



The Art of Evangelism

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
Personal Ministries, LIFEdevelopment and Church Growth director, BUC

Have you ever wanted to do evangelism but were too afraid to try? Has anyone ever taught you how to do evangelism? Does your church have a visitation programme? These are some of the questions that were mulling over in my mind for a while, and therefore I was quite excited about The Art of Evangelism week organised by the British Union Conference and hosted at the University of Nottingham.

During the week of 5-12 July the BUC with Amazing Facts studied 'The Art of Evangelism'. In the first ever week-long BUC evangelism training event, pastors and lay members were taught how to run an evangelistic campaign effectively.

All the aspects of effective evangelism were taught from the Gospel Commission found in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Revelation 14:6-12. This focused on the personal preparation that all of us need to do for evangelism, how to knock on doors, how to gain decisions and how to nurture and keep new members.

A cycle of evangelism that would

help churches create a culture of evangelism in the local church was also taught. The cycle of evangelism also helped to clarify the use of some key evangelistic aspects like small groups, Bible study, church planting and the evangelistic meeting in its proper sequence. One member remarked, 'Before I came to this week's training it was my conviction that evangelism was a dying art. Now I am inspired to go back and get my church involved in evangelism.'

The week was not only theoretical, it was also practical, and the group was trained to knock on doors and make contacts. Of the pastors and members who could actually go out, sixty went out and made over 288 contacts, thirty-seven reported wanting Bible studies, twenty-seven were interested in prophecy and were given a *Final Events* DVD, fifteen wanted to know more about health, fifteen were interested in family and marriage issues and three were interested in finance.

Our main presenter was Pastor Tyler Long, assistant director of the

Amazing Facts Centre of Evangelism. He was accompanied by his wife LaVonne and 18-month-old daughter Isabella. Pastor Long's engaging, easygoing attitude, his passion for winning souls and personal experience went down very well with the members. They reported that 'this was the most effective evangelism training that they have had'. One member wrote on the evaluation form that 'the event was so important that every pastor should have attended'.

Other presenters included Pastor Michael Simpson, NEC Personal Ministries director, Dr Terry Messenger, SEC Personal Ministries director, and Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director. A number of other ministers led out in the worship services and devotions, including Pastors Vasantha Kumar Jayaraj, Mart de Groot, Leslie Hill, George Kumi and Victor Marshall, just to name a few.

The Art of Evangelism is shown best in the lives of

individuals who practise it. Many of the members reported that the week will see them having a new desire to use the training they received to involve the local church in more evangelism. Pastor Eglan Brooks said, 'We have done something significant this week. Not only have we placed valuable resources in the hands of our members but we have also reignited 'The Art of Evangelism' in the lives of these 115 members.'

Jean Ross was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. However, he sent his resources that were distributed to the participants. The event was recorded by 'Ministry Media' and will shortly be available for sale from the BUC Personal Ministries department. Pictures of the event were taken by Kish Palmer and are available for viewing at www.adventist.org.uk.



Polyamory seems to be an emerging trend. In recent years we have heard a great deal about same-sex marriage and cohabitation. However, we may be in for another shock in the area of relationships. Consider this article:

'Terisa and Matt and Vera and Larry — along with Scott, who's also at this dinner — are not swingers, per se; they aren't pursuing casual sex. Nor are they polygamists of the sort portrayed on HBO's Big Love; they aren't religious, and they don't have multiple wives. But they do believe in "ethical non-monogamy", or engaging in loving, intimate relationships with more than one person — based upon the knowledge and consent of everyone involved. They are polyamorous, to use the term of art applied to multiple-partner families like theirs, and they wouldn't want to live any other way.'

I checked out the website www.lovemore.com and saw what people who practised polyamory had to say for themselves. What struck me about all that they said was how reasonable it all sounds.

Their take seems to be that marriage clearly doesn't work for many, so why not try a different model? Many married people commit adultery, they say, so why not be open about it?

On the one hand, that sounds plausible, sensible and pragmatic. On the other hand, to anyone who has some understanding of the book of Genesis and the way God intended family relationships to work, it sounds totally wrong.

'... a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.' Genesis 2:24.

It is true that divorce rates are very high, and even in our own Church marriages are often not as happy as we might wish. My own parents divorced when I was a teenager, and that caused incredible pain to all the family, so I am well aware of the effects and damage divorce brings. However, to look for a solution in such things as cohabitation and polyamory will not solve anything.

As Christians, the best way we can refute these alternative lifestyles may not be so

with Jonathan Barrett



Polyamorous

much by moralising, but by demonstrating that marriage *can* work. For those of us who are married or intending to marry, it will mean doing whatever is necessary to live up to that biblical injunction to stay 'united' to our husbands or wives. That may mean a willingness to get counselling help, both before and during marriage, and an openness to let the Holy Spirit work in us at a very deep level. Wouldn't it be something if we could counter the arguments people put forward for such lifestyles as polyamory by demonstrating that strong, successful marriages between a man and a woman are on the increase in our church community!

*www.newsweek.com/id/209164



The Kingdom dress code

David Marshall

The chief curse of the Church is judgementalism.

Judgementalism is the principal by-product of legalism.

Judgementalism and legalism are: two 'isms' among us that need to be 'wasms'.

Legalism is obsessive attention to the requirements of the law with little or no feel for the intention or spirit of the law.

Judgementalism is the inclination to make personal, moral judgements about other people.

Legalists are bound and shackled by lists of dos and don'ts and are intimidated and immobilised by others' demands and expectations.

That is a miserable state to live in. Reduce Christianity to legalism and there are only two routes to fulfilment. One is to achieve pseudo-intellectual stimulus by amplifying the law into regulations to cover more and yet more life situations until you have the whole of life clamped. The second is to go around with your mental clipboards of dos and don'ts firing off verbal volleys in the direction of perceived rule-breakers.

Legalism and judgementalism are symptomatic of states of insecurity and unconversion. The victims of the legalist-judgementalists tend to be the young, the vulnerable and those who have just begun their search for truth. I know of hundreds (and I'm sure there are thousands) of those who have been driven away from our midst by judgementalists. True, judgementalists occasionally introduce people to the Church. But what sort of Adventists do their converts become? They are apt to be cloned in their own image.

Legalism does not produce obedience. The reverse: it produces hypocrisy. Obedience comes as Christians relate to the Person of Jesus, accept the free gift of his grace and allow him to transform them from the inside out. Legalistic judgementalism is a cult of externals. Authentic Christians have been broken, acknowledge their need of God's grace, have received that grace and begun a day-by-day walk with Jesus in the course of which they have become more and more gracious.

Legalistic judgementalism was a chief curse of 'the Church' during the ministry of

Jesus, and obliged him to devote so much of his ministry to a crusade against Pharisaism.¹

Legalistic judgementalism was the chief curse of the early Church and obliged Paul to target Judaizers in his first letter, Galatians, and in most subsequent ones.

Legalistic judgementalism is the chief curse of the end-time Church. Legalists respond to the offer of the riches of God's grace along these lines: 'Don't want it! Don't need it! I'm rich enough already! I can achieve my own salvation!' To them the Risen Christ says: 'You say, "I'm rich. I don't need a thing!" But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.'² Pharisees are called Laodiceans these days. And there are two scary things about Laodiceans. First, there's a lot of them about. Second, they're likely to be unsaved. Why unsaved? Because the letter from the Risen Christ to the church at Laodicea indicates that he has been shut out and is knocking to be let in.³

Legalistic judgementalists are apt to be very fierce about dress code. Dress code requirements vary widely from culture to culture and generation to generation, but most judgementalists don't know this. They overlook 'the weightier matters of the law' such as mercy.⁴ As a consequence they mercilessly have at people of a different culture or generation for dressing differently from the way they dress.

Are we to assume, then, that the Lord has no dress code?

When high priest Joshua stood before the angel and was accused by Satan, it was Satan who was rebuked, not Joshua. What mattered to God was that his high priest was 'a brand picked from the burning'. Joshua's 'filthy clothes' were taken away and replaced by clean clothes. The angel said to Joshua, 'See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you.'⁵ So the garments that matter are garments provided for us to replace our own.

Jesus spoke often about a great wedding banquet to which the King would invite everyone. Banquets took time to prepare because they catered for a great many people and lasted several days. Hence, in addition to the initial invite, it was necessary for

the King's servants to announce when all was ready and it was time to 'come to the banquet'. When that happened, invitees made up all kinds of excuses not to attend.

The King told his servants, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys. . . and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'⁶ Those who came included the poor, the lame, the blind and the victims of injustice.

However, one of those who came was rejected by the King because he had offended the royal dress code. He was, you will recall, the man without a wedding garment.

Who was he?

He was a man who had insulted the host by refusing to wear the wedding clothes provided. He was a complacent sort of fellow who pushed his way into the King's banquet in the 'filthy rags' of his own righteousness⁷ on the assumption that his best was good enough for God. Only it wasn't, and it isn't. He was not fit to be seen before God, let alone to enter his Kingdom feast.

