

## 'Defining moment for choral music in this country'

by Trevor Johnson, Assistant Manager Projects & Promotions

The London Adventist Chorale has entered the portals of an institution renowned for nurturing great leaders with their music – St John's College at the University of Cambridge. In April LAC completed recording a new joint album, 'Let the Sound of Freedom', with St John's College Choir Cambridge, which will be a defining moment in the world of choral music in this country – perhaps even worldwide – when it is released.

In February 2007 the choir was involved in a joint musical presentation with St John's College Choir for a BBC Radio 4 broadcast at the university in its chapel service, as part of the bicentenary celebration for the abolition of the slave trade.

The musical union between LAC and the singers of St John's College Choir resonated so much so that discussions took place regarding

the possibility of a joint recording project. David Hill, former director of the Choir and now the musical director for the BBC Singers, was awed by the composition. He and the dean at Cambridge were the prime movers behind the venture. A demonstration recording was engineered and mixed by the celebrated composer, adjudicator and director of the Cambridge Singers, John Rutter, who equally hailed this as a unique union of cultures.

Both choirs had the opportunity not only to sing together but to share experiences and interact over the three days it took to record this mammoth composition, written by our inspirational conductor Ken Burton. It is our belief that it is not only the music that impacts, but our lifestyle speaks to those with whom we interact both on and off the stage. Funnily enough, while at Cambridge the Chorale

bumped into Adventist author Clifford Goldstein, who happened to be visiting the university.

This recording coincides with numerous key anniversaries this year. Not only is it the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, it is also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amnesty International, and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, and, of course, it is the 201<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. Interest in the recording has been expressed by EMI and St John's Choir's own label ARGO, with a possible US tour and media opportunities. We hope to release this project this summer.

Truly it can be said that LAC is forging new links, traversing boundaries that hitherto could not be crossed using conventional means. This can be hailed as a new beginning for Adventists reaching out into new territories.

Read Ken Burton on the new composition on p. 12





with Jonathan Barrett

## The religion of the force

Any idea what the fourth most popular religion in the UK is, according to the 2001 census? It is Jedi. If you aren't sure what that is, then just think back to Star Wars. Apparently, over 390,000 people in this country stated this was their religion.

Given this encouragement, two brothers of the force, Master Morda HeHol and Jonba HeHol (Daniel and Barney Jones) have founded the Anglesey Order of Jedi.

Jonba said: 'The teachings are

based on essays written by some fellow Jedi, as well as on the teachings of Master Yoda; it can be very beneficial for all members, in that it improves their minds, bodies and spirits. Jedi do not worship any particular deity – we use the energy around us to achieve spiritual peace and achieve our goals.' It's also something that is open to all. . . . Jonba added: 'This is just about how we choose to live . . . religion of the force does not teach "thou shall not".'

I have been struggling to understand the appeal of this particular 'religion'. However, it begins to make sense when you note those last few words: 'Religion of the force does not teach "thou shall not".'

It is strange what attracts people, in terms of religion, isn't it? We have to face the fact that to long-term residents of this country, at this present time, Christianity in general and Adventism in particular do not appeal. Perhaps if we were to take God out of our faith, as well as teachings about morality and the right way to live and behave, and to throw in a few ideas about energy, then we would be on to a winner!

We could do that, and we would, no doubt, attract more followers.

**'Missionary work – introducing our publications into families, conversing and praying with and for them – is a good work.'**  
TCE p80

Hi. I am looking at you and wondering if you are up for a challenge. A bit like Gideon. Just a few of us powered by the Holy Spirit and taking on a population of 62 million people. Yes! That's the challenge and we are recruiting NOW! Do you want to see what God can do? Join us. Interested?

Contact Pastor Curtis Murphy, Publishing director, British Union Conference, Watford, Herts. WD25 9JZ

**LITERATURE Evangelism**  
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However, Jesus stated that the way he advocated would only ever appeal to a minority: 'But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.' Matthew 7:14.

Our task is not to present what people want to hear, regardless of

whether it is true or not. Our goal is to present God, his love and the hope he offers, as well as the commitment he calls for. We are to do this as relevantly as we can. Will it appeal to many? To be honest, no, but at least those who respond will be led to life!



## Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc, Health Ministries director, BUC

### Brain Health Series

Part 7b

#### NUTRITION AND THE BRAIN

Let's commence with some general information about food types and their specific value to the brain.

The essentials for sustaining good brain function and peak performance are to ensure that you have an adequate intake of water, and the correct proportion of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals. A good example of this can be acquired using the vegetarian food pyramid advocated by the General Conference health department.\*

#### Proteins

The amino acids from the breakdown of protein in the body are essential for building neurotransmitters – the brain's 'messengers' (responsible for commu-

nicating signals to the brain).

Vegetarians and vegans in particular need to consume the right combinations of foods to ensure they are getting the essential amino acids. Complete protein combinations, for example, are:

- Legumes (beans, chickpeas) or fresh vegetables combined with

grains, pasta or brown rice. Dishes like maize and beans, tortillas and chickpeas, and dhal and chapattis are good combinations.

- Lentils or beans with mixed nuts.
- Sesame seeds or brazil nuts with fresh vegetables.

#### Carbohydrates

When carbohydrate foods are digested, glucose is released into the bloodstream. This is vital to fuel the brain and provide energy. Carbohydrates fall into two categories: Slow-releasing or complex carbohydrates and fast-releasing or refined carbohydrates.

#### Slow-releasing carbohydrates:

- Brown rice, wholegrain pasta, dark rye bread, fresh fruits and vegetables.

These foods are high in fibre, which helps to slow down the release of blood sugar.

#### Fast-releasing carbohydrates:

- Sweets, honey, sugary/processed cereals and white bread.

These refined foods break down into glucose quickly and flood the body with too much sugar. This causes the brain to receive an energy surge, followed by a dramatic drop in glucose, which results in decreased energy, shorter attention span and lack of concentration.

Try the following tips to maintain an even supply of glucose to the brain:

- Always have breakfast – include oats, wholegrain cereal and bread instead of refined and sugary cereals.
- Avoid sugars and sweets.
- Avoid white flour, white rice.
- Avoid caffeine in coffee, tea and cola drinks.
- Omit alcohol.
- Eat slow-releasing carbohydrates and small amounts of protein if you combine them at mealtimes.
- Reduce stress.
- Exercise regularly.

\* You can order a copy of the vegetarian food pyramid by calling 301-680-6717. Alternatively, for vegans, the food pyramid can be found at [www.veganfoodpyramid.com](http://www.veganfoodpyramid.com).

Good health!



# Letters from Heaven

David Marshall

In our masochistic eagerness to claim the 'Laodicea' label we tend to overlook a lot of the good stuff about the Messages to the Seven Churches.

First up has to be the identity of the Sender: the Risen Christ. Hence seven 'letters from Heaven'.

Then there is the fact that they were written to seven specific cities in Asia Minor and, by the local knowledge they contain, are clearly addressed to the needs of seven specific congregations.

Finally, in our desire to delve into new layers of meaning, we have assigned the seven messages to seven consecutive periods of Christian history. But that's only part of their relevance.

Though the seven letters from Heaven went to seven specific city churches towards the end of the first century, they are also believed to have significance for the whole Christian Church in every era during the last two millennia. That is their greatest prophetic significance. At any given time *all seven messages* have been applicable somewhere. I have seen the sites of the seven first-century cities. But, more to the point, in forty years of preaching, I have preached at all seven churches – *right here in the British Isles!*

Yes. I've been to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea – most of them many times over – and found them to be in these islands of grey skies and gales.

In all seven letters – not just the last one or two – the Risen Lord is speaking to us all, and doing so now.

'We were all baptised by one Spirit into one body,'<sup>1</sup> the Church. The fellowship in which we either grow spiritually or stagnate or whatever we do is our local church.<sup>2</sup> There we either remain 'like infants tossed back and forth by the waves' or we learn to 'speak the truth in love' and 'grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ'.<sup>3</sup> Over time, local churches take on characters of their own. We may put the characteristics they develop down to diversity or geography, but, at root, we know there is more.

Whether there is a morphology of congregations along the lines of the Ephesus to Laodicea Seven, I'll leave others to debate.

The Risen Christ certainly saw a pattern of problems and sent seven letters to address them.

All letters start with 'To the angel of the church in . . . write.' Then, following the words, 'I know', Christ affirms what is good in that church. Following words like 'I hold this against you', Christ points up the problem areas in that church. Just before the end there is a warning. At the very end is a promise typically beginning with, 'To him who overcomes I will give . . .'<sup>4</sup>

What message would the Risen Christ give 'to the angel of the church' of, say, London or Leamington, Birmingham or Bristol or Bradford – or wherever?

What would he say to the church – wherever you live? What qualities would he affirm? What words would follow 'I hold this against you'? What would be the warning?

