Grasp grace – and be gracious!

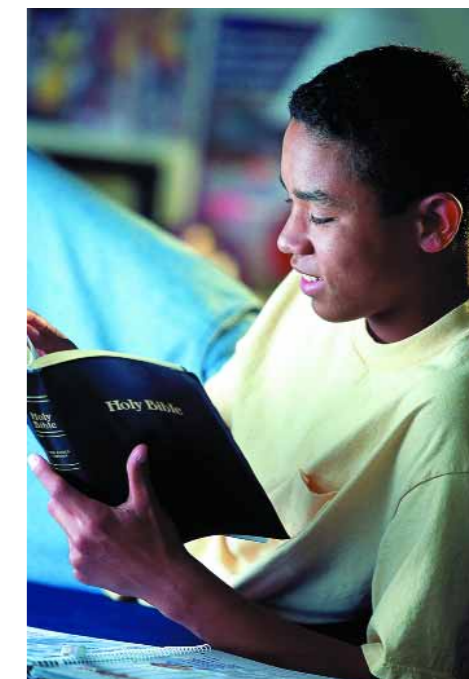
Is it enough to be right?



with David Marshall

References:

¹John Ortberg, *Love Beyond Reason* (Zondervan), 136. ²Cynthia Benz, Unpublished PhD dissertation accepted by the University of Birmingham in 2004. 'An exploration of the Place of Pastoral Care in the Seventh-day Adventist Church with Particular Reference to the Church in the British Isles', page 164. ³William Barclay, *The Gospel of John* (St Andrew Press), volume 1, pages 61, 62; Paul Barnett, *The Message of 2 Corinthians* (IVP), pages 111-114. ⁴William Barclay, *The Gospel of John* (St Andrew Press), volume 1, page 71.



Healthwise

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director



Not eggsactly true

You know when Christmas is over when you see Easter eggs in the shops, and the size of the packaging belies the size of the contents. What you think is a good buy turns out to be anything but.

The same may also be true of real eggs. Their size, labelling and packaging may also mislead the customer into thinking that they have bought well. Let's look at some egg samples:

- All eggs produced in the EU must by law indicate the country and farm of origin. This information is encoded and stamped on each egg. Eggs are designated: 0 = organic;

- 1 = free range; 2 = barn eggs; and, 3 = cage eggs. So an egg stamped 2 UK followed by a figure indicates that it was laid in the UK by hens in a barn, and the following figures are the reference number for a particular registered farm.
- Egg sizes are important and the sizing system changed in the late 1990s for unity of measurement in the EU: small (old size [os] 5-7), less than 53g; medium (os 3-5) 53-63g; large (os 3-1), 63-73g; and, very large (os 1-0), over 73g.
- The packaging of any of these eggs may be labelled 'class A' eggs. This is not an official

designation informing of the special merit of a producer since *all* eggs for direct sale to consumers must be class A. It just affirms that the eggs are clean, fresh, and have no visible cracks. All eggs have to be naturally clean and unwashed – the washing of eggs is not permitted as it passes any infection present to the rest of the eggs. Eggs other than class A are broken, emptied and used commercially.

- The word 'fresh' is also a redundant term as all eggs must be fit for sale. From laying to sale to consumers must not exceed 21 days, and allowing for use the 'best before date' increases that time to 28 days.

There is of course a psychology of labelling which leads consumers to believe that they have made a good purchase. Words that conjure up pictures of picturesque idyllic surroundings, and words like healthier are all used to tempt the buyer. Eggs packaged as 10 or 18 to a pack may all confuse the shopper.

To be eggsact in your calculations, examine the eggs in your fridge, look for the information code, and work out the weight per price for the eggs. Once you know what to do you can eggsperiment with other brands to see if you are getting value for your money.

More on the tsunami

In early January the editor asked thirty Adventist thought leaders – in Britain and overseas – to attempt an answer to the question ‘Where was God?’ in connection with the tsunami. Most of the responses were published in the last two issues of MESSENGER. Here are two ‘late entries’.

Pastor Vontzalidis:

Like every one else I was also shocked and horrified by what I witnessed through the media. And yet reporters kept saying that the TV images did not capture the sheer enormity of the devastation and deep trauma that the tsunami caused.

As a Christian, I have often struggled, and still do, with the question of suffering, asking where God was, why God didn't intervene to prevent the terrible consequences, etc. Although it is a very difficult question to answer, I have learned through the years to try to see things from God's perspective in the light of the great controversy between God and Satan. I have often wondered: if our human hearts hurt so much because of what is happening on this planet, how much more is God's heart breaking and bleeding in pain? Yet he lets evil and the consequences of it run its course until the day he has determined to come and restore the new world where death will cease to raise its ugly head, and this earth be delivered from its 'groaning' (Romans 8:22).

This is a hugely different world from what God intended it to be and,

as Philip Yancey says in his book, *Where is God when it hurts?*, 'To judge God solely by the present world would be a tragic mistake.' When sometimes overwhelmed by what I see, I ask God how his heart can take it all in. His Spirit then reminds me of the cross where the ultimate suffering of God took place! A suffering that has not its equal, even if the whole world was to be engulfed by a tsunami! He perfectly understands what parents went through, for example, when their children were snatched from their hands by the deadly grip of the terrible wave. *God was not absent when the tsunami struck.* In every human tragedy, whether caused by man or nature, he is ever present, very near to those who are suffering, to offer comfort, strength, help through others, and hope for the future.

Jesus warned us that there would be disasters like these. It is likely that worse are to come. But then he gives this encouragement: 'Stand up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption is drawing near.' (Luke 21:28.) May that glorious day come soon!

Aris Vontzalidis,
SEC departmental director.

Pastor Charles Watson:

Where was God when the tsunami struck? God was in exactly the same place where he stood when the typhoon of bitter hatred, prejudice and downright evil struck his own Son. Driven by demonic forces of evil, lacerations tore into his body. The howling cry of the crowd that might have saved him came back, 'Away with him.' The hurricane of

lies and anger carried a spear into his side, thorns were crushed into his bleeding forehead, nails pierced his mangled body as he hung in torturous agony before he expired in the most brutal murder of all time.

The Father never stands back isolated from man's suffering. 'In all their affliction, he is afflicted.'

C. D. Watson is a retired president of the Afro-Mideast Division and lives in Florida.

Do your 'Potlucks' cause food poisoning?

by Elsie Staple, Health Ministries sponsor, SEC

Those were the thoughts of the attendees at the Essential Food Hygiene Course training day, which was held at the Advent Centre. Fourteen persons attended, and the session commenced with a discussion on the definition of Food Hygiene – making sure food is safe when storing, preparing, cooking and serving.

Some of the attendees shared their experiences of food poisoning, and attendees were informed of one particular food item from the 'high risk foods'. Many were shocked to know that this item could easily cause food poisoning if it was not properly stored after cooking. *The food in question was cooked rice.* Most churches have 'potlucks'

every Sabbath. Are the food handlers certified? What if there was an outbreak of food poisoning following such an event? Would your church be guilty and found wanting? The facilitator informed the attendees that any reported incident to the local Environmental Health Officer could initiate an investigation.

Who can be trained?

This begs the question, who *should* be trained?

The members of the social and hospitality team and anyone who is involved in any aspect of food preparation for the public should be certified.

The training provided information on the following:

- keeping food safe: cross-contamination, temperature control
- food handlers: personal hygiene, illness
- safe food handling: storing food, food preparation, cooking
- where you are: any venue for a church function and rental of the church

Throughout the day reference was made to the Food Safety Regulations 1995. As the Regulations were discussed the relevance of the course became more significant. We were encouraged to reflect on our practice and the venue in which the public is served food. The course received very positive evaluation.

Prevention is better than cure

There will be two more training sessions in 2005.

Watch this space.

Meanwhile, here is a checklist for good practice:

- Wash your hands thoroughly, using warm water and soap after using the toilet and before handling food
- after handling raw food
- after handling rubbish
- then dry your hands after you have washed them
- Do not handle food if you are suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting
- Do not spit, smoke, eat or chew gum when you are handling food
- Make sure your clothes are clean
- Keep your workplace, especially surfaces and utensils, clean
- Store food at the correct temperature



Storm clouds over the USA

by William G. Johnsson*

The United States today faces a greater threat from religious extremists than at any period in recent memory.