The Kingdom dress code?

The garments given by the King 'woven in the loom of heaven [without] one thread of human devising',⁸ 100% Heaven-made; 0% manmade. As Isaiah said, 'For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.'⁹

That is the Kingdom dress code.

To the man dressed in the tattered rags of his own righteousness, the King said, 'Friend, . . . how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.' (Matthew 22:12.)

Why speechless? For the first time he realised that sin is more than breaking rules and righteousness more than not breaking rules. Sin had, all along, been a broken relationship with Jesus. And the only righteousness that can withstand the Father's gaze is the perfect garment of the righteousness of Jesus.

References:

- ¹Matthew chapters 5 and 23 record the teachings of Jesus that take apart the cult of Pharisaism.
- ²See Revelation 3:14-22. ³Revelation 3:20.
- ⁴Matthew 23:23, KJV. ⁵Zechariah chapter 3. See especially verses 2-4. ⁶Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24. ⁷Isaiah 64:6. ⁸COL, pages 309, 311.
- ⁹Isaiah 61:10.



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
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EcoHealth — Ecosystems and 'green' facts

Part 2

Wikipedia describes EcoHealth as 'an emerging field of study researching how changes in the earth's ecosystems are impacting human health'. An ecosystem is defined as 'a natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms in an area functioning together with all of the physical factors of the environment'. These independent organisms usually share the same habitat and food chains.

EcoHealth studies global changes in our biological, physical, social and economic environments and analyses how these changes impact human health. Current examples include recent research on the increasing asthma rates linked to air pollution; toxins like PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) contaminating fish in the Great Lakes (USA); and 'habitat fragmentation' (specific type of environmental change process) causing increased rates of Lyme disease, an emerging infectious disease caused by various species of bacteria.

Current research indicates that virulent new infections such as the ebola virus, SARS and bird flu have all resulted from ecosystem changes caused by humans. The sobering message is that these diseases have high death rates and few effective therapeutic interventions to combat them.

EcoHealth focuses on striving to provide both practical and innovative solutions to assist in the reduction of negative health impacts of ecosystem change or even reverse the damage. Addressing this challenge, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is urging everyone to make the change to a 'green culture', in which environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility.

Reducing our eco-footprint is really about rethinking how we perform our usual day-to-day tasks, our shopping habits and the way we live. For example, large energy use, particularly from fossil fuels, results in carbon dioxide pollution

which is linked to global climate change.

Here are a few facts on energy conservation for your consideration.

Did you know?

- In the UK more than 40% of CO₂ emissions come from domestic energy and travel.
- We would reduce 40 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually if everyone in the UK made simple domestic changes such as turning off appliances and insulating their homes.
- It is estimated that we could save approximately £8.6 billion on energy bills every year by making our homes more energy efficient.
- There are several available grants which you can access for energy efficiency in your home and you don't necessarily have to be on benefits to qualify.

Next issue we look at tips for going green.

Good health!



The prophets

by Daniel Duda*

When God decided to reveal himself to us, he did not do it in the form of 28 fundamental beliefs – a systematic chain of theological truths – or a recipe for a happy marriage, or a detailed manual on how to know God's will. He revealed himself in a story.

Thus the Bible has a story-line starting from the Garden of Eden and ending in the New Jerusalem. God, who exists in a community as plurality of persons, created mankind in his image to form a community. And when sin thwarted God's original intention (Genesis 3), God started a long process of restoration of community. He not only wants to have a personal relationship with each one of us ('Adam, where are you?' Genesis 3:9), God also wants to deal with systemic and structural evil in human society ('I have heard their cry!' Exodus 3:7-9) and create a new type of community that his people would model to the world.

The story

Historical books of the Bible tell us the story of God's people in the Old Testament era. Starting with the calling of a man by the name of Abram, whom he not only blessed personally ('I will bless you'), but through him ultimately blessed a group of people ('I will make you into a great nation') and who was finally to become a universal blessing for all humanity ('all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'). (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8.) God gives his law (*Torah*) as a safe guidance for life and the basis of his covenant with his people.

Wisdom literature individualises the covenant and shows that though, generally speaking, those who follow God's commands and rules are better off, it does not always work out that way on an individual basis.

Seeking wisdom and remaining faithful to God regardless of the circumstances of life is important.

The prophets

When Israel wants to have a king like the nations around (1 Samuel 8:5), a new institution, the monarchy, starts. The king will be the highest political and military authority and inclined to think that he is also the highest religious authority. But a new office takes on a significant prominence now – the office of a prophet who becomes the highest religious authority. The history of Israel will from now on be a history of conflict between the king and the prophet (Saul-Samuel; David-Nathan; Ahab-Elijah; Hezekiah-Isaiah; Zedekiah-Jeremiah; Jeroboam II-Amos, Hosea, and so on).

We will not understand the role and the message of the prophetic books if we overlook this basic historic fact. This is also reflected in the fact that in the Hebrew canon the prophetic books are divided into the former prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings) and the latter prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the twelve 'minor prophets').

The Christian canon has seventeen prophetic books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, Daniel, plus twelve minor prophets). The distinction between major and minor prophets is based on length and not on significance, and the sequence of the books is largely determined by length and chronology (both major and minor prophets).

The later writing prophets continue with powerful ministry of word and deed the tradition of earlier non-writing prophets (Samuel, Nathan, Elijah and Elisha). They also use prophetic oracles and acted parables to supplement their ministry.

The writing prophets can best be divided into: *Pre-exilic* (Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah) *Exilic* (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel) *Post-exilic* (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) (Prophet Joel does not have enough information to date him reliably; however, his position in the Hebrew canon suggests pre-exilic dating.)

Daniel

The book of Daniel, though classified among the minor prophets in our English Bible, is found among the 'writings' in the Hebrew canon. Daniel's ministry in Babylon recalls Joseph's role in Egypt and demonstrates the triumph of the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world. This theme will be further developed in the New Testament. It is an apocalyptic book, so it uses various apocalyptic symbols to proclaim the prophetic message about the triumph of God's Kingdom and a general resurrection at the end of history. The apocalyptic nature of the book is similar to Zechariah and the NT book of Revelation.

Restoration

The prophetic rebukes of Israel are based on the Sinai covenant and especially criticise the Israelites' idolatry and failure to respect the principles of social justice as amply found in the Torah. The prophetic books record warnings of coming judgement but they also contain prophecies of restoration after the judgement: God will pardon his repentant people (Hosea 2; Jeremiah 31:18-20), the two kingdoms will be reunited in a purified land (Jeremiah 30:1-11; Ezra 37:15-23; 48:1-29) and enabled to

obey God in a new way (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:16-21; Zephaniah 3:9-13); Jerusalem and the temple will be rebuilt (Isaiah 54; Jeremiah 33:1-13; Ezekiel 40-43), with God dwelling once again in the temple (Ezekiel 43:1-4; 48:30-35); a king from David's line will rule the people justly (Hosea 3:5; Is. 11:1-9; Micah 5:1-5; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ezekiel 37:24-28); the nations will come to Zion to learn the ways of Israel's God (Isaiah 2:1-4; Jeremiah 3:17); and ultimately there will be a restored creation, as in Ezekiel's vision of a river flowing from the temple to revive the waters of the Dead Sea (47:1-12), or Isaiah's vision of a new heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25). Israel's restoration is described in resurrection language (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Hosea 6:1-3). Israel's restoration is seen as part of a larger picture, the renewing of creation and the blessing of the nations, in fulfilment of God's purposes in calling Abraham.

It is clear that the events after the return from Babylonian exile, as described in Ezra and Nehemiah, fell well short of the hopes expressed by the restoration prophecies.

Each of the post-exilic prophetic books concludes with passages which in different ways restate or develop the earlier prophecies of restoration (Haggai 2:20-23; Zechariah 8; 12-14; Mal 4), indicating that a complete fulfilment is still awaited.

Ezekiel 47-48 speaks of all twelve tribes dwelling in the land again, the new 'land of Israel' will be more extensive than even under David and Solomon (47:13-20); the new 'tribal territories' consist of twelve strips of land running from east to west, with a thirteenth reserved for the Levites and the temple; and no exact boundaries are specified (48:1-29). **This is Ezekiel's way of saying that Israel has a future that will be as glorious as anything from Israel's past, but it will also be qualitatively different from anything Israel**

has experienced so far.

The prophets predicted the coming of the Day of the Lord. Malachi (3-4) looks forward to a coming purification of the temple by the Lord himself; Jeremiah (31) to a new covenant with God's people; Ezekiel (36) to a new heart and spirit in Israel; Joel (2) to a new age in which the Holy Spirit is poured out upon all God's people, and Isaiah (2; 25; 65-66) to a glorious material world, an eschatological banquet and ultimately new heavens and new earth. The end of the historical narrative finds Israel, while restored to her land, still subject to foreign nations and with a rebuilt temple whose grandeur pales in comparison with Solomon's temple (Haggai 2:3).