Would he affirm 'Your hard work and perseverance', as he did for Ephesus? Could he say to your church, as he did to Pergamum: 'I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name'? To Thyatira he said, 'I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance.' Could he say that of you and your congregation?

Despite its hard work, Ephesus had forsaken its 'first love'. Sardis was told, 'I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.' Sardis had superb organisation but it was dead on its feet, no longer fit for purpose. Laodicea thought it was rich, but was wretched; believed it had everything, but had nothing. Jesus was still outside knocking at the front door, trying to get in.

It is often suggested that the cure for the Laodicean condition – the gold, the white clothes, the eye salve<sup>5</sup> – amounts to the gospel of salvation by grace through faith. A good start would be to let Jesus in.<sup>6</sup>

The cure prescribed for Sardis's condition – the superbly organised church that was dead and dying<sup>7</sup> – was resurrection and the biggest wake-up call of all time. There was hope even for Sardis!<sup>8</sup>

But the cure prescribed most often for the conditions diagnosed in the Seven Churches can be said in one word: REPENTANCE.

Has your church become so materialistic

in its outlook that it is indistinguishable from the society around? Has your church become so intolerant of its youth that they are haemorrhaging by the week? Have you come to see the church structure as something to be scaled and controlled in the interests of some primitive power instinct? If your answers to these questions – and to hundreds of others for which I do not have room – are affirmative, then let the repentance of your church begin with your own.

I commend to you the reputation, message and mission of Philadelphia.<sup>9</sup> Despite every inducement to do differently, the members at Philadelphia had not denied the name of Christ. Because of their record of faithfulness, the Risen Christ had placed a door before them that no one could shut. Theirs was an unnerving environment of earthquakes and tremors that had them running in panic at no notice. To them Christ promised citizenship of 'the city of my God, the New Jerusalem'.

The message to Philadelphia? 'I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.'<sup>10</sup>

That was the nearest Philadelphia came to a warning. Esau had forfeited his place to Jacob, Reuben to Judah, Saul to David, and literal Israel to spiritual Israel. Philadelphia is told: Keep a tight grip on what you have. Hold on! Don't let anyone distract you and steal your crown.

There was once a small congregation where the Pastor was executed as a criminal; the chairman of the board swore he'd never been on it; the treasurer committed suicide; the rest of the board members ran away at the time of trial. The only members who showed signs of faithfulness was a handful of female members. They were last at the Cross and first at the Empty Tomb.

God used that Church to take his Gospel of Grace to the world in the power of his Spirit.

That being the case, there is hope for your church, no matter how tough the times are.

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 12:13. <sup>2</sup>Ephesians 4:11-14.
- <sup>3</sup>Ephesians 4:14, 15. <sup>4</sup>All seven letters are to be found in Revelation 2 and 3. <sup>5</sup>Revelation 3:18.
- <sup>6</sup>See Revelation 3:20. <sup>7</sup>Revelation 3:1, 2.
- <sup>8</sup>Revelation 3:1-6. <sup>9</sup>Revelation 3:7-13.
- <sup>10</sup>Revelation 3:11.

# Resurrecting the Sabbath School

by Dr Terry Messenger, Sabbath School director, SEC

When we contemplate inviting visitors to church, which service do we generally invite them to? I recall, a few years ago, inviting a non-Christian friend to church and telling him the time of the service – 11.30am. Generally, we invite people to the main service, family service or divine service. Why is this? Do we feel that that is the only part of church they could possibly relate to? Would we be too embarrassed to ask them to come to Sabbath School, because of the lack of people there, theological debates that sometimes turn into verbal battles or a lack of professionalism and preparation?

Listen to this quote from the pen of inspiration, 'The Sabbath School, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth.' CSW,

page 115. Are our Sabbath Schools fulfilling this role? If this is not the case, then how can we rightly conduct them so that the Sabbath School becomes a place where evangelism is high on the agenda and we witness lives being changed through the ministry of this department? I don't pretend to have all the answers, but maybe I can offer some suggestions which may be helpful.

The church, as well as being a place where we come to worship God on a corporate basis, is also the place where authentic relationships can develop and strong fellowship be established. However, this does not happen automatically. There needs to be a vehicle in place which would enable this to happen. I believe that a Sabbath School, rightly conducted, could be the

catalyst for this.

The Sabbath School class has great potential to fulfil these ambitions, but perhaps the way our classes are conducted in many of our churches at present stifles instead of stimulates this ideal. Permit me to offer some suggestions regarding the classes.

- The time for the classes or groups should be extended to one hour.
- There should be a time for sharing experiences during the past week.
- There should be a time of praying for each other's needs and concerns or giving thanks and praise for what God has done.
- The Bible discussion should flow out of these experiences and not just be an abstract theological teaching time.
- The Bible should take precedence over the lesson quarterly which serves as a guide.
- Prayer should be spontaneous and a list should be kept of persons prayed for and reports brought back of answered prayer.

The result, I believe, is that God will be seen to be real and working in the lives of people during the week. As people become excited about what God is doing, there will develop an air of anticipation, and people will want to come to Sabbath School. The spin-off could be that people will want to invite visitors to witness the power of God working. Visitors will feel loved, cared for and nurtured as people pray for them and attend to their needs.

Most of us as churchgoers wear a mask on the Sabbath, pretending all is well and that we've got it all together. The Sabbath School class should be the place where we can be real – a place where we can share our struggles and seek to encourage one another. The problem with wearing a mask is that people perceive you have it all together and so there is no need for encouragement! When people share their struggles, it is then that real ministry



can take place and the community may come to realise that God is actually present and working in that Adventist church up the road and may want a slice of that!

If the Sabbath School becomes an exciting place to be, the atmosphere will spill over into the next service and vibrant, authentic worship will take place. How Sabbath School is conducted sets the tone for the whole worship experience on the Sabbath. It can become a place where we have to share with someone how powerful and uplifting the experience is and nothing will be able to stop us telling a friend, neighbour or relative that they just have to be there!

Much more could be said about raising the level of professionalism, thorough preparation, changing old fashioned names, rethinking the function of the teacher, facilitating and leading a small group, and so on . . . but that will have to wait for another time.

I was once part of a small interdenominational group which met in someone's home. I will never forget the impression I was left with when one member of the group shared with us how her brother had gone into hospital that week for a major operation. Immediately the group leader asked everyone to stand and form a circle around this woman and pray for her brother. When we finished praying there were tears in the woman's eyes as she exclaimed, 'I have never felt so cared for or loved in this way before.' Next week she invited her friend and that friend became a regular member of the group. There is power in small group ministry, and God in his wisdom has set up the Sabbath School so that his power can be released. My prayer is that the Sabbath School will very soon realise its full potential and we will witness many more lives being changed.

# Forgiveness in sevens

by Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president

When Peter came to Jesus with that question which confronts all of us at one time or another, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?'\* Peter was sure that he was on solid ground, because seven was the perfect number. He only had to look back to the Sabbath when God rested on the seventh day. There was Noah's ark, when seven clean animals were taken into the ark. There was also the year of jubilee, a multiple of seven plus one, when all those who were enslaved or in debt were released or had their property returned to them, and so on. Peter was certain that he had found the right formula until Jesus came back to him with another multiple of seven found in Daniel 9:24. No, Peter, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'

Jesus then went on to share with his hearers one of the most powerful parables on forgiveness, demonstrating that it is incumbent on those who call on the name of Christ to forgive, because God has forgiven us a mountain of debt compared with the small amount owed to us by a brother or sister.

## Up close and personal

It is one thing to espouse the theory of forgiveness, but quite another to apply it practically when you're a victim. It's even harder when it's up close and personal. If you've ever lent money to some Christian who promised to pay it back 'soon' and soon never comes, you will know what I'm talking about.

While living in South Africa, I was driving home one day and listened to the following story in absolute disbelief and admiration. The gentleman in the studio was a doctor. He told how his younger brother had graduated from university and was about to take up studies to become a doctor when he was shot and killed by a mugger. The killer was caught and tried for his crime, and the doctor had an opportunity to talk

to his brother's murderer. When he learned of the man's plight, not only did he forgive him for killing his brother, but he approached the man's family and began to feed, clothe and educate them. When asked how he could do this, he attributed it to his Christian faith.

## Forgiving fraud

There is, understandably, a lot of anger in our community right now regarding the fraud case. I talked to one young man who angrily recounted how he had lost thousands of pounds. There are others who have lost tens of thousands and others, over 100,000. These are significant losses for 'poor' people to bear. Some will never recover from the loss. The loss is further compounded by, according to some, the fact that those who were instrumental in causing their loss are still at large.

Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Jewish Nazi hunter, tells how he was called to the bed of a dying SS officer in a concentration camp. The soldier confessed many atrocities against the Jews and, now riddled with guilt on his deathbed, pleaded with Wiesenthal for forgiveness. Wiesenthal failed to forgive that day, walking out without saying a word. He reasoned, how could he forgive on behalf of fellow Jews who had not delegated such a responsibility to him? I have heard some ask how you can forgive those who have not asked to be forgiven.

I can think of two greats who did exactly that – forgave those who did not ask for it. Jesus cried out, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' Luke 23:34. And Stephen, following in the footsteps of his Master, cried, 'Father lay not this sin to their charge.' Acts 7:60. I don't believe for one minute that these murderers necessarily received forgiveness on account of these prayers. What it does demonstrate, however, is the willingness on the part of the victims to forgive if the perpetrators were willing to seek it. We know that the centurion came to faith when he declared, 'Truly, this



man was the Son of God.' Jesus' prayer paved the way for his acceptance.

## It's not cheap!

Forgiveness does not come cheaply. Healing and reconciliation require engagement, contrition and restitution. Clearly, in this case, one part of the equation will be missing – restitution. Zacchaeus said (Luke 19:8-10): 'If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusations I will restore it fourfold. . . .' Jesus responded by saying, 'Today is salvation come to this house.' Zacchaeus recognised that an important outgrowth of his salvation experience was restitution.

That we are expected to forgive is a given. That we are expected to forgive the most heinous perpetrators of criminal activity is indisputable. While we forgive, the law must still punish offenders. The question, though, is *how* do we forgive?

A friend sent me an email some time ago entitled 'Monday Morning Uplift'. During my sojourn in South Africa, I looked forward to these weekly points of wisdom. Indeed, he still sends them. I recall one in particular that said, 'Not forgiving is like having someone you don't like living in your house rent free.'

The truth is, unforgiveness cripples us, binds us up and leaves us enslaved to bitterness. Corrie ten Boom writes, 'I knew forgiving not only as a commandment of God, but as a daily experience. Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality. Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who

nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that.' Only those who forgave got well.'

## Learning to love

Mark Finley in his 'Learning to Love' seminar shares some tips on how to forgive. In closing, I will share those six tips with you:

One: 'Receive God's forgiveness. The ability to forgive comes from a proper relationship with God.'

Two: 'Quit hurting the other person. If we are involved in any manner of vengeance, whether by action or attitude, we must stop now. This also means we apologise for what we have done.'

Three: 'Begin where we can begin. Forgive what we can forgive.'

Four: 'Pray for willingness to forgive the rest. God, the Creator of love and forgiveness, can change our attitude.'

Five: 'Forget the rest.' Don't be praying about it for years.

Six: 'Determine whether talking to the other person about the forgiving is necessary. You may feel that writing a letter is the best approach.'

We're not told what Peter's response was to the answer Jesus gave to his question. "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" "No Peter, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." I can imagine, though, that for once the normally outspoken and impetuous Peter was left speechless, because this was a hard saying.

\*Read the story in Matthew 18:21-35. 'From 'I forgive you, Brother! With all my heart!' (www.iwitness2jesus.com).

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# BUC to host largest Camporee ever

This summer, the BUC Youth Ministries department will be hosting the biggest Pathfinder Camporee ever to take place in the history of the British Isles! More than 1,600 people have pre-registered to attend, with many more joining the waiting list every week!

The Camporee will take place at Skreens Park Scout Campsite in Essex from 27 July to 3 August. Preparations are furiously underway to ensure everything is in place

when the campsite gates open to admit the flood of young people and their club leaders and staff, all intent on a week of full-on activity. There will be over forty different activities running every day, ranging from everything energetic, such as abseiling, bungee sliding and cycling, to more sedentary activities, including crafting, rope-making and sign language sessions. An 'Impact'-type event is being arranged in the near-by town of Chelmsford, providing the opportunity to witness to those

living locally, and there will also be a market day to raise funds for a local charity.

'I am excited about co-ordinating the largest Camporee ever to be held in the UK,' states Pastor Des Boldeau, BUC Youth Ministries director. The Youth Ministries department has recruited a team of 150 to run the daily programme and to ensure that the Pathfinders have an exciting, fun and memorable time. 'I have a good team of experienced and committed people working with me

to ensure that everything is in place for the event.'

Pastor A. J. Grant, from Central Coast Adventist School, Australia, will be the main speaker for the event. He is planning a series of worships around the Camporee's theme of 'SOS - Serve Our Saviour'.

If leaders have missed the registration deadline of 30 April, their club will be placed on the waiting list. Full details can be found on the Camporee website: [www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk](http://www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk).

Pastor Boldeau is requesting special prayer 'that the Spirit of the Lord will fall upon the campers, their club staff and the camp staff'.

SEC Youth team

## Wedding anniversary gift to Glasgow Pathfinders

A Kenyan elder and his wife decided to make the Glasgow Pathfinders Club beneficiaries of their fifth wedding anniversary celebrations on 2 March. It involved a re-enactment of a traditional Kenyan wedding. Pre-wedding bartering between the bride and bridegroom's parents began with a demand for thirty cows for the bride's hand in marriage.

Kenyan-born John Onyango and his Costa Rican wife, Natalia Herra Cruz, then repeated their wedding vows before a capacity congregation in the Glasgow church. Church elder, Britius Habwangabwanga, led the ceremony, and Gilbert and Francesca Vaudein made a musical contribution. Colourful national costumes worn by many of the guests added authenticity to the occasion, as did the occasional sounds of ululating.

What followed next at the reception was a master class for Western fundraisers. Good-natured demands for money ranged from securing the wedding couple's appearance to their cutting the cake and performing a passionate embrace. Literally pots of money were filled with donations from the assembled guests and nearly £650 was raised for local Pathfinders.

Glasgow Pathfinder director, Lawrence Pollard, said, 'We are grateful for this very generous gesture. It will help defray the costs of our attendance at the Pathfinder Camporee in England later this year.'

JOHN WILBY

## Chelmsford youth baptism

On Sabbath 15 March family, friends and congregation gathered at Roman Road church in Chelmsford to witness the baptism of five young people.

The candidates were Alinjawa Siwale, Boikanyo Molefi, Sharol Rose, her brother, Shaville, and Hassan Satchell. They had studied for almost a year with Joanna Lammy and Carol Rose, under the supervision of church elder Cliff Hilton.

The Chelmsford church Youth Choir sang as each young person came up from the water.

Boikanyo Molefi added her own song of praise to her Lord before leaving the pool.

Pastor Jerry Smith officiated. At the altar call, another five young people came forward, eager to undertake a period of study for baptism.

Church elder Chingalawa Chitambala reminded parents and church members that this was a beginning, and not an end, and that a solemn duty lay upon us all to nurture and guide these young souls in their walk with Christ.

Children's Ministries leader

Jacqui Stone demonstrated in a graphic way the ups and downs of the Christian life, reminding us that there will be times of disappointment and disillusionment, and that is when we need to pray and talk to Jesus.

TED SHIRLEY



# 2008

## Finland

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**Open to all Youth, Teens and Pathfinder Leaders**

Spaces are still available, book now! (with British Airways from Heathrow to Helsinki, Finland or Ryanair from Stanstead to Tampere).

Commitment Speaker: **Pastor Timothy Gillespie** is from Southeastern California Conference of SDAs in the Pacific Union, and is the Young Adult pastor at the Loma Linda Community Church.

Other speakers and presenters are, **Cindy Tutsch**, Ellen White Estate, USA  
**Pastor Bobby Bovell**, Danish Union  
**Pastor Mike Simpson**, North England Conference  
**Manuela Casti**, Newbold College, Valuegenesis  
**Eddie Hypolite**, SEC Youth Department  
**Nathan Stickland**, SEC Youth Department  
**Colin Stewart**, SEC Youth Department  
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**Pastor Paul Tompkins**, Trans European Division  
**Pastor Des Boldeau**, British Union Conference  
**Carolyn Schulz**, St Albans SDA Church, SEC  
**Magdalene Bannis-Royer**, London, SEC  
**Pastor Jerry Smith**, Chelmsford, Basildon, SEC  
**Trevor Johnson**, SEC Music

YLC is open to all youth of the South England Conference and is a premier training event for youth leaders and youth with a passion for service. This is an investment in the future of youth that will fit our leaders for service for the modern world.

Fill out an application form now and send a \$50 deposit to secure your place. If you prefer, you can email [cstewart@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:cstewart@secadventist.org.uk) or [arobinson@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:arobinson@secadventist.org.uk) and an application form can be emailed to you.

# Trafalgar Square to Kennington Park youth programme L.I.V.E.

by Colin Stewart (Youth director, SEC), Eddie Hypolite (Associate Youth director) and Nathan Stickland (Associate Youth director)

### Philosophy:

'Live' as an idea (philosophy) is about youth around the UK **Living Intentionally Versus** just Existing. **Live** will challenge, empower and motivate a generation of disadvantaged and advantaged youth to oppose all the things that are negative in youth culture, from the drug to the gun. **Live** will seek to turn the tide of violence among young people by challenging them to live intentionally and provide an alternative to aimless living. **Live** will challenge advantaged youth to get involved in helping their fellow youth and also help themselves in the process to reach their potential and strive for excellence rather than just mediocrity.