In a manner totally unforeseen and unanticipated, religion has come to the fore in the modern world. A generation ago students of history were dismissing religion as a significant element for the future of humanity. Science now was king.

How wrong they were! Their pronouncements utterly missed not just the return of religion as a significant social and political factor, but the reappearance of religion of an aggressive, fundamentalist stripe:

- The overthrow of the Shah of Iran by radical Muslim clerics should have alerted the world to what was coming.
- In India, for the first time, a strongly nationalist Hindu political party was

elected to form the central government.

- Across the countries of the Middle East and in Indonesia fundamentalist Muslim groups, of which al-Qaeda is best known, gained a following and exerted ever stronger influence on governments, at times resorting to acts of violence and terror.
- In Israel itself control of the government shifted towards those favouring a hard-line stance against the Palestinians.

These developments may seem a long way off to people in the United States, but they are not. During just the past few years the United States has undergone profound changes. Storm clouds loom dark on the horizon.

The catastrophic events of 9/11 startled and shook the nation. As leaders of government rushed to try to prevent further attacks, Congress moved quickly to draft corresponding legislation. Faced with warnings from leaders that more terrorist activities were not just likely but certain, and learning to live with Yellow, Orange, and Red Alerts, members of the public accepted restriction of liberties. They did not protest the detaining of suspected terrorists for long periods without access to legal counsel or trial; they expressed little outrage at the abuse of prisoners held in detention in Cuba or Iraq.

Rarely does a single event open the door to sudden, major shifts in perspective. But what happened on 11 September 2001 did just that. With this change religious extremism finds fertile soil.

A potent factor in the American political scene is the role of Israel in evangelical/fundamentalist Christian thought. A widely held interpretation of biblical prophecy concerning the end time sees Israel playing a key part in events leading up to the Second Coming. Thus the Christian Right, which increasingly has organised itself to flex political muscle, seeks to influence the United States government – regardless of the party in power – to support the interests of Israel. Forget about attempts to negotiate between Jews and Arabs with an even hand: Israel must be given priority, *because of its role in end-time prophecy.*

This coupling of religion with a political agenda bears the seeds of ill will for the future. History makes abundantly clear that any time church and state team up, bad things happen for people of conscience.

The future seems loaded with uncertainty. We can expect that the Christian Right, which strongly influenced the outcome of November's election, will not quietly retreat to a corner. They will demand political results, and will be even more aggressive in future elections.

Significantly, the broadest alliance of Christians ever has recently been formed in the United States. Evangelicals, mainline Protestants, Roman Catholics, and minority groups (but not Seventh-day Adventists) have hooked up as 'Christian Churches Together in the USA'.

In the 2004 elections the Democrats were hurt by the powerful machine of the Christian Right. Expect them to try to adjust to the new realities.

Suddenly the sweet land of liberty seems ripe for religious extremists to try to enforce their will. Which is exactly what Adventists have said would happen before Jesus comes again.

Christ warns: "What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37, NIV.)

* Dr Johnsson is the senior editor of *ADVENTIST REVIEW* where this feature appeared as an editorial on 20 January 2005.

Singles workshop. A singles writing workshop was held at Holloway church in November. Participants discussed, articulated and recorded their perceptions and experiences on being single. We are extending an invitation to other singles to make a contribution to a project that will result in a publication entitled 'Making it Real'. All you need to do is write about any area of singleness that you think is important.

You can use any writing format that you are comfortable with. Your contribution can be anything between 100 and 1,500 words.

Please email completed pieces to vbernard@newbold.ac.uk by Monday 21 March 2005.

If you want to discuss anything with Val Bernard please call 01344 407468.

VAL BERNARD

What would Jesus DO?

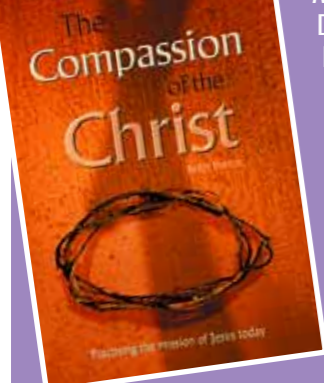


- Are you concerned about the state of affairs in our world today?
- Are you disturbed when you see images of starving children and homeless people?
- Do you ever wonder what can be done to alleviate the pain of those suffering with AIDS?
- Is there anything YOU can do to help better the lot of impoverished people?
- Are you ready to do your part for the Kingdom of God?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions, you need *The Compassion of the Christ* by Dr Keith Augustus Burton.* This book uncovers the real essence of Christianity as a religion of love and genuine concern for others, and invites the reader to 'practise the ministry of Christ'. Order your copy today – and don't forget to get additional copies for everyone you know!

£6.95. ABC credit card hotline: 01476 539900; or order through your PM secretary.

* Dr Burton, the son of Sidney Burton of Croydon and the brother of Ken Burton of the Adventist Chorale, is a member of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference and is based at Oakwood College.



MP attends tsunami fund-raising concert

On Sabbath 29 January VoiceDivine hosted a fund-raising concert to support the survivors of the tsunami disaster and we were able to raise just over £1,000. The event was sponsored by the Beckton Maranatha Adventist church. Monies were collected using two big pots, one of which the writer had to carry on her head at one point!

Local MP Stephen Timms

dropped in on the concert and commented that he enjoyed the music and appreciated our fund-raising efforts.

Among the other artistes were: Beckton Choir, Pure Harmony, Angaza SDA, Love Divine, 3Angels, Lord's Messenger, Bethel Quartet, Alicia and Manuel Kulongo, and Jocelyn Isabirye. Highlights of the day included 8-year-old King who

sang 'He will do it again' and 6-year-old Esther who sang 'Amazing Grace'.

During the promotion some of the VoiceDivine members stood outside the local ASDA supermarket and sang while handing out leaflets.

RACHEL NABUDEE

Night to remember

It was an occasion that was to mark the end of one era and the start of another for Maurice Cuthbert and his family, wife Esta and children Keturah and Jed. After weeks of expecting the obvious, Maurice and his family finally fellowshipped at Bodmin for the last time. This was marked by a low-key meal for the family at church to say goodbye, but the Prayer and Bible study group could not leave it at that!

Another meal was planned for an evening of fellowship and fun. The location was chosen, the evening decided upon and the tables booked. It was an evening not to be forgotten as the tables were filled with not only food but people as well. It was an evening that really marked a closing of a chapter in Maurice's life, an evening that was sad in many ways for those who would be left behind with their memories of the family, but also a hopeful anticipation for the family in their new venture in the ministry.

It was lovely to see those familiar faces supporting the evening and making it a success. It was beautiful to see the children as they chatted away oblivious of the adults, and to hear the laughter from all the tables as everyone made the most of a

60 Glorious Years

On 24 September, Jim and Joan Frost celebrated sixty years of happy marriage to the day, in a special celebratory service held at the Oulton Broad church. Their son Pastor Jim Frost, who is vice-president (Administration) in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in the USA, came over specially for the occasion and organised the biggest family gathering since before the 'children' left home. As the loving couple renewed their wedding vows, the church was filled with extended family and well-wishers, who fol-

lowed them on to a reception in a lounge overlooking the Broad itself. After the celebrations the couple were whisked off by their family to a manor house in Cornwall where they were treated to a night in the bridal suite.

Joan first caught Jim's eye in September 1942 at Upper Holloway Baptist Church, which the Adventists had rented for a Day of Fellowship. Jim was acting as an usher with his friend Andrew Farthing. After an arranged meeting the following day, their courtship developed, despite their being busy and separated by a number of miles, Joan having moved from the Granose factory to nursing near Braintree, and Jim working as a conscientious objector-nurseryman

growing tomatoes in Waltham Cross. They were eventually married one rainy Sunday by Pastor W. W. Armstrong at the Walthamstow Adventist church.

During their married life the couple have worked closely together in the Adventist ministry, and as lay evangelists in many places, Jim becoming well known for his programmes about archaeology and the Bible, and guided tours of the British Museum. 'We've often felt that in our work and in our evangelism the Lord has been leading us,' Jim says. 'Everything seemed to work out, as we operated businesses to pay for the evangelistic programmes.'