The OT provides an account of 'fair beginnings and foul ending' (D. J. A. Clines) hardly conducive to build faith on it. Thus Muslims establish their faith on updating the OT on the basis of the Quran, Judaism on updating it with the Talmud, and Christianity updates it with the New Testament. The understanding of prophetic books is crucial for seeing how the NT writers understand and apply the OT promises, and the Bible story-line moves forward. Proper understanding of the OT prophecies is crucial for appreciating the NT world-view and appreciating the overall story of the Bible.

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Footprints Music Project

by Jeff Nicholson

The Footprints Music Project is providing the Bethel church in Derby with a unique outreach opportunity to the children and youth in the local community. The project led by Bonaventure Baptiste provides free music lessons to children living in this deprived area of Derby. Music lessons tend to be very expensive, which means that many parents in this area cannot afford them for their children. The project provides free music tuition, as well as instruments and books to the participating children in the neighbourhood. The project has attracted the attention of various local agencies such as the Tom Carey Foundation, The Abbey Neighbourhood Board and the Derby Self-help Fund which provides funding to support the project. This funding has been used to buy instruments, music books, pay the guitar teacher and provide transport costs for the violin teacher.

This community outreach project has proved very beneficial as the church is seen as contributing positively to the community. It also has aided in enhancing community cohesion by bringing children and parents from different backgrounds together for instrumental practices and concerts. In providing this service the church seeks not just to develop children's music skills but to offer diversionary activities, thus minimising the risk of their engaging in antisocial activities. Initially the target was children in years 5 and 6 attending three primary schools in the Abbey ward, but because of the demand for music lessons we have extended this to accommodate others outside this age group.

We are currently running two sessions for piano, violin, acoustic and bass guitars, as well as music theory. We have a total of 25 students constituting a good cultural and racial mix. We have also managed to put on two successful concerts to showcase the work the children have been doing and to raise more funds for the continuity of the project. Parents, guardians, friends and relatives of the students thronged the church for the concert. Currently Footprints is run by a management committee made up of members of the Bethel church and the Community Cohesion Officer for the Abbey ward area.



Sri Lanka: ACE empowers communities

by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK director

New kitchens, verandas, toilets and fencing – some of the benefits of a recently completed project for communities left vulnerable by the political instability in the region, and the Indian Ocean tsunami which devastated the Ampara District when it struck in 2004.

The Ampara Community Empowerment (ACE) project, which was funded by ADRA International and the ADRA United Kingdom office, was implemented between April 2007 and May 2009, and assisted more than 400 families in fifteen villages of the Pottuvil Division of the Ampara District.

One of ADRA Sri Lanka's proudest accomplishments was the successful creation and improvement of 336 water sources within the tsunami-affected communities, including the ongoing rehabilitation of hand pumps, overhead tanks, rainwater harvesting tanks and wells. ADRA also introduced hygiene and sanitation training into the communities, making a significant impact on the health and hygiene of the participants.

'The post-tsunami communities in which we work face social and cultural challenges which make them more vulnerable,' said Castillo. To address these concerns, ACE developed special training and capacity building programmes that strengthen the community-based organisation that will be responsible for the maintenance and sustainability of the project's activities. ADRA also organised twenty-six peace-building activities that with the participation of more than 6,100 beneficiaries encourage peaceful relations among the multi-ethnic communities.

ADRA improved and constructed 403 facilities, including kitchens, verandas, toilets and fencing. To improve the health and nutrition of targeted families, ADRA introduced the practice of composting and home gardening, benefiting nearly 400 families.

'Thanks to ADRA, in Pottuvil there are happier and healthier families,' said a local government official.

ADRA has been working for the people of Sri Lanka since 1989 in the areas of economic development, emergency management, basic health care and food security.



Involving children in mission

by Heather Haworth, Children's Ministries director, BUC

Children want to pass on their faith. The Valuegenesis, and other surveys, have come to the conclusion that children are honest and do not want to be hypocrites when it comes not only to living their faith but also to sharing their faith. They want to be involved in missionary work. A majority of adult missionaries made their decision to be a missionary before 10 years of age. Here are:

Fourteen principles involving children in mission

- Guide the children into a personal relationship with Christ.
- Have a variety of age-appropriate outreach activities for the children.
- Realise that children, especially younger ones, prefer group activities to solitary ones.
- Compile a list of missionary activities and let the children select the ones they like best.
- Get the children's suggestions for missionary activities.
- Explain very carefully to them God's plan of salvation.
- Present God as a Friend of children.
- Train them in different kinds of missionary work, according to their preferences and abilities.
- Practise the principles of Christianity rather than merely teach the doctrines of a religion.
- Emphasise the joy that comes with doing missionary work.
- Admit to them that although missionary work can be difficult, it can also be fun.
- Explain that God expects everyone to be a missionary for him.
- Realise that they are children and not fully-grown missionaries. Allow them the joy of childhood.
- Understand that their personalities influence their relationship with God and how they can serve him.

Children who are involved in mission are the least likely to reject Christ and his Church.

Six styles of being a missionary

GIVERS They use their money, time and talents to help people learn of Jesus. Children can be encouraged to be givers by helping to raise funds for orphan children overseas.

PRAY-ERS They are children who show concern when they hear of needs. They would be the first to ask Jesus for help. These children can pray for

missionaries in difficult foreign fields so that the gospel story can be shared with others. Use a prayer walk in their neighbourhood to pray for different families.

WELCOMERS These children befriend newcomers and help them adjust to their new environment as they share the story of Jesus with them. They are curious and are keenly interested in other cultures. They love to ask questions about how others live. Encourage them to befriend children who are different from them, or children who are difficult to get along with.

SENDERS They partner with missionaries by caring, praying and giving to meet their needs. They can help missionary families before or after they leave.

CONNECTORS Do you have children who love to organise projects and who encourage others to be involved? These children can be the connectors. They can organise missionary projects for others to share the gospel story, too.

GOERS They are children who love to take the Gospel to others. Many children already possess this simple faith and willing spirit and find it easy to talk to their friends about Jesus. Suggest a variety of ways to do this missionary work.

Frequently, the word *mission* is linked with serving Jesus in foreign countries. But mission is also to take place in one's own country. The Gospel is needed here *and* abroad.

Twelve ways to be a 'home' missionary

- Children often love to help distribute outreach cards. Teach them how to be good witnesses by only walking on pathways and being courteous. Always have an adult close by.
- Encourage children to pray regularly for the conversion of a few people they know.
- Have a theme party for your child's birthday, such as Noah's Ark, and show a Bible story DVD at the party, and give tiny books about Noah in the party bags, with plastic animals, rainbow stickers and so on.
- Invite all their friends to Holiday Bible School.
- When a new baby is born, check the Adventist Book Centre for a gift book for the parents.
- Develop a really lively and interesting family worship together, and then let your children invite a friend for supper and to share in the worship time. Create a cosy atmosphere.



- If your children are in a special event at church, invite non-Christian relatives along to share the occasion, or video the event and show it to family members.
- Buy or design and make a witnessing T-shirt for your children to wear. Make sure it is tasteful and attractive. (www.religioustshirts.co.uk)
- Involve the church children in a community outreach project or aid project and invite the local paper to write a report about them.
- Use computer skills to create posters, cards and so on.
- Preach at Pathfinder and youth evangelistic meetings.
- Get permission from the paediatric unit, old folks' home or hospital to do Christian story-telling and singing for the patients once a month.

Supporting missionaries abroad

Sabbath School includes a mission story, so children are used to hearing about what is happening in other countries. To involve children in more than just listening to stories is the children's leader's responsibility. The Adventist Development & Relief Agency will have projects for children to support, as well as the annual ADRA appeal, www.adra.org.uk. Also look up www.adventistmission.org, www.childrensministries.gc.adventist.org and www.childmin.com. For an in-depth resource click on to the BUC Children's Ministries *Tell a Child, Tell the World Evangelism Manual*, www.adventist.org.uk.

Launch a project by holding a mission fellowship lunch.

- Plan a potluck featuring the country you are going to support. Invite the children's families and friends and the whole church. Label the foods by name and country of origin so people will know what they are eating. If you have people in your area from the country you have chosen to help, ask them for recipes or decoration ideas.
- Plan interesting things for the children to do when they first arrive. This will encourage the children to arrive on time so they won't miss any of the fun! Learn words of the language of the country you're helping.
- Show a mission DVD from that country.
- Colour a flag. Let each child colour one flag. Decorate your Sabbath School room with these flags or mount them on dowels and use in the thirteenth Sabbath programme.
- Make a cosy reading corner with a bright rug and cushions. On a low table or shelf, display



The All Nations Adventist company in Camberwell, under the leadership of Pastor Sackey, was founded by Newbold students in 1992. In the picture Dr Eddie Cole, chairman of Sierra Leonean Adventists Abroad, talks to the chairman of BT, Sir Mike Rake

BT's chairman recognises London Adventist volunteer at Chairman's Awards

A London-based Seventh-day Adventist charity has been given a major financial boost, thanks to the work of one of its volunteers, based at BT's intellectual property rights department. Dr Edward Cole's dedication was recognised by Sir Mike Rake, BT's chairman, at the Chairman's Awards. These awards are the highest accolade of one of the company's longest running and highly regarded employee charity schemes, BT Community Champions.