**Live** will respond to the needs of others, believing that in helping others we are helped, in understanding others we become understood, in empowering others we are empowered, and it will promote the idea that 'I am responsible for the choices that I make, and making right choices is my responsibility.' And so **Live** will seek to develop programmes to respond to those needs.

**Live** is a movement that seeks to impact every community in the UK, every town and every village, giving alternatives to every young person and starting with those in need of the greatest help. Those who join **Live** will become *Change Agents* and will remind all young people from every cultural and religious group that they can choose to live above the negatives and reach their potential, living life to the full, respecting all and never disrespecting.

**Live** promises to make a difference to the lives of youth in the local

communities and provide alternatives anywhere and everywhere for those young people to make their local community a better place.

At its roots **Live** will be a celebration of all that's good and healthy in youth, and seek to lead, care and serve fellow young people and respond to youth who are hooked, crooked, or booked by a life of crime, or who are just generally living unfulfilled lives.

Therefore we seek to roll out *Live Centres* up and down the country where young people can be directed to **Live** intentionally and develop **Life Skills, Self Development, Mentoring Skills, Addiction Counselling, Choosing Your Life Partner**, and we will seek to partner with volunteers and professionals in these centres. The AY movement and young people themselves must be at its core. It will also be a place where help of every kind is given to young people. As youth leaders we believe in the youth of the UK and want to make a positive impact to better many lives. So we challenge you to come on a journey with us as we **Live** and help others **Live** too.

By living intentionally, lives become fulfilled and empowered, young people are happy to serve and help each other, and the result is a harmonised and a bright, forward-thinking generation of youth who have a unique story to tell. So **Live**.

The first **Live** event takes place on 7 June in Trafalgar Square, London.

Listen, and look out for the launch of the SEC Youth Department website: [www.secyouth.co.uk](http://www.secyouth.co.uk).



OVER 18's

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# New church plant in Kidderminster

by Pastor Milan Gugleta

March 8 saw the successful plant of a new church in Kidderminster.

## A brief history 2005/6/7

The church began as a house group in 2005 at the home of Steve and Lisa Winnitt, members of Worcester church, meeting just once a month to share lunch and Bible study. The fellowship grew and it was decided to put on a series of concert-style worship experiences at the local leisure centre in 2006. 'Kidderminster Nights' was a great success, with a regular group of about fifty people attending, including members from the local Baptist and evangelical congregations.

We were also supported extremely well by members of the Moor Close team from Newbold who helped to spearhead the programme with their enthusiasm and many talents. We couldn't have done it without them.

## March 2008 launch of Kidderminster fellowship church

We soon became convinced of the need for a new church, and I can't begin to tell you how exciting and what a blessing it is for all those involved. We currently worship on the second and fourth Sabbath every month at Holy Innocents Community Hall, Foley Park, Kidderminster. From 18 October we will meet as a full-time church.

## An open invitation

Come and join us one Sabbath and meet the Lord in a peaceful atmosphere with elements of modern and traditional styles of worship blended together. Expect to be challenged by your experience. The service begins with Scripture, songs and

prayer and moves on to study over a light breakfast, fostering the relational side of fellowship so important to us all. Our central time of worship is followed by the sharing of a pot-luck lunch. Time: 10am-2pm.

## The future

We decided that we would like to put on another concert in Kidderminster in aid of BBC Children in Need as a one-off, but on a much larger scale than previously. The Town Hall is booked for 11 October. The Moor Close team is helping, but many others including local schoolchildren and a professional ladies' choir called the 'Kidderminster Valentines' are also assisting. There will also be a string section led by Chris Rogers.

We are using this concert as a platform to launch our new church formally in October, and the programmes available on the evening will give details about us and where we worship. We hope that many Adventists and friends will support us by coming along to this concert on 11 October and we would greatly appreciate any string players among our congregations getting in touch to help us form a larger orchestra.

You can contact me on [sr.winnitt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sr.winnitt@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 01562 862268.

Pray for this new church and for the whole team involved. Our church will be launched officially the week following our concert. Please pray for our concert on 11 October at Kidderminster Town Hall, 7-9.30pm. Join us if you can. Tickets are on sale priced £10 and £6 for concessions, available from Steve and Lisa Winnitt, the Town Hall box office and our website, [www.kidderminster-nights.org.uk](http://www.kidderminster-nights.org.uk). There are only 400 tickets, so be quick!

# Grantham baptisms

Not only were the baptisms a joy for the candidates, they were just what the Grantham church needed! A real spiritual boost was experienced as a full church on a hot Sabbath afternoon, 25 August, saw Siân Rees declare her faith in Jesus as her personal Saviour. Sabbath morning 24 November then saw another fully packed church witness Catherine Sly and Martin Ferguson make their acceptance of him known. Friends and family travelled from all over the UK to be there, and many people who only very rarely, or never, worship in our churches were also present on both occasions. Our youth mean a very great deal to us and we feel certain that the Saviour is very proud of them too. They are not the church of tomorrow; they are most definitely the church of today. May God bless and keep them all.

PASTOR J. FERGUSON



Left to right: Catherine Sly, Martin Ferguson and Siân Rees

# Southall's baptism

On 22 March, initially, three precious disciples publicly gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised at the Southall church. Church family, visiting friends, and relatives rejoiced as they witnessed sisters, Siobhan and Masada Belingy-Mark's decision to allow the Lord to guide their footsteps. They are third-generation Adventists and, in particular, their grandparents, Brother and Sister Belingy, have been instrumental in their Bible studies, and are assigned as their spiritual guardians.

The third candidate, Ganine Eshun, who has been attending Southall's newly formed branch, Northolt Community church, also decided to be baptised. Tidings

Chengeta was assigned as her spiritual guardian.

Pastor Everett Picart led the candidates into the baptismal water. The pastor then made a call from the baptistery for anyone who was not baptised to make a decision. Suddenly there was a joyful sound from the congregation as they witnessed Kingston Murray's triumphant march towards the front of the church. Kingston, who had been attending Southall for some time, fulfilled divine purpose, answered the call and entered the baptistery there and then. Shortly after, Lalita Harriram heeded the call and was also baptised.

A presentation was made to the newly baptised members who were



Left to right: Lalita Harriram, Ganine Eshun, Masada Belingy-Mark, Kingston Murray, Siobhan Belingy-Mark, and Pastor Everett Picart.

then welcomed into the Southall church family.

After the service, the first elder informed the pastor that a non-Adventist in the congregation had

requested Bible studies. Two youngsters made their decision also; one came forward at the appeal, and the other after the service.

ULLANDA ALEXANDER

# The CHIP you missed

On Sunday 27 April the second helping of the MicroCHIP programme was served in the Stanborough Centre, and a very nutritious experience it was. As guests enrolled for the evening, they were greeted with a feast for the eyes and new tastes for the tongue.

Attracting the eyes was a beautiful display of fruits in many sizes, shapes and colours. For the tongue there were samples to whet the appetite of the 'veggie' – dips, whole-wheat crackers and carrot sticks.

Richard Poulton, Stanborough Park church Health Ministries co-ordinator, welcomed the guests for the evening, and Brian Davison invited

a Very Special Guest to participate with us.

Easily digestible courses followed. Claudette Harris encouraged the best in breakfast nutrition and drinking habits. The healthiest of lives is maintained and sustained by food that is grown above or below ground – or, more picturesquely, if it's got a face, don't eat it. Exercise and sleep in balanced proportions put a spring into the step and joy into living.

Richard encouraged the guests to accept the challenge of letting 'the next thirty days make a difference'. Healthy Living goals for the next week were set, with the promise that bad habits are reversible where there is commitment.

Probably it's commitment that's the sauce for the MicroCHIP programme. So many good, healthy resolutions get lost in loneliness and lack of com-

mitment. Joining others in a team brings encouragement, stimulation and enthusiasm to see you through the dull days.

The MicroCHIP evenings will continue weekly on Sunday evenings at 6pm until 8 June. You are welcome to come and find refreshment for body, soul and spirit, in order that you, too, can encourage others to share the news that '30 Days Can Make A Difference' to your life.

Possibly you live too far away to share MicroCHIP with Stanborough Park church this month. Then this report may be just the taster you need to anticipate the CHIP programme arriving in your community in the not too distant future. Until then, 'Bon appetit'!

JOYCE HILL



# CHIP goes camping

Over the weekend of 3 and 4 May, Edinburgh's Royal Highland Centre was transformed into a huge campground of vibrant activity. Titled 'Church Without Walls', it was a national gathering of faith communities from all over Scotland.