Today they live happily in very



active retirement, Joan supporting ADRA with her knitting, and Jim

preaching regularly around East Anglia.

C. PEAKE

Street Pastors take risks

At Balham the *Street Bible* led to 'Street Pastors'. They are predominantly lay people who give up their time and go out late at night on the streets of our major cities to offer help and intervene in potentially serious and dangerous situations. At times they are the only people who stand between the police and people involved in often highly charged situations. The Street Pastors are trusted and known in the community and this gives them credibility between law enforcement teams and the ordinary people out in the late hours of the night.

At times the task of Street Pastors, who go out in groups, is simply to offer words of comfort and advice to a confused and seemingly hopeless people found every night in our major metropolitan cities such as London and Birmingham. Where the opportunity arises people are directed to a church, should they wish to visit. More often, a prayer is what is needed to inspire hope. The concept comes from Kingston, Jamaica.

Because of the dangerous nature of the job, all Street Pastors are trained first, for a number of weeks,

before they become fully fledged Street Pastors. Balham held a recent graduation ceremony where eleven Street Pastors graduated. The impressive ceremony was attended by Leroy Logan, chair of the Metropolitan Black Police Association and also Superintendent of Operations in North Hackney. Leroy is London's highest ranking African-Caribbean police officer. The Chief Executive of Lambeth Council, and the Director of the inter-denomination Ascension Trust Pastor Les Isaac, who pioneered the Street Pastors project, were among the dignitaries at the ceremony. Also in attendance was SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane, who was 'not going to miss' the event, come what may.

Pastor James Philip, the senior pastor at Balham, has always given his support to the Street Pastor efforts, and his colleague at Balham, our lady Pastor Mazlin Holness, actually goes out as a Street Pastor and was one of the graduates on the day. She works so hard to help our community in every way possible regardless of the obvious risks.

PATRICK MCKERROW



Left to right: Ruth Lamey, Jessica Hatton, Joelle Yamada, Keturah Cuthbert, Jed Cuthbert, Ernie Lamey, Cynthia Johnson, Amelia Hatton, Cynthia Hatton, Evelyn Payne, David Hatton, Esta Cuthbert, Theunie Cuthbert, Brent Yamada, Marjorie Crago and Maurice Cuthbert



Kids' Café

On Sunday afternoon 31 October the St Albans church held a Kids' Café in its LIFEdevelopment centre. Approximately twenty children attended the event, ranging in age from 9 to 13, and the group was supervised and catered for by a team of ten adults and teenagers. Activities included a wide range of games as well as crafts, which were provided by Mrs Carolyn Schulz. Following the recreation the children enjoyed a party meal in the carefully decorated café environment of the centre.

The Kids' Café was more than just a spoiler for Hallowe'en, according to Mrs Moira Surrige who helped to organise the event. 'We wanted to provide an environment where our kids could feel happy

super evening. Of course, it flew by all too quickly and it was time to part company and head for home, but not before gifts, hugs and kisses were exchanged and photos taken just to remind us all of the truly wonderful evening.

DAVID HATTON



inviting their friends and where they could enjoy themselves without necessarily doing the things that everyone else seems to be doing at this time of year. These events are also among the most evangelistic things that our church does – more than a quarter of those who came were not from Adventist families.'

For several years now the St Albans church has been committed to a LIFEdevelopment approach to evangelism and deliberately tries to structure its services and programmes to be seeker friendly. In an attempt to get connected with the local community thousands of LIFE.info magazines have been distributed in the community and, in the last few weeks, under the leadership of Mr Nigel Savage, hundreds of homes have been visited. The church is also directly involved with a number of local charities.

Pastor Jonathan Barrett, the minister for St Albans, attended the Kids' Café on Sunday and is fully involved in the outreach activities of the church. 'It is exciting to see this concept of socialising with people

without a church background begin to become a reality,' he said. 'I am committed to this ministry, and look forward to its development over the next few years.'

Other LIFEdevelopment events have been run recently in St Albans, including Men's and Women's evenings, and more are being planned in the near future.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Speech Night: Stanborough School

On Thursday 21 October Stanborough Secondary School celebrated the academic and sporting achievements of its pupils during the Speech Night festivity.

Headteacher Mr S. Rivers gave the welcome in an auditorium packed with parents, teachers, pupils and former pupils. For the fifth year running, Stanborough School pupils outperformed pupils nationally and achieved higher marks than local schools of mixed ability. Stanborough pupils achieved a GCSE A* to C pass rate of 87% – the highest of any mixed-ability school in Hertfordshire.

The guest speaker was Mr John Crissey, lecturer in International Marketing and Management Strategy at Newbold College and Associate of the Newbold Advancement Team. He graduated from the first ever business class of Newbold College.

An emotional presentation was made to Mrs K. Best, receptionist, who retired after over twenty-five

years of service, owing to illness. A tribute was also given to Mrs J. Hinks, registrar, who will be retiring this year.

Mrs Jacqui West, a parent and member of the PTA, was awarded the PTA Cup for her invaluable service to the association. The cup was presented by Mrs Lydia Dean, president of the PTA.

LORENA SIMIONESCU

Tottenham: fifteen baptised

There was great rejoicing at Tottenham West Green Road church on Sabbath 9 October, the final day of the evangelistic campaign, **www.it's time.come**, as fifteen souls were baptised. Their families and friends came to witness this special event and the church hall was full to capacity. However, no one missed out as the baptism was shown live on the screen in the sanctuary upstairs.

Our own pastor, Jeremiah Bonner, delivered the messages throughout the campaign. Everol Dixon, evangelist-singer, and various members of the London Adventist Chorale ably supported Pastor Bonner throughout. The campaign was well attended and there were many special guests, including Martin Ransom, Borough Commander for Haringey Fire Service, Councillor Gmmh Rahman Khan and Pastor Stephen Agilinko of the West Green Road Baptist Church. The Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Sheila Peacock, opened the Benefits Surgery, one of the workshops held during the two-week campaign. David Lammy, the Member of Parliament for Tottenham, confirmed his attendance but notified us a few days before he was expected that he

was unable to do so. He has, however, asked that he be invited to any future events.

Martin Ransom afterwards wrote, 'I found your service interesting and very moving. Your pastor is certainly a very powerful speaker. Thank you very much for inviting me – it was an absolute pleasure. The gift of the books was unexpected and much appreciated.'

As part of the preparation for the campaign, the church members went into the local community two Sabbath mornings in August, knocking on doors and giving out literature. Pastor Dalbert Elias joined us on the first Sabbath morning. Members of other churches, who heard about the plans to go into the community, also joined us. The Prayer Ministry, with the support of the Plaistow Prayer Tower, held three days of prayer and fasting as part of the spiritual preparation for the campaign.

Pastor Agilinko, the Baptist Church minister, has become a friend of Pastor Bonner and he has made enquiries regarding sending his child to John Loughborough School.

MAXINE DONOVAN



LIGHTS ACROSS LONDON



A Bold Initiative to Plant 20 New Adventist Churches in the Greater London Area.

Lights Across London

Launching 20 new churches in the Greater London area

Be a part of the miracle!

by Humphrey Walters

Strategic Development and Church Growth director, SEC

A dead man checks out of a guarded grave. A village child's lunch feeds over 5,000 hungry people. The visually impaired get 20/20 vision – without a trip to Specsavers or Boots! And much more besides. Miracles: they happened back in Bible days, but more are in store for God's work in these times. Like *Lights Across London* – the South England Conference's exciting church growth initiative to raise up twenty new churches in the Greater London area. It's all part of a wonderful evangelistic *MIRACLE* which we're expecting to happen, just around the corner! And, what's more, members of the British Adventist family can all be part of it.