Every year the Chairman's Awards receive hundreds of applications from outstanding community champions, who commit time, energy, their life skills and talent for the benefit of society and their local area. The applicants are then short-listed by a global judging panel from across the company, with the winners being hand-picked by the chairman himself.

picture books concerning the country chosen. Check the children's travel sections of your local library for interesting books.

- Make a missions' bank. Provide jars, stickers and labels reading 'For the children of the country you have chosen' and have the children take the 'banks' home and fill the jars with coins during the quarter. Each week show

This year Dr Edward Cole was presented with the Education, Development and Awareness Award for his unwavering voluntary work with the Sierra Leonean Adventists Abroad. This charity builds bridges between the UK and Sierra Leone, which is at the bottom of the UN human development index, mainly due to civil war. The SLAA focuses on linking professionals with projects designed to reduce chronic poverty and improve health and education in poorer communities. Over the last five years the rehabilitation and the reopening of the war-ruined hospital in Masanga, Sierra Leone, has been one of the charity's successes. Masanga hospital now provides free medical care for 23,000 patients every year. As well as health care, the SLAA pays for the education of sixty students, with the aim of building up health-care and education professionals in the country.

the children how your own bank is filling and ask them how they are doing. Send a note to the parents, asking them to help find ways for the children to fill their banks for missions.

- Invite a guest. Find out whether there are people from the country you have chosen living in your area. Put an announcement of your need

second year I've presided over these awards and I'm very impressed by the dedication and selflessness shown by all the volunteers. I'm proud of them all and I'm pleased that BT is able to give back to the community by supporting and encouraging our employees in this way. I'd like to extend my personal thanks to, and admiration for, everyone involved in local community work across the UK and throughout the world. Congratulations again to Edward for his outstanding contribution.'

DR EDWARD COLE



With us in the valleys

The second edition of *Beyond the Valley* has just been written by Pauline Oxley of the St Albans church and published by Authorhouse. Pauline's concluding thought reads: 'I believe that the same God who is with us in the valleys can also be with us on the mountaintop. He can give us the ability to reach courageously "beyond the valley".'

This second edition contains a selection of seventy poems, along with inspirational thoughts behind the poems, and is available for purchase on the website: www.authorhouse.co.uk/beyondthevalley, and comes in hardback and soft cover. It is Pauline's hope that the reader will find enrichment and food for thought on each page, accompanied by precious, favourite Scripture verses. It brings together personal experiences of how difficult situations can become a blessing.

PAULINE OXLEY

in the church newsletter or church bulletin. If you find people from those areas, invite them to visit your class. Ask them to come in their traditional costume if they have one and to bring interesting pictures, crafts or clothes from their country to show. Prepare some questions to ask your visitors and give them the questions ahead of time.

The crucial decision

A baptismal candidate's report

by James Bell, 10, student at Harper Bell School and Yardley Pathfinder

I was among the seven people who decided to make that crucial decision to follow Christ by joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was a wonderful event for me and the other candidates. First there was the baby dedication of Lianne Brown. Then Pastor R. Macintosh preached the Word of God. He is the senior pastor of the Camp Hill flock, which I understand amounts to 600 members plus our visitors.

After the sermon entitled 'The Way Forward', which centred on John 17:3 that speaks about eternal life through Jesus and is echoed by the words of Paul in Philippians 3:10-17, it was time for the baptism. I felt excited as I stepped into the warm and lovely water. The candidates were as follows: Amelia Hall, Atlanta Quebec, Delight and Juliet Mutemwe, Grace Chambers, Vanessa Reyes and James Bell (myself). All these brethren are among the names of the newest members of Camp Hill SDA church!

I decided to be baptised because I remembered that God is my Redeemer and my Saviour. He died for my sins, not because I asked him to but because he loved me. Now think about it; imagine someone dying in one of the most painful ways, being beaten, spat at and having a crown of thorns forced on his head, just so he could save sinful people from what they deserved and give them eternal life! Not just that, but firstly, instead of dying for us, he



Left to right: Amelia Hall, Delight Mutemwe, Grace Chambers, Juliet Mutemwe, Vanessa Reyes, James Bell and Atlanta Quebec

could have been wearing a crown of gold, sitting on a throne of glory and listening to the sweet music of angels and, secondly, he obeyed his Father. Someone like that deserves to be worshipped. You must agree!

I am grateful to those who have encouraged me spiritually – Pastors Milan Gugleta, Dan Majaducon and Elias Bran and the Sabbath School teachers, Harper Bell teachers and Pathfinder leaders.

The feeling of being baptised is absolutely amazing. I could literally feel my old sinful self washing away, revealing my new body. And immediately I smiled a real smile. Even today, as I write this almost two months later, I can still feel that new change, and I seem to have brighter, happier days. Now that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director, represented former Ashford pastors and spoke of his joy in seeing a small group of committed believers developing into the forty-strong band that are currently making an impact on the town.

Current pastor, Vasyl Vartsaba, quipped that it was much easier to reflect as a former pastor than to make a statement as the current pastor. However, the joy on his face was evident as he joined with the church elders and core members of the church to sign their official charter. His feelings, and those of all the members and visitors present, were summed up by the theme song for the day, 'We've come this far by faith'. Members argue strongly that they believe faith will take them forward even more in the future in their challenge to make a difference in Ashford.

VICTOR HULBERT

Remembering Lockerbie, Al Megrahi and forgiveness

by John Wilby

In December 1988 Seventh-day Adventist John Wilby was head of the Scottish Ambulance Service. As such he was in Lockerbie within an hour of Pan Am flight 103 crashing into the town. John currently serves as Communication sponsor for the Scottish Mission. Below is the letter of thanks Prime Minister Thatcher sent to him after the event.

It was just four days before Christmas and a little after 7pm. I was driving home from Ambulance Headquarters and a few hundred metres away from a welcome late dinner when, over the car's ambulance radio, came a message. 'We have reports of a scheduled aircraft lost from radar over southern Scotland.' And then, a few moments later, the chilling message, 'We believe it has crashed on Lockerbie.'

No aspect of life is veiled to those in the Ambulance Service. Dealing with people experiencing what is often the biggest crisis in their lives is the nature of the job. A motor vehicle accident, a heart attack, an attempted suicide or an incident of major proportions may occur within the period of a single shift.

All three emergency services have plans for dealing with major incidents. These are periodically tested with exercises. Later, when I headed the London Ambulance Service, they would include a worst-case scenario of a jumbo jet crashing on Waterloo Station in the rush hour. I also witnessed, first-hand, the effects of IRA bombings in the capital. But we had never really planned in Scotland for what faced us when I arrived at the scene an hour or so later. As emergency services from Scotland and across the English border converged on the town a joint command centre was established in a local school gymnasium. Teams of Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel searched the town, and further afield, in the hope of finding survivors. By 2am TV news reporters, representing most of the world's media, had descended on the town seeking interviews with the incident commanders.

That night, and more so as daylight broke, the full magnitude of what had happened became apparent. Scenes still too dreadful and painful to describe will remain indelibly printed on the minds of townsfolk and of those who responded to the tragedy. Two hundred and seventy people died, including eleven local residents on the ground, in what is the greatest UK loss of life from a single act of terrorism.

Though the cause would not be known until some time later, I was struck by the obscenity of such evil being visited upon a small, quiet Scottish

country town. But the lasting strong bands of friendship that followed between Lockerbie residents and the overseas relatives of those who perished is yet another glowing example of goodness emerging from evil. However, the long-term political ramifications could not have been predicted by the civic and political leaders, including the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who visited the town the day after the disaster. A lengthy mass murder investigation and the trial and eventual conviction of a Libyan national have yet to bring closure for many of those bereaved.

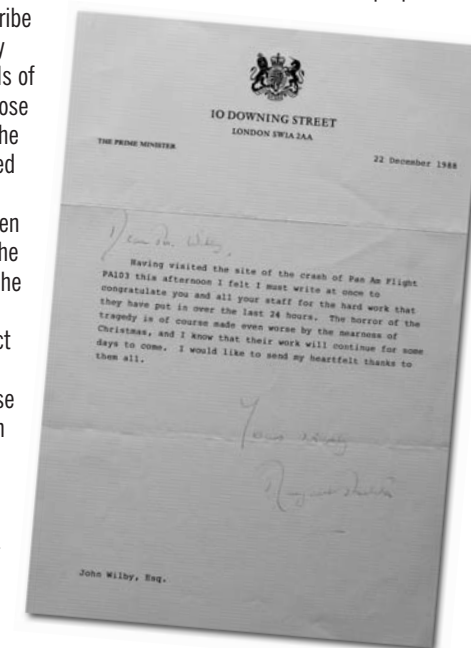
That convicted bomber's recent release on compassionate grounds has also evoked passionate and divided views on whether or not this was appropriate and morally acceptable. Kenny MacAskill, Scottish Justice Secretary, summed up the reasons for authorising the release this way: 'The perpetration of an atrocity and outrage cannot and should not be a basis for losing sight of who we are, the values we seek to uphold, and the faith and beliefs by which we seek to live.'