A 500-tented village of individual churches and organisations were there to 'tell their story'. They had each purchased tents from the organisers, which afterwards will be donated to deserving developing countries. Well-known speakers also conducted big-tent seminars on a broad range of faith topics.

David Hatch, Scotland's CHIP programme director and his wife, Janice, manned a highly visible tent display engaging some of the several thousand visitors. There were many enquiries from health professionals. Those suffering or recovering from illness also sought information about how CHIP might be of help to them.

David said, 'Our story grows out of the past but is about the future. We have a vision to take the Adventist Advantage to the people of Scotland. One of the ways we can achieve that is through the CHIP programme.'

JOHN WILBY

# Hanwell baptism

Sabbath morning 22 March saw four new members join the fellowship of the Hanwell church in west London. Pastor Picart, while visiting the candidates to go through the baptismal

covenant, was informed that Maria's relatives had booked to come over to England for five days in the Easter period. Southall's baptism had already been planned for the Easter weekend on Sabbath afternoon, and since several members from Hanwell church had promised to do items for

the candidates, it was decided to hold the baptism on the Sabbath morning in divine service.

Ask any serving deacon or deaconess and you will be told that the morning was fraught with baptismal-day glitches that would have surely had prayers ascending to Heaven early on. There were also a few late phone calls to friends and close relatives of one of the candidates, as it emerged we had one less candidate than advertised in our bulletin. In the end all was well and good, as Pastor Picart baptised all the candidates to the delight of members, families and friends, while taking the time to remind us of the great joy that is in Heaven on such a day for our Father and all heavenly beings. At the baptistery appeal two precious souls raised their hands for baptism.

DANIEL SUADWAH



Newly baptised Maria Matuszna, Doris Foune, Ashaki Alexander, and Jan Martynowicz (in between but behind Maria and Doris) share a pose with Pastor E. Picart (far right) and elders of the Hanwell church

# Religious Liberty Day

Religious Liberty Day took place on Sabbath 26 April at the Wood Green church. The theme of the day was 'Freedom to Choose', which was a reminder for all of us to pray for people in other countries who do not have the privilege of the freedom to choose a religion or belief that we enjoy in the UK. Both church members and visitors alike came back in huge numbers for an interactive afternoon programme. The afternoon programme was based around workshops which covered current events such as Sharia Law and the latest information from the Employment Regulations regarding Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation. Those who attended found the day informative and are looking forward to the next Religious Liberty event.

VALERIE WILLER



# Mark flies out to Myanmar

worked with the World Food Programme in Burma for several years, distributing essential food packages to communities in remote rural areas. Since 2007 ADRA-UK has assisted Burma with programmes to increase food security, through training farmers in new agricultural skills, providing seeds and tools, and giving people new non-farming skills to enable them to make a living. Mark Castellino has worked in humanitarian crises in Albania during the Kosovo War (1999), and more recently in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Southeast Asia tsunami (2005).

**Mark says:** 'Over the last five days we have heard of increasing numbers of fatalities. Our colleagues on the ground have reported severe damage to properties, livelihoods, and, worst of all, loss of life. We know that the devastation is colossal, and it demands a large-scale response. Together with my colleagues both in Burma and from around the world, I'm hoping to be able to contribute towards bringing some alleviation to the survivors of this

terrible disaster. People who have been made homeless, lost loved ones and means of survival need our support, both immediately and in the coming weeks and months. I've been to Burma two times previously. When I saw the news pictures and heard the stories coming back from places that I've been to, it gave it deeper meaning to me personally. I'm hoping that my contribution will make a difference to people who are suffering terribly.'

**What I'm doing**  
'The ADRA network is responding from all over the world, and I will join a team to assess the current situation and develop responses to meet the needs. So far, we have allocated \$10,000 from our emergency fund, and a further one million US dollars has been committed. We are accessing funds committed by the British Government and other international donors, and I will assist in planning how that money will be spent so that we can assist as many people as possible in the best way possible.'

BUC News

ADRA-UK's Mark Castellino flew out to Burma on 9 May to assist in the relief effort following Cyclone Nargis which devastated the Southeast Asian country on Friday 2 May. Mark works with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), an international humanitarian aid agency operating in 125 countries across the globe.

ADRA's UK office is based in Watford, Herts., and has been working since 1991 to support humanitarian needs around the world.

ADRA is one of the few international NGOs working in Burma prior to the cyclone. ADRA has



## ADRA-UK launches Myanmar Cyclone Appeal

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC and Bert Smit, ADRA-UK executive director

As the death toll soars, The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is continuing its response in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, a Category 4 tropical storm that struck Myanmar on 2 May, killing more than 22,000 people, leaving at least 41,000 unaccounted for, and displacing more than one million people to date. In response to the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis, the ADRA Myanmar office in Yangon is meeting the needs of families who survived the cyclone and subsequent flooding in targeted areas in hard-hit Irrawaddy Delta in the south. Immediate aid includes water, water purification

tablets, food distribution, and shelter materials. On Saturday, the ten-hour storm made landfall on the coast of the Southeast Asian nation with wind speeds reaching 132mph. The cyclone hit heavily populated Yangon directly, leaving many streets, roads and bridges impassable due to the considerable amount of downed trees and other debris. In some villages, early estimates indicate that 95% of homes have been destroyed. The majority of the deaths are due to a 12-foot tidal wave triggered by the cyclone that swept through the Irrawaddy Delta, flooding and carrying away homes in low-lying villages. On Sunday 4 May, a state of emergency was declared across

five regions, including Yangon, Irrawaddy, Pegu, Karen and Mon, in which 24 million people live. On the Monday, foreign ministry officials said they would welcome international aid and relief items, such as roofing materials, plastic sheets and temporary tents, water purifying tablets, blankets, and mosquito nets. In direct response to the tragedy that has struck Myanmar, ADRA-UK has launched an appeal to raise funds to bring immediate relief to the victims. ADRA-UK is coordinating its efforts with the ADRA network to respond to this major disaster.

ADRA Myanmar is one of the few international agencies on the ground, bringing immediate relief. ADRA emergency workers are evaluating

the damage and responding to the most critical needs in affected areas. ADRA is working on a network-wide strategy to respond to this disaster, with funds already donated by a number of countries. The people of Myanmar are in mourning and in desperate need. ADRA has committed itself to assist in the relief and rebuilding efforts.

**We need your help now!**  
The ADRA network was mobilised into action within hours of the cyclone hitting Myanmar. ADRA-UK director Bert Smit has been planning the international response with partner offices across Europe and the United States. Mark Castellino, ADRA-UK Programmes director, left for Myanmar on 9 May to assist with preparing proposals for the long-term assistance needed to help the affected region to recover. Due to the nature and location of the disaster, ADRA-UK will not be sending containers filled with aid supplies to the region. ADRA supporters are therefore being requested NOT to collect any aid items or send them to the ADRA-UK office in Watford.



**We need your help in this task. Please send your gift to the people of Myanmar today.** We would encourage all donations to be made on our website at [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk). Cheques for the Myanmar Cyclone Appeal can also be sent to: ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Make your cheques payable to

ADRA-UK and, if possible, Gift Aid your donation by including a signed note saying: **Please Gift Aid this donation.** In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the **ADRA-UK Myanmar Cyclone Appeal.**

Please visit our website for regular updates on the crisis.



# 'Let The Sound of Freedom'

## The composition and its ethos

by Ken Burton, principal conductor of LAC

'Let The Sound Of Freedom' is a collection of fourteen songs written for two choirs. There are pieces that the choirs perform on their own, and pieces that bring the two traditions (African-American and Anglican) together side by side in some very interesting mixing of styles. The lyrics of the songs come mostly from famous speeches and quotes from famous historical figures associated with bringing about peace, justice and freedom. The figures quoted include Mother Teresa (Albanian humanitarian working in India), Rosa Parks (African-American woman who refused to continue to be treated as an inferior), Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy and the philosopher Cicero. Of course, the greatest of them all is our own Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In addition to the words of Christ there are quotes from the apostle Paul, Isaiah, and various Old Testament Hebrew songs.

In addition to quotes from speeches, there are settings of poetry, including an eighteenth-century war poem 'Pax Bello Potior' (translated Peace is Better Than War), which is actually in the form of a prayer. Paul Laurence Dunbar is a notable African-American slave who wrote powerful poetry about the slave conditions. His poem, 'We Wear The Mask', is quoted from in a song based on Dr Martin Luther King's 'Promised Land' speech.

All pieces are totally unaccompanied, simply because the common vehicle of expression is the human voice.

The work is divided into three general themes. The first deals with the desire for freedom and human emotions in times of bondage and sorrow, and quotes from Psalms, Lamentations and poetry. The second, with themes of mission – helping the suffering, leading them to Christ as the only source of salvation and rest. The last few works are all to do with freedom being achieved, pointing forward to



the land where sorrow and suffering will be no more.