Why London? Months ago the General Conference took a decision to sponsor intensive church planting work in certain strategic urban zones around the world. The Trans-European Division selected London as the urban centre within its territory where this initiative would happen. *Lights Across London* is the name given to this unprecedented church planting programme for England's famed capital city. **The official launch date of this programme, as well as for other such projects around the world, is 9 July of this year, during the General Conference Session.**

Unreached

Central to the launching of new churches is obviously the preliminary task of sharing the Gospel with unreached people. As such, *Lights Across London* will be impacting new communities with the Gospel. But more than this must be claimed for *Lights Across London*. Although we're living in the Information Age, many people have absolutely no information about where hope can be found. Hence, *Lights Across London* will establish communities of hope, faith and love that will be accessible to those whose lives are devoid of such advantages. But yet more than this must be claimed for *Lights Across London*. As a pebble dropped in a pond sends ripples far and wide, so

in coming years the effects of *Lights Across London* will positively impact areas far beyond metropolitan London. And if yet higher claims than these are to be made, Mrs White must have the final say: 'The *light* radiating from London should beam forth in clear, distinct rays to regions beyond.' (*Evangelism*, p. 415, emphasis added.)

Targetting the secular

In many ways *Lights Across London* will be utilising tools, principles, and approaches provided by the widely celebrated LIFEdevelopment initiative. By such means, many secular and postmodern people will be led to Christ. The two initiatives are not in conflict; rather, they complement each other.

Targetting non-Christians

Under the *Lights Across London* programme churches have been planned that will (in culturally sensitive ways) seek to evangelise a) Hindus, b) folk from an Islamic orientation, c) the white population – inasmuch as currently less than 2% of the membership of the Adventist Church in London is comprised of individuals from a similar background to the city's majority people group. These communities are only mentioned here as examples, given that additional churches are also envisaged. What should be noted, however, is that in the final analysis *Lights Across London* will be planting churches that will prove impactful among ordinary, rank-and-file Londoners.

Three special Sabbaths

So, the vision is to raise up twenty new churches in order to reach the millions of lost people in London. A bold and exciting vision such as this comes at a sizeable cost – multiple thousands of pounds is required. As part of the funding



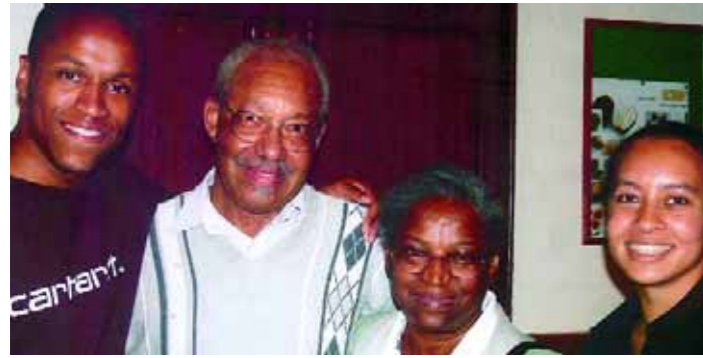
arrangements for global church planting, the General Conference designated three Sabbaths on which a special world-wide offering is to be collected. One of the dates has already passed; the other two are 9 APRIL and 9 JULY of this year. **ALL churches have been encouraged both to promote and give generously to this major evangelistic project.**

In relation to the two forthcoming offering appeals, Dr Bertil Wiklander, Pastor Cecil Perry, and Pastor Don McFarlane join me in kindly requesting as big-hearted and open-handed a response as possible from the BUC family. Additionally, your prayers are also requested for the success of this bold mission venture. Thank you for what has already been contributed. As mentioned in the opening paragraph, through your financial support and prayers, all can be a part of the evangelistic miracle that *Lights Across London* is destined to become.

The language of 'miracles' wasn't intended to be the preserve of so-called faith healers or persons of dubious repute. If anything, it's a language that's more appropriate for Adventists on the cutting edge of evangelism! Reread the book of Acts; the church presented there was one extended miracle from start to finish.

Despite the passing of many centuries, God is far from being finished with the miracle business – as *Lights Across London* is about to prove.





Connecting with our Community

For four weeks the High Wycombe Sands church hosted the second in their inspiring and innovative series, Friends' Haven – Connecting with our Community.

The aim of the meetings was to continue in the process of building long and lasting friendships with our unchurched friends and sharing with them in an open and real way a loving Jesus who is with us through all circumstances of our lives. We were delighted to see the church hall filled each night as our guests arrived with their personal invitation cards.

As part of our seeker-sensitive worship style, a new sofa and chair were purchased so that the evening's presenter, Patsy Thomas, and supporting host could have one-to-one dialogues with the audience. One guest from the community was Inspector Anne-Marie Cox from the Thames Valley Police, who came to talk to us of her role in the commu-

nity as part of the evening's topic on Justice. This informal environment also helped the audience to participate in the friendship-building sessions, points of view time, quiz nights, musical items and singing time with the church musicians.

The messages came to our audience via the satellite television programme, 'Evidence', presented by Dr Dwight Nelson. Our friends soon warmed to Dr Nelson's familiar style and energy and were impressed and appreciated the research that had collectively been put together in producing such a holistic approach in all the subjects covered throughout the entire series.

We were excited as we watched our young teenagers offering their talents of songs and mime to enhance our worship, and as the Holy Spirit made his impact on their lives personally. At the end of one evening 10-year-old Joshua, 11-

The Nightingales sang in West Midlands

It was a lovely warm spring Sabbath morning when Adventist Filipinos from all over the West Midlands converged at Wednesfield church for Filipino Day.

Adults and children dressed in their national costume were all ready to embark on a full day's programme. The drama group presented

'The Four Soils', a modern-day story about the 'Parable of the Sower'. Filipino members from Wednesfield, who had planned the day, were excited about the turn-out and enthusiasm of everyone.

The Nightingales sang at Wednesfield church for the first time, and rendered a beautiful



Four baptised at Lewisham

Heaven rejoiced with Lewisham church on 17 July as four souls stood firm for Christ in baptism on Sabbath afternoon. Family, friends and church members gathered to celebrate and sing songs of praise as these candidates made a public declaration of their faith and tied their lives to God.

Pastor Ellis Guthrie reassured the candidates that even when situations are desperate Christ will not abandon us. Candidates were continually reassured of God's

protection and ownership, and his promised provision for his people. Encouragement was given to all present, to think on God and dig deep into his Word.

Finally, all were inspired to look forward to a future where God's family will dwell together in peace; totally reunited in heaven.

The baptismal candidates were Audrea Uter, Josephine Bibby, Julia Hunter-Young and Lourina Edwards. May God's family continue to increase!

NICOLA BEST

year-old Javid and 9-year-old Selina approached the elders of the church to ask if they could be baptised.

Another evidence of the Holy Spirit's work was when Lem, who had attended Friends' Haven – Jesus our Friend, during September 2003, returned for this series and on the closing night brought his wife Silvia, son Gavin and daughter-in-law Rowan (pictured above). That evening we not only enjoyed a spiritual blessing together but celebrated Lem's birthday and Lem and Silvia's 39th wedding anniversary in the company of our growing church family.

PATSY THOMAS, Ldi co-ordinator

Leon's award

The Stoke Newington church members would like to congratulate Leon Johnson, picture here, on obtaining a mayoral award certificate in recognition of his high academic achievement. Every school in the London borough where Leon lives was asked to nominate two

pupils from their schools who did outstandingly well in the last school year, to receive awards in various categories from the mayor.

Ten-year-old Leon has been attending our church since he was four, and was baptised last summer. He was presented with his award at a special award ceremony in front of a very large audience of headteachers, school governors, parents and senior managers from his local authority.

F. R. SUTHERLAND



meditational, 'Who knows?'

The speaker, Norma Flores, is currently a Nursing Teacher. Her husband, a pastor, and son Marty, and other families offered their support.

Pastor Richard Jackson welcomed everyone back to the afternoon programme. The Nightingales' beautiful, harmonious voices delivered such favourites as Amazing Grace and People Need the Lord. The ten female Filipino members of The Nightingales, from the newly-formed Bourneville church in Birmingham, started singing in January, and are now well known

in the West Midlands.

The day concluded with a video clip about the inauguration of the Three Angels' Broadcasting Network (3ABN) in the Philippines. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, president of the Philippines, greeted the congregation with 'Happy Sabbath evening to all of you.' She continued, 'Through your programmes on health, education, community services, science/technology, family counselling and Christian ministry, you offer Filipinos what we need most, a healthy mind in a healthy body anchored on faith in God.'