'Mr Al Megrahi did not show his victims any comfort or compassion. They were not allowed to return to the bosom of their families to see out their lives, let alone their dying days. No compassion was shown by him to them. But that alone is not a reason for us to deny compassion to him and his family in his final days.'

'Our justice system demands that judgement be imposed but compassion be available. Our beliefs dictate that justice be served, but mercy be shown. Compassion and mercy are about upholding the beliefs that we seek to live by, remaining true to our values as a people. No matter the severity of the provocation or the atrocity perpetrated.'

This was a brave view when balanced against the very public criticisms expressed on both sides of the Atlantic – and the unfortunate and yet perhaps predictable welcome given Al Megrahi on his return to Libyan soil. Yet how do those sentiments resonate with what I, and many others, witnessed and experienced that December night twenty years ago?

I was there in the middle of the atrocity. I know the suffering, the sorrow, the pain. I know the struggle between the balance of forgiveness, justice and mercy. There may be no perfect solution in this imperfect world but for me the satisfying answer is that of Paul: 'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.' (Colossians 3:12, 13, NIV.)



Ashford church organisation

'The church is a jewel,' Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference president, told members of the Ashford church at their organisation service. Basing his thoughts on Malachi 3:17, he emphasised that God looks at the church as his treasure and considers it as very special.

Some forty jewels made up the group that officially became Ashford International Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath 22 August. Karen Learmond recounted how the idea for a church plant in Ashford started back in 2002 when a small group of Adventist residents began to meet on Wednesday evenings. As more families moved into the area, a decision was made to start Sabbath services in May 2003, and two years later they were formed officially as a company. Tribute was paid to Pastor Fernand Lombart, then pastor of the Canterbury and Folkestone churches, who engaged with the local members to facilitate the church plant. These local churches also participated in joint witnessing

activities – along with others from as far away as Lewisham – to help build a witness in Ashford. Programmes over recent years included holiday clubs, fun days and health expos, along with witnessing in the town centre and a campaign in their current 'home', the Kennington Methodist/UR Church in Faversham Road.

The day was one of celebration with the youth performing an excellent mime, the Ashford

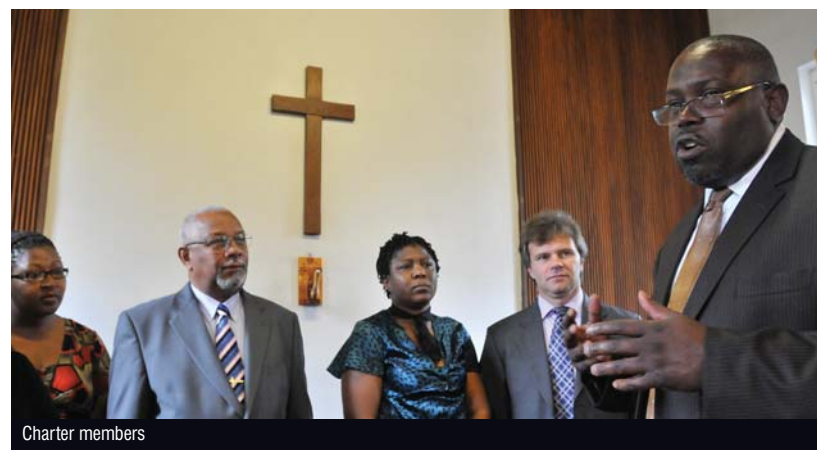
Chorale and others presenting special items, and greetings coming from as far away as Swaziland and Australia. Area 4 co-ordinator, Pastor Israel Williams, rejoiced in the organisation of a new church in the south-eastern corner of the Conference. He commended the churches for the way they had worked together to establish the new church and saw this as the way forward to planting more churches in the future.



Teen mime group



Godwin Benjamin presents the charter to first elder Chris McBean



Charter members

Irish Mission summer camp success

by Heather Keough

On 11 August the annual Irish Mission Youth camp commenced in Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland. Forty-five children and young people, aged between 9 and 17, and twenty staff descended on Portlick Scout Centre, and the peace and quiet of the

was our guest speaker, originally from England, but now working as pastor at SLO Adventist church. God spoke through Pastor Stephen, who kept all the campers both young and old completely captivated with stories from the Bible and from his own life. People were heard



Shauna Rothwell baptised by her uncle, Pastor Douglas McCormac



The Irish Mission campers

countryside was filled with loud chatter and laughter. The theme for this year's camp was 'Dabbling with Faith, Flirting with Hope, Searching for Love'. Pastor Stephen Eastwood

on many occasions repeating the stories to each other. Throughout the nine days many activities were planned, such as kayaking, horse riding, laser skir-

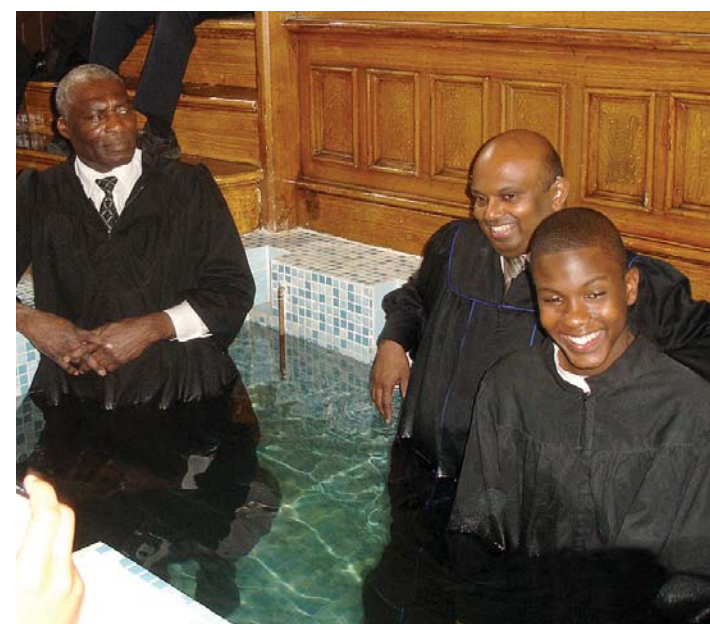
mishing, and many more outdoor activities. We had a day trip to the beach. It started off dull and overcast but, when we arrived, God blessed us with sunshine.

On 15 August we celebrated a special Sabbath when one of our young people was baptised. Shauna Rothwell had made the decision to be baptised at last year's summer camp. Family, friends and campers gathered around Lough Rea as Shauna was baptised by her uncle, Pastor Douglas McCormac. Following the baptism, Shauna gave a moving testimony in which she talked about her diagnosis of leukaemia when she was 3 years old, and her relapse when she was 9. Shauna talked about the time she had pneumonia while she was having chemotherapy, and how the doctors were amazed at how speedy her recovery was. Shauna said that was to do with the many prayers which were said for her during her illness.

Towards the end of the camp, Pastor Stephen made an appeal for baptism. Thirty-one young people came forward to request Bible studies and baptism. We praise God for this. On the last night of camp we enjoyed 'Camp's Got Talent', which saw many funny acts from old and young.

Since the camp, we have received very positive feedback. The one statement that keeps being repeated is, 'This was the best camp ever.' God's presence was very evident over the nine days, and lives were changed. We are thankful to God for the young people who attended and for the staff who gave up their time to help out.

Please remember the Irish Mission young people in your prayers as God works in them and through them.



Walsall baptism

On 9 May, 15-year-old Zuko Simalane stepped up and made a stand for Jesus through baptism. Walsall laity held a three-week campaign with the theme 'Certainty in these uncertain times'. The campaign climaxed with the baptism of four candidates and another on profession of faith. Walsall pastor, Patricia Douglas, led the candidates in their vows, and the baptism was conducted by NEC Pathfinder director Pastor Trevor Thomas. One by one the candidates expressed their reasons for wanting to take the plunge. When asked to explain his reason, 15-year-old Zuko said, 'Because I love the Lord.' Pastor Thomas in his address said that Zuko expressed a decision to be baptised at the Pathfinders' camp and that he had proved himself a man by doing what some older than he refused to do, making a public declaration of his love for Jesus. This was witnessed by the huge number of young people who filled the church at Walsall. Others taking a stand that day were Mr Prince, Mrs M. Hemmings, Brother Arthur and on profession of faith Sister Prince.

It was a blessed and rewarding day for the Walsall brethren.

MARK TAYLOR

Praise in the park

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

Sunday 9 August was, thank God, a beautiful day and a day when God blessed the members of Eternal Praise choir, ably led by Elma Morgan, and a number of friends happy to share their talents to witness to the public visiting Cannon Hill Park that afternoon.