Musically, the pieces cover many styles. In fact, in one piece, based on a Mother Teresa quote which says, 'Good works are links that form a chain of love', there is North American, South American, Caribbean, British, Western European, Eastern European, Arabic, African, Antipodean (with some unbelievable vocal didgeridoo effects), South Pacific, and Oriental, all in the one piece! Generally, the

two styles follow the two traditions: African and African-American (e.g. spirituals, close harmony, gospel), with the English choral tradition. Some pieces are in the single tradition, sung by one choir, while a large number bring the two traditions together.

There was a seemingly endless number of quotes to choose from, but one thing stood out: regardless of what the quote is, it still finds its roots in the Gospel.

I'll leave you with some of the

powerful quotes used:

'Instead of ashes a crown of beauty; instead of mourning the oil of gladness; instead of a spirit of despair, a garment of praise.' (Isaiah)

'The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.' (Nelson Mandela)

'If you're going through hell, keep going. . . .' (Winston Churchill)

'Sweet is the memory of troubles past.' (Cicero)

'Love is a fruit in season at all times.' (Mother Teresa)

## Learning to love

by Maxine Donovan

The Personal Ministries department at Tottenham church wanted to start 2008 with a programme to help heal the wound that was preventing members from loving, accepting and forgiving one another. The result was a Holy Spirit-inspired seminar called 'Learning to Love' held on 29 February, 1, 2, 5 and 7 March, which was conducted by Pastor Sam Davis, president of the South England Conference, and Pastor David Burnett. The seminar covered four modules: 1. Love is Forgiving; 2. Love is Accepting; 3. Love is



Sharing; 4. Love is a Force.

On the first evening, Friday 29 February, there was a large turnout, unusual for a Friday evening event. Attendees were given the seminar

workbook and a book called *Beyond Anger*. The workbook was numbered and had to be handed back at the end of the evening. This was to discourage members from attending

the first session, receiving a workbook, and then not returning for the remaining sessions. However, those who attended the first three sessions were allowed to keep the workbook from then on.

Love was defined as 'using one's God-given power of choice to do that which is in the best interest of another person, regardless of feelings'. In the module, Love is Forgiving, we were reminded that if we cannot forgive, we cannot love. Forgiving is releasing from our judgement entirely the one who has hurt us. It also means that in the process we free ourselves from the slavery of bitterness and resentment. Pastor David, in his humorous style, pointed out that when we don't forgive, it is like having someone you don't like living in your house rent free.

Love is Accepting helped us to deal with the dilemma of loving those we don't like or those who are 'wrong' in their actions and beliefs. Accepting someone does not mean agreeing with or endorsing the person's behaviour. Acceptance is about affirming the infinite worth of another person. We were reminded that Jesus dealt with fallen people; he talked, listened and ate with them. Jesus showed that God's holiness is evidenced not in separating from life, but in interacting with life. He rejected the sin, but accepted the sinner.

Love is Sharing reminded us that unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, we are not Christians. When we share, we share two gifts: love and God, because God is love. However, as we live in a very secular society, people have fears about sharing God. They feel they might offend someone or they might ruin someone's chance of eternity. There was another fear, the fear that we might appear strange. Pastor Davis pointed out that many have now become James Bond Christians – licensed to go undercover. We were informed that to share God in a loving manner, we should share God, not sell him. We were called to be 'fishers of men', not 'hunters of men'. We cannot make anyone a Christian, only the Holy Spirit can.

On the final day, certificates were presented by Pastor David Burnett and Roger Charles, the Personal Ministries leader, to those who attended ten hours or more of the seminar. A special thank you was said to Pastor Sam Davis and his wife, Rowena.

## David Da Silva's baptism

On Sabbath afternoon, 29 March, it was wet and windy. However, there was great warmth at Sands church, High Wycombe, where members, family and friends gathered to witness and celebrate David Da Silva's baptism.

It was a blessed occasion, especially for David's mother, Rosita Da Silva, who proudly read a special poem for him. David's wife Gail-Ann sang a beautiful song, and Noel Thomas shared David's favourite Bible text by reading Psalm 34:1-10. The sermonette was given by our minister Pastor Robert Hines before the immersion of the candidate. He gave an encouraging and

challenging message taken from the passage Leviticus 25:8-17 – Year of the Jubilee – when he spoke about finding freedom and having a new beginning. After David was welcomed into the fellowship of the Sands church, he was grateful to everybody and thanked his family in particular who came out in full force to witness his baptism as he recommitted his life to serve the Lord. He publicly announced that his life had made a U-turn in the other direction and admitted that he had not wanted anything to do with Adventists. But while searching other denominations he realised that the Seventh-day

Adventist Church was the true religion for him, and so he made a decision once again to get baptised and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, his Saviour.

David is active in website design at Sands church. He and his wife already run a Bible study and prayer group at their home each week. David is very talented and his skills are a great asset to the church family.

The members at Sands church look forward to seeing David using more of the skills and talents the good Lord has given to him.

SONIA LEE



Left to right: Gideon Thomas, Brother and Sister Da Silva, David Da Silva, Gail-Ann, Pastor Robert Hines and Yarek Szatkowski

## Tots, teens, totally youth

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'<sup>1</sup>

There was much praise, encouragement, prayer and joy in the event. It was a youth Sabbath with a difference at Bath Adventist church.

Youth day has traditionally been the domain of the teens to under 30s. Bath took an all-encompassing view of youth: tots to teens took their stand sharing God's message. Even the theme used, 'Gone Fishing', was taken from one of the Primary Sabbath School lessons.

A simple, yet clear message was put over. Through prayers, poems and skits, the core of the matter was that what one may lack in years, one doesn't lack in hurts and a need for God's healing power. Small and large voices offered up prayers, poems and skits with entreaties to encourage those present with warmth and sincerity.

The parable of the mustard seed was brought to mind. 'Though it is the smallest of all seeds . . . when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that

the birds come and perch in its branches.'<sup>2</sup> We adults must never forget to plant the seeds of faith, and encourage active participation from the smallest of our church family. In so doing, great steps forward can be made in disseminating the message of God's sheltering love.

Future strides are in store for the youth in taking the programme to

sister churches in the region – a view cherished by Pastor Dranca. It is also hoped to have wider publicity and outreach as well.

Heartfelt thanks to the youth, Mac Kholowa, Colin and Sarah Hulot and, of course, the parents for this blessed day.

INGRID WELLMAN-FRANCOIS

References  
<sup>1</sup>Matthew 19:14. <sup>2</sup>Matthew 13:32, *TNIV Youth Bible*.



# Soya

**Q. Following a recent *Daily Mail* article, readers have requested an update on soya products.**

**A. Sharon Platt-McDonald replies: Recent research shows both the benefits and the reasons to be cautious in the use of soya products.**

Some people do not tolerate soya well. With these individuals soya appears to have an oestrogen-like effect. Hence the increased incidence of cancer in some people in this category who have *too much soya*. As with most things, balance is vital.

Any problem there is with **processed soya**, not with the more natural *tofu* (which the Japanese have long eaten with beneficial results).

Science is now finding that all processed foods come with a higher level of nutritional risk. That risk attaches to the processed soya used in meat substitutes.

We should have smaller portions of soya, indicative of the small amount of protein our bodies need each day.

and they were reading their Bibles more.

When the altar call was made, it was a joy to see young people who were recently baptised encouraging friends to make a stand for the Lord and accompanying them to the front of the church. The Bible workers were kept busy.

Sunday 16 March saw the baptism of seven new members into the body of Christ. Four were from Tottenham and three from Edmonton Central. Bible studies have been organised for those who responded to the altar call, but were not baptised.

Ayanna George, a 13-year old who attends church with her grandmother, wanted to be baptised, but her mother, who is not a member, said no to her request. The prayer team prayed with the grandmother, who was distraught, and claimed God's promise that if we asked anything according to his will he would grant it to us. We were most disappointed when Ayanna was not one of the baptismal candidates, but we were happy to see that her mother was at the baptismal service. However, our God is not slack concerning his promises, and before the week ended the mother gave her consent for Ayanna to be baptised.

On Sabbath 22 March the four newly baptised members from Tottenham received the right hand of fellowship before the whole church. In the afternoon the Youth department held a thanksgiving service to praise God for the unfolding of his grace and love during the Youth Week of Prayer.

MAXINE DONOVAN

## News Break

### Baptism following Youth Week of Prayer

While other churches were busily preparing for the Youth Week of Prayer, 15-22 March, Tottenham and Edmonton Central churches joined together to start their Week of Prayer a week earlier on Sabbath 8 March. The programme culminated with a baptismal service on Sunday 16 March when seven precious souls made a public stand for God. The joint programme was held at Tottenham church.