GRACE MCCOOL



Basildon outreach

Basildon holds two outreach programmes each year in an effort to reach the community. Last time choirs from Croydon and Chiswick sang for the crowd of shoppers

who gathered to listen to the beautiful music. Each member of the crowd received a piece of literature.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

West Country news

On 9 October Area 1 had a day of fellowship at Oldway Mansion, Paignton. It was one of the best attended days of fellowship, and we were happy to see many of our Cornish members. Our speaker was Pastor Bob Rodd and he exceeded our expectations. For the first time the Area 1 members heard our new group called 'Musical' give us a few special items with their Bell Plates. The group was started in Torquay church. The youngest member is probably not much older than 10



and the oldest member of the group is 90.

In Exeter the pastoral couple

donned their chefs' hats and started cooking a South African dinner for the members. They were served a

Church packed but only two Adventists

The Ipswich church was full to bursting point for a superb musical outreach programme. About 150 contacts, friends and members filled the building to overflowing to hear a Gospel concert in which the musicians responded to the programme title 'Why We Sing'. With members giving seating priority to our guests, the sanctuary was soon completely

filled with only two of the seats occupied by Adventists. The foyer was packed with extra chairs and it was standing room only upstairs as church members tried to find space to enjoy the concert.

The occasion was the Gospel concert by the Advent Singers and friends on Saturday night 16 October.



The Advent Singers in concert

The Advent Singers were supported in the concert by 'Sisters in Christ', a trio made up of Natalie, Gwen and Tricia; and also soloist Nicky Saunders. A combination of traditional and contemporary music and personal witness really moved the listeners. The response was so positive and the excitement so genuine that at the close it took three encores before the musicians were allowed to leave the platform.

The Advent Singers, made up of people from around the globe, all worship at the Adventist church in Ipswich. There has been a church choir for around twenty-five years with different leaders and members over the time, which has enhanced the worship experience in the services, but this was the first concert. Over the years they have received numerous invitations to sing in community civic celebrations, public

starter of 'mieliepap and gravy'. The main course was typical South African food, as well as could be cooked with English ingredients! They had to skip the pumpkin as there were no 'boerpampoene' available north of the equator.

PASTOR BERTIE DE NYSSCHEN

Making a difference in Bonnie Dundee

For nearly a year singing groups from the Dundee church, led by Pastor Marcel Ghoialda, have been visiting nursing homes in the Dundee area. Each week a group accompanied on guitar and keyboard have brought a message in song and prayer to elderly and disabled residents. In the run-up to Christmas, the Dundee Pathfinder club collected items and keepsakes and turned them into attractive little gift parcels.

On the Sabbath before Christmas the Pathfinders and musicians visited Camperdown Care Home, the workplace of church member Thandie Chirimuuta.

The ebullient residents joined in the singing as the Pathfinders mingled with them to help and encourage. After the service a gift parcel was presented to every individual, including the staff and those confined to their rooms.

JOHN C. WALTON

concerts, shopping centres and even on a boat where, to raise money for charity, they sang to people lining the quayside.

Meticulously planned, prepared and executed by Tricia Evelyn, our choir leader, Nicky Saunders, associate choir leader, soloist and accompanist Angela Gittens, choir members and Paul King, our technician, the whole programme went brilliantly and was a tribute to the huge amount of time and effort everyone put into it.

The artistes sang their hearts out, in praise and worship to their God who had answered all prayers to bring people into the church. The ADRA Caribbean Hurricane Appeal also benefited and, last but not least, the profile of the church was raised in the eyes of the community to the honour and glory of God.

PAUL KING

LIFELINE connected

Adventist Filipinos working and residing in Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and Middlesbrough in north-east England banded themselves together into an association called LIFELINE, an acronym for League of Inseparable Filipinos Earnest for Lifelong service in North-east England.

Numbering about seventy adults, children and youth, LIFELINE adopted this Mission Statement: The association of Adventist Filipinos in North-east England is committed to:

- Share the Adventist philosophy of service through music and other activities of witness;
- Serve as an avenue of individual and collective spiritual growth;
- Promote and develop spiritual gifts and talents; and
- Enhance both vertical and horizontal relationships.

Starting as a pick-up mixed choir requested to render a special item one Sabbath worship service, the group has grown into a regular

musical group with a male chorus, a mixed choir and an instrumental ensemble. They presented a cantata last Christmas at Newcastle, and have performed at the Filipino International Church in London, in Middlesbrough, South Shields and Witton Le Wear during a north-east England fellowship in September.

Special needs incidental to growth and development moved the association to organise formally and draw up by-laws, which were ratified on 28 August in a general meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Newcastle church leadership on 3 October. An interim set of officers was designated to serve till the first annual general meeting and election of officers in January 2005. On 13 November LIFELINE was consecrated for service through a dedicatory prayer offered by Pastor Sandy Pairman, north-east England senior pastor.

PASTOR RUDI A. NEPOMUCENO, Adviser, LIFELINE



LIFELINE members (about two-thirds) pose for posterity after singing in a worship service at the Newcastle church.

Baptism in Preston

On Sabbath 20 November friends and family gathered to witness the baptism of Vincia Rebecca Dyer, affectionately known as 'Betty'.



Betty, a mother of five, was born in Montserrat and has been living in Preston for the past seven years. On many occasions, Betty turned down the invitation to attend church meet-



Hannah and Rachel Patrick

Hannah's baptism

On Sabbath 4 December Hannah Patrick was baptised by Pastor Desmond Rafferty, assisted by Hannah's father, David.

Friends and family celebrated this joyful occasion in the beautiful sanctuary of the Barnsley Baptist church.

Hannah has been raised in an Adventist family and is very musical. Her favourite instrument is the saxophone, which she enjoys playing in special services. She also sings in the Barnsley church choir. Deciding that she wanted to be baptised at some point in the future, it was Pastor Ron V. Edwards who encouraged her to make her commitment to Christ. Bible studies within the family followed.

Hannah is planning to start university later this year.

During the uplifting and encouraging service, Pastor Rafferty counselled Hannah and all of us to be strong for Jesus.

HAZEL SCHOLLES

Wednesfield: Inreach/outreach

Between 11 and 25 September the Wolverhampton Wednesfield church held an inreach/outreach evangelistic campaign. There were timely seminars on practical topics and eye-opening messages on signs of the times. Special items showcased local musical talent, and members from sister churches Bilston and Pendeford participated.

The speaker was Pastor Allen of the Western Union in the Caribbean, whose presentations were entitled 'Victory in Jesus'.

Wednesfield is a relatively new church with a membership of 118, a few minutes' walk from Wednesfield town centre.

SANDRA FRANCIS

was feeling on her special day.

Pastor Felix Jack spoke to us on the topic of 'No condemnation'. He reminded us that the power of God can save us; we just need to respond to his love. When God cleanses and delivers us, there are no internal or external influences that can condemn us. God sets us free and we are acquitted at the highest level!

JENNY JEFFERS



Left to right: Pastors Paul Liburd, Kevin Johns, Felix Jack and Frederick Mapp welcome Betty to the congregation



Eileen Lenton

Champion of the homeless

fruition. An average of sixty people attend each Wednesday from 11am to 2pm for a nourishing two-course meal, a counselling session and to receive clothing. Sister Lenton and her band of volunteers made these people feel so special that when our pastor, Dr Richard de Lisser, broke the passing of Sister Lenton to them, they wept openly and remarked how lovely and caring a person she was. She even made sure all the users were made to feel special, insisting that they should be served and treated as if they went for a meal in a top-class London restaurant. In addition to providing good quality clothing, advice on health care and other practical services, support and information are given to improve their confidence, and build their self-esteem, therefore allowing for a better quality of life that will enable them to be in a position to contribute to the community in a positive way.

News of the unexpected death of Sister Eileen Lenton filled the Stoke Newington church with shock and sadness. Sister Lenton was one of those people you expect to see around for a long time, so even now we still find it hard to believe that she is not among us.

Sister Lenton has been the Community Services Department leader in our church for a number of years. She was well known through The Open Door Drop-in Centre that she organised, opened on 1 August 2001 by the then mayor of Hackney, Councillor Saleem Saddiqui.