Within a short time of arriving in the park the choir found an audience of interested and appreciative members of the public who were delighted that the bandstand that is rarely utilised for bands was actually accommodating musicians and singers for a few hours at least. They laid out blankets and opened picnics, keen to hear the words and melodies of the choir. Choruses, special items and three pieces by representatives of the newly formed Midlands SDA Orchestra played songs to praise God and touch the hearts of the public.

The chair of the Friends of Cannon Hill Park, Mr Fox,



approached the music leaders and said that he was very happy with the way the Adventist church members had sung and interacted with people. He suggested that further involvement of the musicians of Camp Hill would be appreciated.

Youngsters enjoyed the music, too. One or two danced to the choruses and a lady burdened by her own circumstances had asked to sing and pray with the group as they closed the afternoon's proceedings. She was full of smiles from the spir-



itual upliftment she had experienced that day.

Sister Elma had been guided by

God to undertake this outreach programme, an afternoon of witnessing in praise and song to him.

Pathfinder weekend

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

Seventy plus Pathfinders from Yardley, Camp Hill, Ladywood and Peckham had an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting camping trip from 3 to 8 August.

Rainy weather persisted but those who had to undertake the 25km hike had the challenge of completing this in one day rather than two, fuelled by a hearty meal and early night to bed immediately before.

When the younger Pathfinders joined the camp there were more sunny spells than showery ones, but for all lots of fun, learning and adventure. More importantly, a chance to witness – other campers were invited to the evening worship sessions where Pastor Jeff Nicholson preached messages to engage the young minds and enhance their appreciation of God's messages in the Bible.

A special campfire concert on Saturday night where, once settled with their chairs, blankets and teddy bears, thirty or so invited campers also occupying plots at Blackwell Court had the opportunity to learn songs and choruses favoured by young Adventists and hear beautiful singing from representatives of the various clubs. Trevor Davis, Anolin Stephens, Cislyn Morgan and Gloria Bishop are to be congratulated for their effort to gather a forty-strong team of adult and youth counsellors and skilled persons to teach fire building, wood chopping, drilling and marching, archery, First Aid and CPR in a tight schedule.





Your Adventist Discovery Centre

by Des Rafferty, ADC principal

The Adventist Discovery Centre, formerly known as the Voice of Prophecy, was established in the UK in 1945. Since then the centre has been a source of health and Bible knowledge to hundreds of thousands of people. The strong biblical tradition and the valuable peace and assurance it brings to modern living have had a positive impact on countless lives. The ADC facilitates the quiet transformation of the heart through the renewing of the mind in the privacy of the home. Seemingly silently, life-changing decisions are made that will echo in eternity.

Fire – the aftermath

Following the fire the ADC faced many challenges. The first requirement was finding suitable accommodation to continue providing a service to our students.

We are very grateful to the pastoral team and church members of the Stanborough Park church for their immediate response to our need. The ADC relocated to the sub-gallery of the church where computers were speedily connected into a network allowing access to our database, so that the processing of existing lessons and

registration of new students could continue. A makeshift lesson storage system was devised which involved using every square foot of the sub-gallery. This, in turn, had to be cleared away every Thursday afternoon to allow the church to be cleaned in preparation for Sabbath services.

We managed to achieve a rhythm, and quickly hundreds of lessons were mailed out to students, minimising the period of disruption.

The centre then moved in late December from Stanborough Park church to the newly acquired temporary headquarters at Frogmore and remained there until 20 March 2009.

Following completion of the plan to restore the water-damaged ADC office, the team was able to return to Stanborough Park, but with one drawback: the operation had to be run on generated power. Once again this provided its own challenges in protecting sensitive computer and printing equipment from spikes and surges. Once this had been achieved, our output level steadily grew, restoring contact with our student population.

By the time mains electricity had been restored in June we were in full flow, marking, printing and processing the many requests from members and students alike.

As I write it is now twenty-three weeks since our return,

and I thank God for the way he sustained our operation and the many people and companies who contributed to easing the load along the way.

In all of our wanderings and movement, the ADC staff has performed magnificently and I would like to commend and thank all of them publicly for their dedication, hard work and patient endurance.

As you can imagine, it has taken a while to find some things, and each day the old game of concentration is played over and over. Nonetheless we are now running efficiently and reaching a wider and more diverse audience than before.

Student activity

At the last ADC board in June of this year it was a privilege to report the increase in applications, enrolments and graduations.

For the first time in recent memory the ADC has 22,000 registered students on its data-

base. Of this figure 12,000 students have actively pursued their course of study over the last twelve months.

Using our lapsed and inactive programme, we are able to encourage those who for a variety of reasons have stopped communicating with us. While this increased activity has presented its own challenges, the centre has demonstrated its ability to handle the increased volume.

Advertising

Much of the increase in applications is due to the advertising campaign first commissioned in March 2007, using a lead generating company – Response Direct Publishing.

The advertising of our most popular health course 'Health' yielded 18,000 applications over the last two years. Additionally, the most recent advert for our Bible course 'Take Jesus', launched in March of this year, has yielded 1,689

Crystal ball vs Christian stall

by Manjit Biant

On 25-26 July, Adventist youth and worldly witches went head to head in Derby. At an annual Mind, Body, Spirit Fair, largely consisting of witches, wizards and spiritualists, the NEC department and Derby Chester Green Church initiated a NEWSTART booth operated by Derby youth volunteers.

Although outnumbered as was Elijah against the prophets of Baal, God's representatives had a fire kindling impact, with forty people signing up for health courses offered by the ADC and two people for Bible studies.

Bowed before the Lord in prayer, the youth began the day by calling upon God for divine protection. On

the other hand, the neighbouring witch battled in meditation and prayer by her crystal ball.

A taste of tension tied their tongues as people began to queue to inquire into this very peculiar looking health stall. Within a short space of time God really began to demonstrate his power by drawing many to participate in the activities at the stall. So much so that the neighbouring witch became so frustrated she moved her stall and crystal ball to the opposite side of the hall!



GBK baptism

On Sunday 19 July the Great Brickkiln St church witnessed a happy and blessed event. Gloria Gray took up the challenge and became the first candidate to be baptised in GBK. Worship began with rousing hymns of praise followed by a powerful sermon by Pastor A. Almeida. What made the ceremony special and almost unique was an item in song entitled 'The Greatness of God', rendered by Gloria in the pool prior to her baptism. After baptism and during a private interview, Gloria shared a wonderful testimony, stating that she attended a Sunday church for more than thirty years but felt there was still something missing in her spiritual life. She found that lost piece of the jigsaw puzzle when she attended a Seventh-day Adventist seminar in her neighbourhood.

Gloria states she found Jesus and has never looked back since. She has now joined the family of God as a new member of the GBK church. Finally, at the end of the baptismal service, Pastor Palmer made an altar call to those in the valley of decision to come forward and pledge their alliance to Christ. There was a positive response and appropriate action and prayer offered.

DELVA CAMPBELL

Being *real* about Christianity

by Michael Agyei



Jesus and Ministries (JAM) is a Spirit-filled and life-changing youth Bible study where young people can be 'real' about their Christianity and walk with God. Our mission at JAM is to 'build a family of friends in Christ Jesus' by providing a platform where the youth of today can come together, voice their opinions and, most importantly, get their voices heard. JAM opens the door for young people in Christ not only to testify about God's goodness but also about life and its struggles and the means to overcome them so

that we can give God all the glory he deserves. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we provide a conducive and friendly atmosphere for ministering, learning and developing. Jesus and Ministries is therefore a movement which aims to help the youth discover what God's purpose is for their lives as we study the Word and pray for one another, so that God's perfect will can be established.

JAM was inspired after the Spirit-filled camp meeting trip to Wales. After this trip, a group of our Adventist youth were discussing how

currently with the centre and for those who will join us in the near future.

ADC website

Our remodelled website advertises all of the sixteen courses available from the centre. Eight of the available courses can also be taken online using the new Moodle learning platform.

Our website continues to receive over 1,000 hits every week. We are committed to

seeing growth in this area through the production of a variety of new courses for an increasingly diverse audience.

Funding the ADC

The ADC is supported in part through an appropriation from the British Union Conference budget and also through regular donations from

members and students.

I am always amazed at the faithful donations from our members and surprised by the generosity of our students. People of all ages continue to demonstrate their support for this unique ministry.

On this ADC Rally Day everyone can join in partnership with the ADC. Your time, talent, personal effort, influence and financial support are ways in which you can support the work of preparing lives for eternity.