The theme for the week was The Potter's Touch. Pastor Steve Riley from Trinidad delivered the daily presentations, and Racquel Faircloth, a singing evangelist from Jamaica, ably supported him. Although it was cold, wet and windy, our spirits were not dampened. The church was full and on fire each evening as the Holy Spirit's presence was manifested. Pastor Riley commented on the turnout of young people and their commitment to prayer.

The delivery each day was inspiring. We were kept on our toes by having to recall the topics of the previous sessions. Young people commented even before the programme ended that they were drawn closer to Jesus

### Pathfindering 'resurrected' in Walsall

The forecast said that it was going to be a cold, grey and rainy day with the possibility of snow. That prediction could not dampen the spirits of Walsall Pathfinders on their investiture day. The rain could not stop this parade.

Each participant was smartly dressed in full Pathfinder uniform which created an atmosphere of nostalgia. It was twenty-six years since Walsall had celebrated its last investiture ceremony. The new investiture was accomplished through the instigation and determination of Karma Sinclair, who worked persistently with her team to resurrect Pathfindering in Walsall.

As the drum sounded, the scene was set for the Adventurers and Pathfinders to march in time and take their positions at the front of the church. It was a grand occasion for the young people, counsellors, parents and guardians.

This momentous event was supported by the NEC Pathfinder director Pastor Trevor Thomas and a team of delegates from supporting churches, along with local church



pastor, Patricia Douglas.

The Adventurers and Pathfinders moderated the Sabbath School, after which they were presented with their awards. Mark Sinclair also received an award for his achievement as Master Guide. Pastor Thomas in his sermon admonished the Pathfinders on the theme 'Accepting the commission, go on the mission.'

For the brethren and visitors of Walsall it was a hugely successful day.

M. TAYLOR

### Youth Day of Fellowship

Devon and Cornwall had their Youth Day of Fellowship on 29 March. Due to unforeseen circumstances the arranged speaker could not attend, so Nalissa Maberly and her youth team stood in at very short notice to

make the day a great success for all those who attended. The theme of 'The Opposite Way' was brilliant, and during Sabbath School the utilisation of a Rob Bell 'Nooma' led to much discussion, using trees as a point of departure.

The church decoration expressed the lyric from the Leeland song 'The Opposite Way' and challenged our thinking. It is always a challenge for youth today to take the opposite way, rather than the way of the world.

How to relate to the opposite way, through the careful long-term nurturing of Nalissa and her team of volunteers, became evident when we saw how community young people and some 'not so young' have become part of the St Austell project.

Nalissa Maberly is the team

leader of the St Austell team of volunteers that made the day a great success, and the young people from Torquay who went down with a hired minibus all enjoyed the day. The audience was a combination of visitors from Redruth, Torquay, Exeter, Barnstaple and a visiting family from the Midlands who turned up for the day.

Awards were given out to youth who had helped with the successful teen outreach programme to community youth earlier in the week. Nalissa and the group of young people who come to St Austell as volunteers have the potential not just to influence the community youth of St Austell, but all the youth of Area 1 in the South England Conference.

The whole morning was a time of interaction. After a shared lunch we came back to watch a DVD of Johnny Lingo, which showed us how you can change someone's life by confirming their true value.

We are looking forward to the next day of fellowship and at the same time want to encourage Nalissa and her team under the leadership of Pastor Mick Smart to carry on with their good work in St Austell.

BERTIE DE NYSSCHEN

## Ezra Etchells (1911-2008) d. 14 March

Ezra Etchells, the son of a coal miner, was born in a little mining town in South Yorkshire. He was baptised in May 1926 after attending evangelistic meetings conducted by Pastor A. S. Rodd at the Empire Cinema in Rotherham. In 1930, just before his twentieth birthday, Ezra decided to go to Stanborough Park College to train as a minister. A year later, he moved with the college to Newbold Revel near Rugby. Unfortunately, he had to give up his studies due a lack of funding. Ezra joined the army in 1933 after braving ten months of unemployment. He left three years later but re-

enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps where he trained as a medical orderly. He was sent to France with a Field Ambulance Unit in 1939, at the beginning of World War II. On 28 May 1940, Ezra was evacuated from Dunkirk with thousands of other British troops. He was stationed in Reading, where he met and married his wife Elsie Cooper. He returned to the battlefields in North Africa and Italy soon after, eventually making his way back across Europe to be demobbed in Taunton in 1945 before returning to Reading. His first role at Reading Central church was as youth secretary in 1946. He became youth leader a year later. He also served as church clerk, head deacon, religious liberty leader, and elder from the time of his ordination in 1952. He became a lay preacher in 1950 and preached in Adventist churches across Great Britain for over fifty years until 2001. Ezra lost his wife in 1988, but never lost his

commitment to God's work. He was relentless in his efforts to raise money for numerous charities and often took annual leave from work to go Ingathering. One of Ezra's most memorable achievements was running the Band of Hope temperance programme to educate young people about the dangers of drinking alcohol. He was also a keen writer who will be remembered for his witty poems. Ezra soldiered through the decades with complete dedication to God's work. He served as a source of inspiration to both young and old. Family and friends will dearly miss him. We will wait patiently to see him again on that glorious day when our Lord and Saviour returns.

CLIVE MALCOLM



### EZORA SAVALANI (1935-2007) d. 3 December.

On 18 December family and friends came to West Bromwich church to celebrate the life of Ezora Savalani at a service conducted by Pastor Garry Gordon. Ezora Ramcharan was born in Trinidad and brought up as a Presbyterian. In 1958 she emigrated to England where she pursued a career in nursing. While training in Bristol she met Purshotam Savalani who had arrived from India to train as an accountant. They later married and moved to Birmingham. They had three sons. Purshotam's sudden death in 1980 left Ezora as the sole provider of the home. Education was highly prized in her home and she was determined that her three sons should pursue higher education and its opportunities. In 1983 Ezora accepted an invitation to study the Bible with Pastor Masih. The topics interested her and she decided to be baptised, along with her son David, at Langley church. Ezora enjoyed her time at Langley church, participating in a variety of activities to support the local church, including the local treasury and the Community Services, and became involved at the West Midlands Executive level. She was devoted to her nursing profession until retirement. She was also keen to remain in touch with her siblings abroad, especially in Trinidad, where in recent times she took regular trips. She enjoyed the beach, cricket and the breeze. In September 2007 she was diagnosed with cancer. Nevertheless, she was determined to remain positive and began chemotherapy. Unfortunately, soon after her third cycle of treatment she passed away. She remained steadfast to her faith in Christ and went to her rest with the assurance of the resurrection. Her ashes were taken to Trinidad where they were finally laid to rest at the family burial plot on 17 February. She leaves behind her three sons, David, Sunil and Ramesh, and her grandson Joshua. Death is but a pause in our lives and so we look forward to seeing her soon.

DAVID SAVALANI

members of the Irvine company and worshipped faithfully every week until near the end when her health no longer permitted. Although never married, she cared for her nephew, nieces and great nephew/nieces, as if they were her own. If you were ever called 'my boy/lassie', you knew you were truly blessed. A visit to Irvine church certainly wouldn't have been complete without the invitation to stay for lunch and Auntie's very memorable Ayrshire dialect or unforgettable sayings. Ask anyone who knew her and they'd quote you one of her many phrases. After her stroke in 2001, her health slowly started to deteriorate and following a short stay in hospital, she fell asleep. Our family wish to thank all of our friends and church family for their support during this time. Annie was laid to rest beside her sister and lifelong friend to await the second coming.

JUDY MCKIE

### ANNA-MARIA FARQUHAR (1912-2008) d. 21 January.

Anna-Maria (Ria) was born the day the Titanic sank, 15 April 1912. Ria lived to be the oldest member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland. She was a true daughter of Belfast, living all of her life in the Shankill Road area where, in 1940, Pastor Craven ran an evangelistic series. Ria was baptised at that time and from then until her death on 21 January 2008, at almost 96, she remained faithful to her Lord. Ria was the daughter of Lady Isobel (as she liked to be called) and her husband Cornelius Hull. One of three children, she spent her working life as a damask linen weaver in Ewart's Linen Mill, proud that the table linen she helped to produce graced some of the most prestigious tables in the world. Ria and her husband Charles Farquhar were married in the late 1930s, but sadly Charles died in 1961, leaving Ria a widow at just 49. Ria, who is survived by her loving daughter Sonia, is sadly missed by all her friends. She now rests in the Lord, till he come.