Many who attended SEC camp meeting will remember her on video, talking about the setting up of the centre for the homeless people in Hackney. She had this passion and determination to do something for the homeless and the idea of opening a centre for them came to mind. After many months of planning and fund-raising, her dream came to

Eileen was known for her elegant turn-out to church on Sabbaths. Her son Marcus, in his tribute, remarked that she always dressed each Sabbath to meet her Lord as if she was going to a wedding - her flowing long dress and broad hat to match bag and shoes. She was also a shopoholic, and enjoyed travelling, always taking an empty bag or suitcase to fill with presents for friends, relatives and the attendees at the centre on their birthdays. It was on one of her travel trips in December - a cruise to the Caribbean with other church members - that she took ill and had to be left behind

in a Barbados hospital, where she died on 13 January.

Enclaved in the drop-in centre are an over-50s club (The Golden Years Club) which opens alternate Mondays, and a Drug and Alcohol Awareness advice session. Many users express how this advice session helped to wean them off drugs. They even commented on the good quality clothing they received that they could not have otherwise afforded and said that this was the best centre they had come across because of the special attention they received.

Eileen came from Jamaica in 1965 after an Adventist education, to pursue a career in nursing. After qualifying as a nurse she worked in various London hospitals. Later she made a career change by doing a degree course. After gaining a BA in Sociology she worked in the housing field. She was forced to give up full-time employment due to a heart condition. She did not let her heart condition get in the way. She just carried on enjoying life and doing the things she liked.

Eileen was the florist in the church and had dressed the church with many beautiful arrangements and many brides with lovely bouquets. She was also a keen gardener and was often seen pottering about in the church garden.

Her funeral service was held on Wednesday 26 January at our church. Members of the Community Services department, dressed in uniform, walked in front and alongside her casket from the

main entrance door of the church into the sanctuary which was filled to capacity with family members who had come from Jamaica, Canada and the USA, church members, close friends, users of the drop-in centre, and many people whom she came across while fund-raising to operate the centre, to pay their last respects to a caring and loving person. During the service, the users of the drop-in centre requested permission to light candles near the casket for her. Such was the love that these people had for her. Many tributes were paid by family members, friends and church members. Tributes were also read out from former church members and friends who live abroad and were unable to attend the service. SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane paid his tribute, remarking that she was a loving and caring person.

Interment was at the Manor Park cemetery in east London and a coach was laid on to transport the users of the drop-in centre to and from the cemetery and at the reception hall afterwards.

Eileen leaves children Marcus and Andrea, grandson Brandon, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, other relatives, church members, close friends and the drop-in centre users to mourn her loss. She will be sorely missed.

Although hearts were saddened by the untimely passing of our dear Sister Lenton, they are comforted by the many memories we hold of one who was full of vitality and an inspiration to us. She rests peacefully now, untroubled by the care and sickness of this world, awaiting the resurrection call of her Lord.

F. R. SUTHERLAND

Thanks: The family of the dearly loved Eileen Lenton wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who have very kindly extended their love and sympathy to them.

Crisis team training

by Jacqui Grant
Associate Communication director

A training workshop was organised by SEC's Communication department in conjunction with the BUC on 11 January at the Stanborough Centre. The purpose was to provide training in crisis management for the official spokespersons of the Adventist Church in South England.

Course co-ordinators were Chris Doggett and Matthew Talks from The Media Suite. Workshop sessions were led by David Addis and Sue Wood. David is a freelance broadcast journalist with many years' experience in TV and Media. Sue Wood of Newswise Press Agency is a freelance writer and media consultant advising businesses on how to communicate more effectively.

The aim of the training workshop was to practise some live interviews in an informal way, equipping delegates with the ability to deal effectively with the media. In times of crisis there is a definite need for the organisation to be pro-active. There are a number of issues that could form a

crisis or problem within the Church and as an organisation it is important that we learn how best to address these issues if and when they arise. The workshop sessions were designed to investigate situations of this nature where the Church may be called upon to give its views, to answer or to explain.

A good year for Enfield

Pastor Roy Chisholm baptised five people at Enfield church on 16 October. Three members of one family were baptised: mother Maxine Dacosta

and her two sons Simon, 15, and Alexis, 13. Watching was grandmother Patsy Powell who was baptised twelve months ago.

Another overjoyed member was Filomena Vandenum who watched as her husband Salvador was baptised. He had attended the Edmonton campaign conducted in June by Roger Duncan.

The final candidate, Joy Diedrick, had recommitted her life to the Lord.

Following the Edmonton campaign Selina Haynes and Eulalee Brown were also baptised. Hence a total of seven joined our fellowship in 2004.

MIRTELL ANDERSON

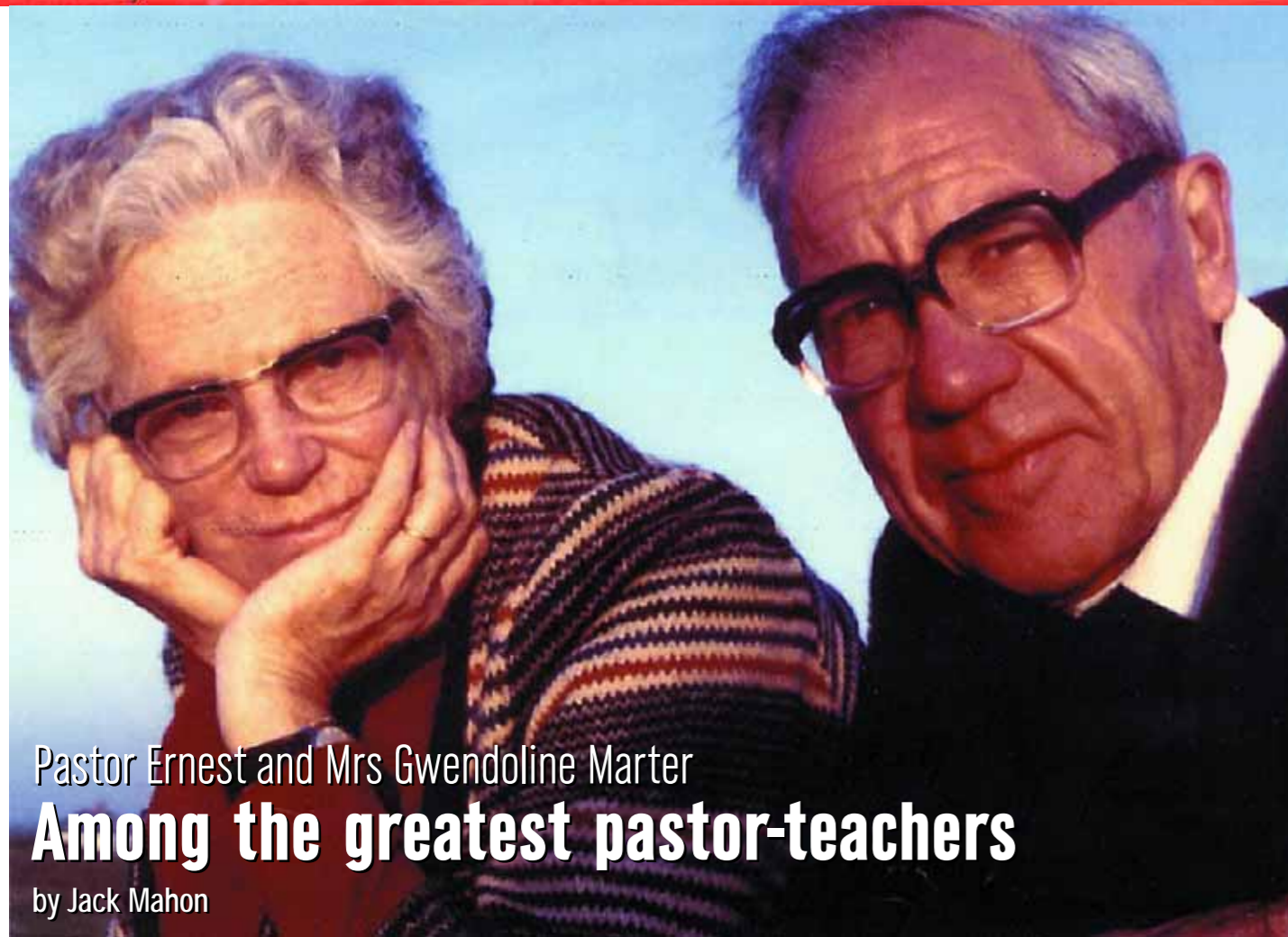
Communication Secretaries

Inevitably news and views coverage on the tsunami has absorbed a great deal of space normally used for covering local church events. There is an immense backlog of church news. Please be patient and, as much as possible, practise brevity in reporting. Thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

EDITOR

Congratulations to Wendy Dennis-Gordon on gaining her MA at the University College London (2002-2004), in Social and Historical Sciences MA Museum Anthropology, graduating August 2005.
JOHN DILLON

Acknowledgement
The acting principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with thanks a donation of £70 received in January from the Watford area.