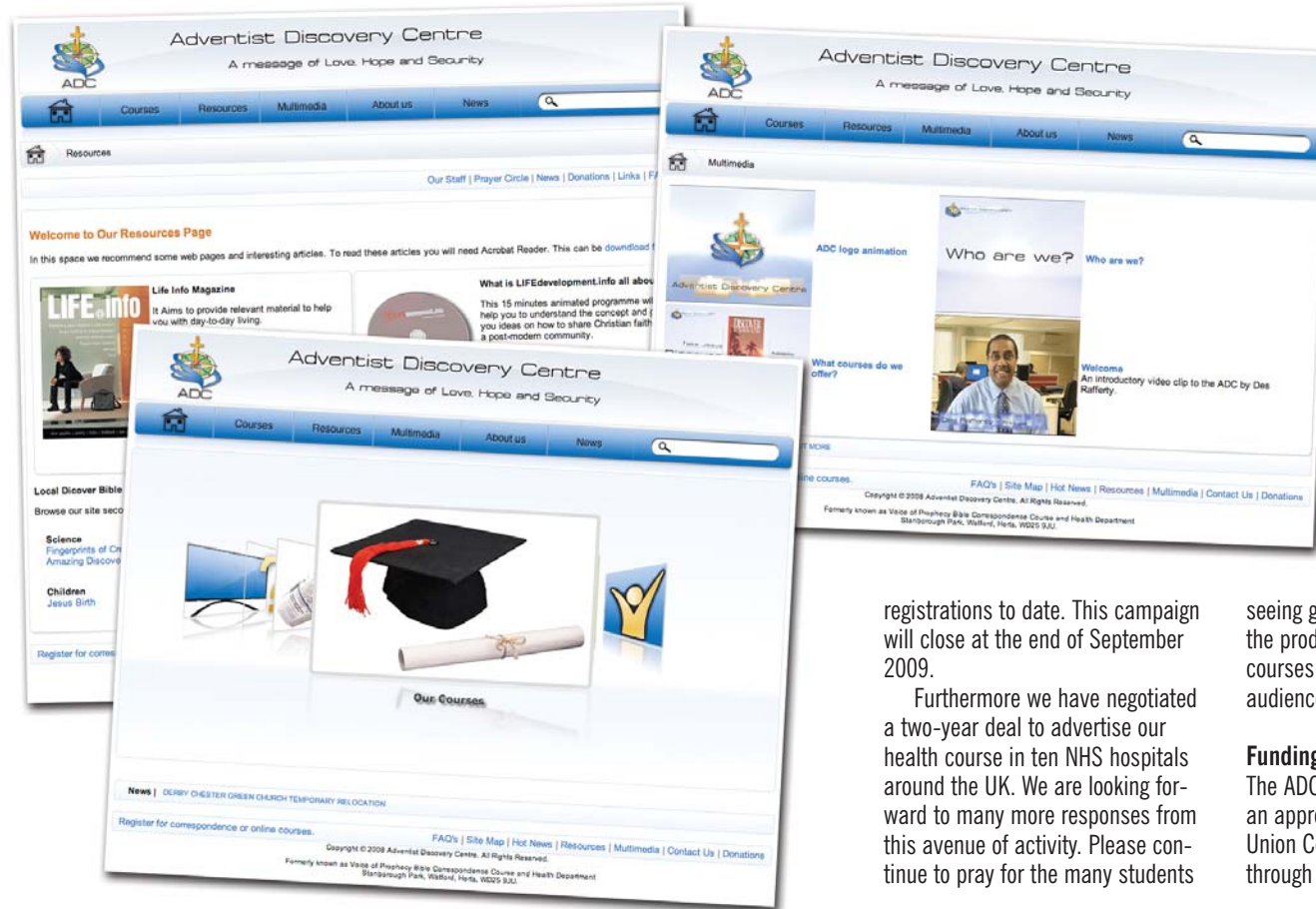
By way of assisting everyone in their financial support we have made available a new-styled donation box for the home. This box replaces the yellow labelled card-

board donation box, and is a scaled down version of the ADC donation box found in your church. It is designed for supporters to keep at home and the contents can be forwarded directly to the ADC or via the treasury department of the local church.

Why not pledge to donate at least one of these five gifts in support of the Adventist Discovery Centre?

We have the assurance that the rewards will be out of this world.

Thank you for your continued support, and I trust that the centre will be of assistance to you both in your personal evangelism and the outreach of your church.



Single Life Ministry

April 11 heralded the launch of the brand new Single Life Ministry at Fulham church. This was a two-day event which commenced on Saturday evening with an engaging introduction by Dionne Williams, Fulham's Single Life Ministry leader, which highlighted the foundational mission of the ministry. The heart-felt dedication and vision of the Ministry leader was evident and was very well received by the congregation.

The programme opened with a presentation entitled 'Living the Single Life', which chronicled the ups and downs of being single. Next came a presentation on break-ups focusing on the many and varied challenges that come along with them. This was followed by a short presentation on courtship, where the discussion focused on what to look for in a potential spouse and what courtship is according to the Bible. The final presentation was on widowhood, exploring the idea of having Christ as a husband and the special work with which widows are commissioned. There were special items by Ruth Nassa and Patricia Jones. The evening proved to be interesting and informative, mixing personal experiences with plenty of practical advice on everyday life as an unattached Adventist.

Part two of the event on Sunday 12 April saw singles from various parts of London converge at Fulham for the launch of the Single Life Ministry social. Fulham church was filled with people who were welcomed with snacks and drinks. The event unfolded into a fun, interesting and thought-provoking evening, humorously hosted by Lydia Simon who successfully maintained a light-hearted and lively atmosphere throughout. The day was a resounding success, cleverly using ice breakers, a Bible quiz, tasty buffet and informal games to foster serious debate and provide satisfying conclusions. The night was capped with moving poetry by Loren Van Lange and Dionne Williams and singing by Marcia Roberts-Prince and Stacey Baker.

The next event, 'Peas in the Park' was held on 23 August at Hyde Park. This fellowship for unattached Christians included prayer sessions, praise and worship, potluck, poetry, and playing fun games. For more information please email slm_fulham@hotmail.co.uk.

SOPHIE LUMPA

Men's Day speakers address taboo issues

The first of a series of meetings planned for the men of the West Midlands was held at Yardley church on Sunday 26 July. This was the brainchild of Gregory Campbell, one of the elders of the local church. He received strong support from others who shared his vision that more should be done to motivate and energise the men in the Adventist Church to be proper servants of Christ and family men in the true sense of the word.

There were four sessions throughout the day. These were punctuated with special items and prayer and a sumptuous lunch.

Warwick Bryan started the ball rolling with his engaging topic, 'The differences between men and women'. This was quite an eye-opener to the men. 'The fact is, women are more intelligent than men since they have the ability to multitask and they have spatial vision,' he said. 'That is, a woman can be having two or three conversations at the same time while observing what is happening all around her. In contrast, as men we have a very one-track mind and can only focus on one task at a time.'

The second session was conducted by Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president. In his presentation Pastor Sweeney reminded us that we are all soldiers engaged in a war. However, in this warfare we cannot see the enemy, 'for we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places'. (Ephesians 6:12.) This was a reminder that our wives are not our enemies, neither are our children, church brethren, nor employers



Ethel Freeman (née Mahon)

d. 12 April 2009



When Ethel Freeman (née Mahon) fell asleep on Sunday 12 April it was appropriately the day observed by most Christians as the feast of the Resurrection – Easter Sunday – and coincidentally, seven years earlier, was the day Kathleen her older sister died. It was, however, not a coincidence that both sisters had been deeply influenced in their choice of life-work by fellow-Lancastrian Irene Himsforth. Of this

or employees. Our true enemy is Satan, and we can overcome him through Jesus Christ who already has the victory over him. Thus, although it may seem as if we are losing the battle, we have already won the war. The third presentation took the form of an open discussion led by Robert Nicholas.

The day culminated in a question and answer session where the men were given an opportunity to direct questions at the president regarding issues affecting the Church and his vision for the Church in the North England Conference.

ROBERT NICHOLAS

experience it has been written: 'No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favour of the Gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.' *Ministry of Healing*, p. 470.

Although Ethel was my closest sibling I know of no other person who so closely demonstrates that 'loving and lovable' syndrome, and I have known her long enough in fact to have some ideas of how her character was developed. Born as the soldiers of the War-to-end-war were being demobilised – poverty then was global. The 'terrible twenties' led up to the 'hungry thirties' – that was real recession! Lancashire with its declining cotton industry was worst off, and since Ethel's home was in a town with the highest unemployment she suffered, but also gained an education in what used to be designated 'the university of hard knocks!' She was lively and intelligent, the brightest of the five children of Florence Nellie and Alex Mahon, passing the new Eleven Plus exam with ease and thereafter claiming many prizes in her Secondary School A stream.

To the chagrin of her teachers who had high hopes for her future, she didn't sit the university entrance – her services were required at home to aid the family survival struggle by becoming a shopkeeper in the family business venture. Kathleen had financed her Newbold education by selling home-made bread and cakes from door to door. Sixteen-year-old Ethel's was a more stationary role behind the counter, selling home-grown vegetables from the acre of ground rented from a local farmer, with fruit and fish from wholesale sources. Here she was daily exposed to all the human problems of the local housewives and, having a heart to help, received in exchange a course in 'Compassion' unavailable in

any institute of higher learning. She learned many theological wonders at Newbold, but the 'loving and lovable' factors were 'in situ' well before her student life began in September '39.