EILEEN IRVINE

### EVYLYN SMITH (1938-2008) d. 8 March.

It is with great sadness that Sutton-in-Ashfield church records the sudden and unexpected death of Evelyn Smith. On the day Evelyn died she had attended church with her husband Naaman. Evelyn had participated in the lesson discussion and left church saying her usual goodbyes. It came as a great shock to learn that Evelyn had died just hours after leaving church. She was a gracious lady and quietly went about her duties as deaconess. Her friendly, warm personality was a blessing to all she came in contact with. She had had health problems for some time and as a result was having kidney dialysis three times a week at Kings Mill Hospital, Mansfield, where she

had worked as a nurse. Evelyn was always in church on Sabbath in spite of dialysis, and always said how well she felt. Family and friends filled the Mansfield Baptist church to pay tribute to Evelyn's life. Daughter Donnette and a granddaughter had flown in from Canada. Evelyn's other two daughters took part in the service. Kay and granddaughter Leah sang 'Great is thy faithfulness' and Sharon paid tribute with a beautiful poem. Her son Michael gave the eulogy. The

Scripture reading, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, was read by her loving husband, Naaman. Officiating ministers were Pastor Curtis Murphy and Pastor Melvyn Ellis. We pray that God will comfort and sustain Evelyn's husband, her son and three daughters through this sad time. We look forward to the soon coming of Jesus when there will be no more pain and suffering, when families will be reunited forever.

MORAY STEWART

## Wedding

### SAMMY-BOWDEN

Sunday 10 February dawned a perfect, sunny day to herald in the wedding day of Matthew Sammy and Rebecca Bowden. Eighty guests arrived at the Exeter church for the first marriage ceremony to be held in the church since 1979, the year when Rebecca's own parents had been united in matrimony. The bride looked radiant as she entered the church on the arm of her father, Michael Bowden, and the strains of the wedding march, played by organist, Alec Adams, reverberated through the church. Rebecca was attended by her sister, chief bridesmaid Esther Bowden and her school friends, Laura Watts and Katie Webber. Matthew and Rebecca had wanted to include as many friends and family in their special day. The groom was supported by his best man, Travers Benn, and groomsmen, brothers Aaron and Jason Sammy. His sister, Priscilla, read the Scripture reading, and Tamara Bloom, once a student at Exeter University, recited a moving poem which she had composed for the wedding. Friends, Desron Baptiste, Doreen Christopher, Rebecca and Ruth Reiden, from Matthew's home church, Milton Keynes, sang a special song for the occasion based on the text, 'God is love'. Pastor Ron Clemow, a friend of the Bowden family, officiated at the service. He reminded the bridal couple how important it is to make God the centre of their marriage and to take all matters to him in prayer. On behalf of the Exeter church, Stella Jeffery was the first to congratulate 'Mr and Mrs Sammy' and she spoke a few words about Rebecca as a member of the church, as she had known her since before she was born and had witnessed her dedication and baptism! She informed the congregation that the bridal couple had met at an Axis church camp in Cornwall, and she reminded Rebecca and Matthew that God had given them a special wedding gift - the Sabbath. This should be a day for them to set aside for worship, communication with God and each other and enjoyment of God's creation. During the signing of the register, Hannah and Louisa Jeffery played a beautiful piano duet, 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'. Pastor Clemow then introduced Mr and Mrs Sammy to the congregation, and the trumpet-like strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March resounded from the organ as the joyful couple proceeded up the aisle. The wedding reception was held at Stoodleigh Court in the depths of the magnificent Devon countryside which could be seen in all its glory on such a sunny day. The guests listened to the soothing piano playing of Karl Lutfield as they enjoyed the stately surroundings. Angela and Charissa Passmore's floral arrangements and bouquets were much appreciated both at the church and the reception. Steve Duguid, Matthew's work colleague, serenaded the couple just before they left for their honeymoon, a surprise destination for the bride. We wish Rebecca and Matthew God's richest blessings as they set up home in Grantham and begin their journey through life together.

STELLA JEFFERY



## The faith of Jemuel

by Cybèle Roberts

Good morning, afternoon, or evening – whichever applies to you when you are reading this. When Jemuel told me last year that they would collect £1,000, I thought, OK, we have a lot of work to do. We started with all the home activities: learning the books of the Bible, teaching them to Abigail, putting texts to music so that we could learn them, achieving good school work, sitting nicely in church (that was my mum's weekly contribution for them). Each time the children achieved these targets, they would earn money for ADRA. Jemuel even put in his birthday money. In fact, one person gave him money and said, 'Don't put this in your ADRA tin. This is for you, and this (and she took out another note) is for your ADRA tin.'

This week I was telling Jemuel that even if he doesn't reach the £1,000 target he has done well and should be pleased. He told me, 'No. Don't say that, Mama. We will reach it, and we will get more.' I just didn't want him to feel disappointed. Last year they collected £154, and I knew that they had at least tripled that.

Last night I was given the total, offline and online, we have to date (and we still have funds outstanding from those who are getting paid this week or next, or just haven't got round to donating online yet). The total to date is £717. I had to conclude, with tears in my eyes, that the little boy has faith, more faith than I. It was a humbling experience. Now I know he will make it, but I needed to see progress and totals. He never once doubted that God would help him collect £1,000 for ADRA.

Here is the webpage:  
<http://www.croydonadventist.org/adra/v.php?vol=jemuelr>.

Jemuel prays each day that God will speak to the hearts of those people who have not yet donated.

**Yes!**  
**'He who testifies to these things says, "YES! I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.'**  
**Revelation 22:20.**

The evangelist's response to the promise of Jesus is one we should echo in prayer every day. On the day he comes, pain, suffering, death, disease and disaster will be over.  
**Y-E-S-S-S!**

**Self-catering flat** for SDA members visiting Jamaica. Mandeville area. Tel. 001 876 904 8612

## Head teacher

Required for September 2008

Stanborough Primary School  
Appletree Walk, Garston, Watford,  
Hertfordshire, WD25 0DQ



The British Union Conference invites applicants for the position of Primary Head teacher, following the resignation of Mrs Cheryl Allen, effective as of 31 August 2008.

Stanborough Primary School is a dynamic Adventist school, with a Christian and multicultural ethos. It is popular with both the Seventh-day Adventist constituency and the local community.

The school is set in landscaped grounds which allow excellent space for recreation and sports, while providing a serene setting for pupils' development.

The British Union Conference now seeks a suitably qualified educator and school leader to succeed Mrs Allen. The successful candidate will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist and is expected to demonstrate:

- Vision and leadership skills to motivate and inspire the staff in fulfilling the mission of the school.
- Sound grasp of educational leadership and management principles and the ability to be an effective professional leader and team builder.
- The skills to manage and develop the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils, the expectations of the church community and national initiatives.
- The ability to work with governors in developing school policies, formulating the strategic plan and managing the school's improvement strategy for raising achievement.
- A successful track record in contributing to the creation of an effective teaching and learning school community.
- An understanding and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy and practice of education.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.

Further details and an application pack are available from Dr Keith Davidson, Education Director, British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. Tel.: 01923 672251. Email: [kdavidson@adventist.org.uk](mailto:kdavidson@adventist.org.uk).

**Closing date for applications: Friday 6 June 2008.**

## Montserratian Day of Fellowship

Sabbath 24 May

at

The Whalley Range Methodist Church,  
Withington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8FA

*Guest speaker:* Pastor E. Francis,  
president, North England Conference

*Contact:* William B. Riley – tel: 0121 241 7318;  
email: [williambriley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:williambriley@hotmail.co.uk)

**Newbold College** is seeking to appoint a full-time lecturer in New Testament commencing 1 August 2008. The deadline for receipt of applications is 26 May. Further details are obtainable from the Newbold College website:

[www.newbold.ac](http://www.newbold.ac)

or from vice principal, Mike Pearson,  
at [mpearson@newbold.ac](mailto:mpearson@newbold.ac) or  
tel: +44 1344 407401 or  
fax: +44 1344 407404.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2008

#### GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SCOTLAND) LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the fortieth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Limited will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2.10pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

**V. Pilmoor (Acting Secretary)**

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the one hundred and third Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2.20pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

**V. Pilmoor (Acting Secretary)**

#### GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the one hundred and fourth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association Limited will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2.35pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

#### ADRA-UK

Notice is hereby given that the tenth Annual General Meeting of ADRA-UK will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2.45pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

**B. Smit (Secretary)**

#### THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the one hundred and fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Stanborough Press Limited will be held on Thursday 3 July 2008 at 2.55pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

**P. Hammond (Secretary)**

### ABC BOOK SALES

#### June

9-15 NEC & SEC Camp meetings

PRESS OPEN DAY

Sunday 7 September

#### ABC Shops

Advent Centre, Sundays 10am-2pm  
Watford BUC, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am-2pm

## Messenger

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**DESIGN: DAVID BELL**

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### Sunset

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

	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
May 23	8.58	9.10	9.09	9.34	9.37
30	9.07	9.19	9.18	9.45	9.47
Jun 6	9.14	9.26	9.26	9.54	9.55
13	9.19	9.31	9.31	10.00	10.01

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