Pastor Ernest and Mrs Gwendoline Marter Among the greatest pastor-teachers

by Jack Mahon

Since Gwen Marter passed to her rest in September 2004, a few weeks after her husband Ernest, only the two youngest members of the distinguished Newbold College staff of 1946/47 survive – Mrs Rowena Futcher and Pastor John Dunnett. These were collectively the greatly beloved teachers who not only re-established the college in its new location after the dislocation of World War II but exercised a definitive influence on the following generations of students: Edward White, Ernest Phillips, Philip Schuil, Edwin Foster, Gerald Minchin, Jean Buzenet. By no means the least of these was the young Bible teacher and College pastor, Ernest W. Marter.

When, with his wife and two young sons, he arrived on the new Newbold campus, Ernest Marter was thought by the hundred or so students to be South African, having come from Helderberg College. But he was undoubtedly a Londoner. His grandfather was a London postman, and his father, a skilled technician, was employed at the then recently-established Stanborough Press. When Ernest was born in 1910 a young girl of 9, Florence Norris, remembered wheeling him around the streets in a perambulator. Young Ernest's first school was a makeshift First World War army hut behind the denominational college on the

recently-acquired Stanborough Park.

When the Stanborough Park church bade farewell to the Marter family in 1922 and transfer documents were sent to South Africa's Cape Sanitarium church – father Marter was called to be its maintenance engineer – no one could have imagined that within two and a half decades that small 12-year-old would be back with qualifications and experience on distant continents, as Bible teacher and evangelist at the then re-sited College where his education had begun, to become instructor, pastor and outstanding exemplar to several generations of students at Newbold College – at that time almost exclusively a theological seminary.

When in 1930 Ernest had completed his Bible course at Helderberg College he acquired a great deal more than an education – an angel, no less, and an energetic one at that! This was Angela, better known as Gwen (Gwendoline Angela Tarr) a teacher at the local Church school, the daughter of missionaries serving at Inyazura Mission in what is now Zimbabwe. The fact that the couple, when they married in 1935, spent their honeymoon in a castle, gave no clue to their financial standing, their marriage of almost seventy years was characterised (but not constrained) by great frugality and careful budgeting. In fact their honeymoon suite was a steerage cabin on the

SS *Grantully Castle*, bride and bridegroom *en route* to Walla Walla College where Ernest would be awarded a BTh in 1937. In those stringent days he could not afford to have his thesis professionally typewritten but, having taught himself to type using two fingers, he did the work himself! Needless to say both Marters always had a fellow-feeling for financially deprived students!

Ever desiring to hone his theological perceptions, Ernest would add – between the heavy responsibilities of concentrated teaching and pastoral ministries at Newbold (1947-52; 1964-67; 1970-1986) and Helderberg (1940-47; 1954-63) – two further degrees at SDA Theological Seminary, and an MTh at Andrews University. Much of his higher education was fuelled by his prowess as a colporteur. As a gospel salesman he had few inhibitions, although he always gave the impression of a quiet, unostentatious individual.

Believing that the highest in the land should have access to the Advent Message, he gained entrance to the Government Buildings in Pretoria and had enrolled a number of members of both houses in his order book before being informed by an irate finger-wagging official several days later that his activities were not permitted. Fortunately, the delivery of ordered goods was not similarly proscribed so his work was by no means in vain. Nor for that matter was his stint

as a colporteur in Salisbury in 1931 – then the capital of Southern Rhodesia (now Harare the Zimbabwean Centre) – where Ernest was employed part-time as a singing evangelist in support of (I believe) H. J. Edmed, a notable fellow Brit, preaching in the city centre. In fact, a good number of the charter members of the church in that city were Ernest's customers. No doubt they were thrilled by their bookman's prowess as a notable bass-baritone – a dedicated talent that enhanced his public ministry through many years.

Behind every great man is a good woman, and 'Mrs Marter', as Ernest invariably referred to his wife, was indeed a very special person and a gifted teacher. Even when a very mature lady teaching English as a second language, she was endearing in her willingness to set dignity aside and become gymnastically active to drive home a verbal definition! Although rarely demonstrably affectionate, her two boys recall a very caring home influence. Among her surgeon son Lyndon's boyhood memories was the presence of his mother sprinting along the road holding on to the saddle of his first two-wheel bicycle until he learned to balance. Both Lyndon and younger brother John parted from their home scene in their teens to follow their educational aspirations and noted their parent's apparent self-control at the parting of the ways. Not until Lyndon and Nancy finally prevailed upon their aged parents in 2002 to join them and occupy a small purpose-built annexe to their Washington home, did Gwen reveal that they were so emotionally distressed by their 'silent' home over many months that she had turned their dear sons' portraits to face the wall.

Lyndon became a noted surgeon, currently at the Washington Adventist Hospital, and John has served the Church in Africa, Asia and America as a Primary School principal. Back at the 'empty nest' Gwen channelled her maternal gifts into her teaching ministry and, through that useful invention the Singer sewing machine – long the instrument of much household 'make do and mend' on three continents – created a plethora of children's garments. The charity Oxfam at Bracknell (who did the counting) clocked up six thousand, five hundred and forty-one garments. I know a man who offered her a choice of two 'state of the art' electric sewing machines, but she gracefully declined and kept on pedalling into her nineties. When Oxfam opened a new Bracknell office it was to Gwen they handed the ceremonial scissors to sever the golden ribbon – who better qualified?

A house called Gratitude

In 1968/69 the Marters were back under African skies when he served as interim principal at Kuyera, the Ethiopian Training College. Although it was only a short break in a long career, they never forgot those lovable young people. After their retirement, when the word came that the

main building of the College, comprising offices, library and classrooms, had been destroyed by fire, Ernest raised several thousand pounds of doubly valuable 'hard currency' for the rebuild. Seeing Ernest, then well into his eighties, poised on top of one of three wooden sheds in Binfield village centre, brandishing a roll of tarred felt, one wondered what he was about – 'odd-job' money for Kuyera, of course!

In a strange but no doubt providential manner, that short Ethiopian experience yielded Gwen and Ernest a wonderful gift which would crown their united ministry in an unexpected way. Missionaries who serve the Church overseas have a small percentage of their salaries paid into a homeland account. While they were in Ethiopia the Marters received homebase allowance. With retirement looming a decade or so away, they needed to think about both their present and also their future dwelling. Back in Binfield, Ernest was approached by the village street-cleaner who said, 'Pastor Marter, I'm selling the building plot at the end of my garden, might you be interested?' Thus for a little more than the accumulated homebase allowance they acquired the plot and were granted building permission for a house on Foxley Lane only a couple of stones' throw from Newbold Campus. 'Gratitude' was the name they gave it – feeling that it was truly a gift from God. Ernest and Gwen had taken a trip to the Ideal Homes Exhibition at London's Olympia and returned with several 'self-build' house plans which they proceeded to turn into a single 'Marterplan', incorporating the preferred features of each.

Stage by stage as finance became available, the structure grew, with local tradesmen under contract laying the bricks, pouring concrete and plastering the walls. Ken Hayes offered his services as Clerk of Works. Thus for an exceedingly modest sum the work was completed. Indeed it is an unique structure, a kind of memorial to a remarkable couple. No other house in the village has a stairway created from African hardwood by a man who inherited his father's talents and was skilled like the Carpenter from Nazareth, their Lord and Master. After retirement Ernest's garage became solely a workshop, producing all kinds of bookshelves, and lamp-stands, creations of his bench and lathe for all manner of people and institutions. Local churches benefited – Bracknell Catholic church was in need of a trolley to distribute hymnals, which he created in polished mahogany. He loved to 'tune' geometric lengths of brass pipe to fashion into Aeolian harps, giving their soft tones to the passing breeze. He was almost compulsively creative. Younger friends tried to persuade him of the communications possibilities of electronic mail for all his worldwide contacts. Thus, when his younger son and spouse were spending furlough at 'Gratitude', John set up a 'state of the art' computer system in his dad's study. Ernest struggled with that computer, but finding it restricted his workshop time

severely, 'turned his back on progress' and returned to the familiar keys of his veteran portable typewriter for scholarly publications (several volumes of his biblical works are currently on the Stanborough Press catalogue).

No doubt being so physically active prolonged his days and preserved his ramrod straight silhouette. A daily sight in Binfield in recent years was Ernest and Gwen's progress over a three-quarter mile circuit along the parallel Benetfield and Terrace roads, he with his still youthful gait and she steadied (but not slowed) by what we called her 'chariot', a triple-wheeled walker which enhanced her progress and gave the impression of her moving on casters! One lady spectator of our acquaintance was wont aggressively to nudge her husband and hiss 'Look at that man . . . straight as a die and not a surplus ounce of flesh on his bones.' The whole village missed the couple when they left for Washington. Some still do!

But what message have this talented and long-serving duo for us who, while mourning their loss, celebrate their exemplary service. Let Dr Lyndon have the last word. He had answered the doorbell one Sabbath afternoon – the Marters occupied the top flat in Popeswood Lodge in those days. On the doorstep stood a man in his thirties dressed in a well-pressed but no-longer-young suit. 'Oh good,' he exclaimed, 'I was hoping you would be at home. The paper said come Sunday but I have to work then. It's about the bike,' he added. At this point Lyndon's dad took over. It appeared that Ernest no longer needed the bike he used to pedal over to Moor Close for classes and had resprayed and refurbished it to look like new before advertising it in the local paper with the final phrase, 'Can be seen Sunday onwards'. What happened next was known only to Ernest Marter. The visitor was obviously disabled, for a black patch covered his left eye and by the look of him a square meal would do him no harm. He had come by bus from Reading and a short time later was seen by Lyndon pedalling away down the road. 'Has Dad sold his bike on the Sabbath?' The lad was puzzled, but had many other things to occupy his mind. The question still hung in the air – for years! When Ernest, by then retired, was visiting his son in America, some theological questions were being discussed, among them Sabbath keeping. It was a good opportunity to get the question answered. Ernest thought for a while then shrugged his shoulders and said, 'I don't think God finds theology very interesting. I suspect he is far more interested in how we treat our fellow-men.' Ernest Marter, being dead, yet speaketh!

In compiling this brief account I am indebted for information to the following, Nancy and Lyndon Marter; Fred Thomas Jr; Roy Scarr; Charles D. Watson, Russell Staples, and Ken Hayes.

Croydon concert raises £5,000 for tsunami

by Claris Lombart

On Saturday 15 January the Croydon church was packed as people flocked to attend a concert given in order to raise money for the tsunami disaster in South East Asia.

ADRA-UK representative Mr David Balderstone gave a stirring presentation about reaching out to those in need. His words were accompanied by a selection of video

clips of the work being done by ADRA globally. These video clips were projected on a state of the art big screen in the church.

Various musical artistes participated in the concert – Ken Burton, the Croydon Adventist Choir, and many others whose talents were impressive and much appreciated.

A total of £4,500 was raised at

the event, with some £500 still to come, bringing the total to £5,000. The concert organiser, Clive Coutet, a member of the Croydon church, was personally thanked by Mr Balderstone for organising this event and for the major contributions that will help to alleviate the plight of the victims of the South East Asia tsunami disaster.

programme at BBC Radio Berkshire. He talked about his plans to interrupt his postgraduate studies at Newbold to return to Sri Lanka for four months with his pregnant wife, Luda, and their two-year-old son Peter. BBC Radio Berkshire has plans to keep in touch with him and interview him regularly down the line from Colombo.

'We do not have many Conrads

Raafat meets Gordon Brown

On Wednesday 26 January ADRA-UK director Raafat Kamal was one of 120 guests to attend a joint DFID and United Nations Development Programme seminar at Lancaster House in London. The seminar, entitled 'Words into Action in 2005', was introduced by the Secretary of State for International Development Mr Hilary Benn, and the keynote speakers were: the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Gordon Brown; the Rwandan Minister of Finance His Excellency Dr Donald Kaberuka; and the Swedish Minister of Finance H E Par Nuder.

The seminar aimed to discuss issues of development finance, debt, and trade, and to focus media and public attention on the actions needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set out by the international community. Among the participants were members of the Make Poverty History coalition, www.makepovertyhistory.org, of which ADRA-UK is a founder member, NGOs, trade unions and faith groups, foreign dignitaries, academia and London-based international media.

During the course of the seminar Raafat Kamal had the opportunity to speak with Gordon Brown, who had recently returned from a four-day fact-finding visit to marginalised

communities in Kenya and Tanzania. He also spoke with Hilary Benn and other key people who were present. 'The meeting was very good,' said Raafat. 'We made some useful contacts and it was very good to hear about the efforts that are being made to tackle the issue of world poverty and fair trade. The UK has a long-term goal of allocating 0.7% of its Gross Domestic Product for overseas development, and in the short term we heard that the UK and Swedish finance ministers are allocating large amounts of money for health and education projects, particularly vaccination programmes for children.'

'Mr Brown has a very good grasp of the global issues involved,' Raafat continued. 'On his visit to Africa he got first-hand experience of some of these issues. Among others, he met Nelson Mandela, whose son died of AIDS, and it seems that he is very keen that the UK uses its money and influence to make a real difference in the most disadvantaged parts of the world.'

Last year ADRA-UK received UK government funding of more than 1.8 million pounds. Already this year it has submitted proposals to the Department for International Development totalling 1.6 million pounds.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Newbold's newly returned tsunami aid worker

by Helen Pearson and Tim Puko

'Witnessing the aftermath of natural disaster is a grim reminder of just how little power human beings have,' Newbold College student Conrad Vine told about 150 staff, students and friends in the Newbold Church Centre at the first vespers

service of the new semester on Friday evening 28 January.

Conrad, a 32-year-old postgraduate Newbold theology student, has nine years of experience of working for ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) in nine different



countries on three continents. The day after the tsunami struck he was asked by ADRA to join the agency's tsunami-relief effort in Sri Lanka. During January, rather than take his vacation like other students, Vine worked sixteen hours a day in Colombo, co-ordinating and fundraising for various aid programmes. He described for his audiences the scenes of total devastation that he had witnessed. Among destroyed villages and beaches, debris, corpses and organic waste had contaminated the water supply. 'ADRA led the effort to acquire and use the machines that purified the water for drinking,' Vine said. He also helped instruct soldiers on decontaminating corpses so that they could be properly relocated without posing a health threat.

'As I witnessed the effects of the tidal wave, I realised the futility of our human pretensions, our arrogance, our pride,' Vine said. 'When you see a disaster like this, you realize how fragile life is and how strong is the common humanity which transcends the accidents of birth that seem to separate us by culture, religion or ethnicity.' Conrad advised his fellow students to remember that as they make plans for professional success and fulfilling relationships, it would be wise to 'make room for God'.

On Sunday morning Vine was a guest on Clare Catford's religious

in our operation who are multi-skilled and can work and provide leadership under a great deal of pressure,' said ADRA-UK director, Raafat Kamal. 'These kinds of specialised and talented people are indispensable to such important efforts.'

ABC BOOK SALES

February		
27	West Midlands	10am-2pm
March		
6	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
20	Peckham	10am-2pm
April		
3	John Loughborough	10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb 25	5.34	5.46	5.36	5.39	5.52
Mar 4	5.46	5.59	5.49	5.54	6.06
11	5.58	6.11	6.02	6.08	6.20
18	6.10	6.23	6.14	6.23	6.33

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