Entirely due to an offer of employment from an SDA businessman (Walter A. Girling of Gillingham, Kent), elements of the family were transported south to a much less grim lifestyle. She now became part of a lively church of mainly young people, and in the 'Little Wooden Church in the Orchard', tutored by the late Arthur Lockyer in the afternoon Youth services, conquered 'stage fright' and shyness while acquiring a treasury of lifetime friends and the ability to play every hymn in the *Advent Hymnal Revised*.

With the frenzied digging of air raid shelters when the bleak tones of Neville Chamberlain announced that a new European conflict had begun, the pleasant life she had enjoyed came to an explosive and tragic end when a 'stick' of bombs shattered the windows of her home but, further down the road, severely injured her best friend Doreen, killing Leslie, Doreen's husband of only three months.

Despite the trauma of war, its shortages and separations, the three years at Newbold Revel were happy times filled with friendships. Summer canvassing in Cornwall with Laura Mason had its moments of sheer terror from coastal air raids, but the warm support of the members of the small churches there was reassuring for, having become friendly with a young ministerial student from Wales, the vision of a more positive future life of service – 'when this dreadful war is over' – was taking shape.

Newbold was well informed about the horrors of conflict for on 14 November 1940 nearby Coventry was attacked by 100+ bombers and 554 of its citizens were killed and 865 severely injured. No one at Newbold then will ever forget that night which was illuminated bright as day with a thousand fires and the continuous roar and thunder of explosions backed by the high-pitched note of power-diving aircraft

overhead while the solid building – even its Elizabethan cellars – seemed to be in continuous motion.

After her wartime graduation from Packwood, Ethel had been posted to Northants with Pastor W. Lennox when the three churches were crammed with scores of young US servicemen preparing for D-Day. She then went on to Derby for evangelism with A. F. Bird and a memorable link with Nancy Ritson (later Seymour) and the young folk who became part of her life thenceforth. She shared with Pastor Bernard Kinman the raising up of a new church in Carlisle and duly invited him to 'tie the knot' when in May 1947 in her Kentish hometown she was united in marriage with John Freeman and they enjoyed sixty happy years together in service, celebrating their Diamond Jubilee in May 2007.

The first fifteen years of Ethel and John's life together would prove the validity of the 'loving and lovable' bit and indeed became the litmus test of Ethel's role and function. Imagine a household containing a husband who needed peace and quiet to 'study the Word and counsel members', two high-spirited adolescent girls and a grandmother who found it difficult to accept any alternative to strict Victorian standards. Ethel kept her halo but it was hard going! However, her moral certitudes were reinforced by her belief that hilarity and holiness are not mutually exclusive.

Seven years in Wales (Caerphilly, Barry, Swansea), almost a decade in Kent and Sussex (Folkestone, Dover, Hastings), five years in Essex (Billericay, Chelmsford, Romford), North England Conference (Wolverhampton, Walsall) and Grimsby, Ulceby, three years in each district and finally nine years in the Republic of Ireland, does not quite conclude the Freeman story for, when settled in their Wokingham retirement cottage, the South England Conference asked them to care for the not-far-distant Guildford church. It entailed much to-ing and fro-ing on busy roads but in the process they gained a third 'daughter', Wendy Pemberton, whose

personal ministry to them in their latter days was a notable blessing and comfort. The above list of locations is a reminder that Ethel still had access to the many friends they made through the postal service. Some would rate her correspondence gift as a spiritual factor. (Doesn't the apostle also include 'communication' in his inspired gift list?) Ethel had a rather artistic calligraphy style and to her life's end kept in touch with an address on the Ponty-Quindy road in Caerphilly (the Freemans' first home) as well as the Thomases of Folkestone and who knows how many others?

Ethel was both computer literate in old age and cherished her independence but enjoyed emailing and was prone to laugh uproariously when her online grocery provider, under pressure in an unfamiliar genre, made bizarre deliveries. Her neighbours of twenty-plus years regarded Ethel as some kind

of saint, and she on her part was unfailingly grateful to them for daily kindnesses. She whose name has been synonymous with hospitality greatly enjoyed to the end (and often contributed a favourite pudding) Sabbath lunch with friends and family in the capacious conservatory with wheelchair access which was the latest addition to her Wooschill cottage with its lovely gardens.

Just over a year following John's final curtain (on the first day of 2008), we took our leave of Ethel in the same Newbold church with the three people she loved most dearly – her two daughters Kathryn and Heather and granddaughter Holly – assisting the minister Ian Seaman in providing a beautiful send-off to a yes, loving and lovable Christian. What a powerful argument for the Gospel that woman has been. No! IS.

JACK MAHON

Alice Blackburn

(1916-2009) d. 1 June



'This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.' (Psalm 118:24.) Experiencing joy at a funeral would seem inappropriate and, in truth, the funeral of this dear sister in the faith did not lend itself to such an occurrence. However, it was as if something unspoken was yet heard by those present in the Grantham church, saying, 'This is the day . . . rejoice and be glad in it.' The text is one which the deceased held as a personal favourite and one which was also exemplified in her life. Alice Blackburn had a quiet, settled, determined faith in her Lord that was maintained in a dignified and courageous struggle with weakening physical health in her latter years. A fall just outside her home at around Eastertime this year led to her being hospitalised and, whereas Alice had been familiar with hospital surroundings within the past several years, this time it was to be an extended stay that ended, sadly, with her death on 1 June. Ever the optimist, Alice was a faithful

and loyal servant of God since learning Scripture at her mother's knee along with brothers, Cyril, Clive and Arnold (the only surviving sibling). In a brief autobiography which she had thoughtfully prepared for whoever had the privilege of conducting her funeral, Alice noted that the principle of studying the Bible daily was something that she practised throughout her long and happy life. If she learned something and valued it, it stayed with her as a lifelong practice. Thus her abstemious lifestyle, her love of nature and her profound confidence in the Word of God were well known, not only by those who loved her, but also by the carers, hospital staff and neighbours whose lives she touched. Her lifelong service was to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, be that at the Stanborough Press, the South England Conference or in the finance department at Newbold College, where she believed that she had found her true vocation. Perhaps less well known is the fact that she trained and qualified as a State Registered Nurse at Edgware Road Hospital, London, having received a call up to National Service during the Second World War. As a spinster, Alice never had the joy of knowing children of her own, but her love and care for her niece, Lorna, since the untimely death of Lorna's mother, were attested to at the funeral by Lorna herself. This deep affection was mutual. The final words are perhaps best left to Alice herself. 'Life is a gift from God. He is our Creator. We cannot understand all God's dealings in our life, but we can trust him to guide us if we have faith in his leading.' With sincere sympathy extended to the Blackburn family circle, both in Cornwall and locally in Grantham, we say, 'Sleep on, sister; joy cometh in the morning!'

PASTOR J. FERTUSON



Elaine Storkey is a leading evangelical theologian and the president of TEAR Fund, a Christian charity that tackles global poverty. She regularly presents Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4.

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Operation Smile

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

David Ferguson (Grantham church member) and his friends Nader Hanna and Lee Maples undertook a tough cycle ride of over 1,200 miles from Athens to Venice in just under two weeks in June for the charity Operation Smile UK (providing surgery for children born with a cleft palate). With an average daily ride of 80-90 miles and

sprint finish of 120 and 140 miles in the last two days, they cycled in 35°C temperatures and camped out in order to keep costs to a minimum, collectively raising over £1,900 for a very worthy cause. Family and friends from churches in Belfast, Grantham and Wellingborough contributed generously to David's sponsorship total of



£1,441.31, with significant contributions from two Adventist-owned businesses (Environmental Fabrications and granoVita UK). The opportunity is still available if you would like to make a donation to the charity that benefits. Go to www.justgiving.com/Athens-venice and follow the instructions. Alternatively, donate directly to Operation Smile UK, 4th Floor, Horatio House, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JA.

PASTOR J. FERGUSON

Double baptism in Gloucester

Sabbath 30 May saw the baptism of two candidates: Daniel Wekpe and Donna Lotteriet.

Daniel, who is an Engineering student from Loughborough University, is doing his year's work placement in Gloucester. He was introduced to the Adventist Church by a couple last September and started Bible studies which culminated in his baptism.

His mother Melrose gave a very candid and moving testimony of how she worried about Daniel when he left home and how she struggled to accept his decision to be baptised in the Adventist Church – she herself belongs to another church. She

spoke of how she took it to the Lord and eventually obtained peace with the decision and gave Daniel her support and understanding. Daniel's brother Colin read Daniel's favourite text: Jeremiah 1:17-19.

The Gloucester church warmly welcomed Daniel into their fellowship and will be sorry when the time comes for him go back to university.

The second candidate, Donna, first came to Gloucester in 2004. She grew up in the Adventist Church and had had Bible studies when she was younger but had not felt ready for baptism until eighteen months ago while still in South Africa. Donna thanks the Lord for his patience,

care and protection during the time before she felt ready to commit to baptism and she feels she made the right decision and for the right reasons. Julian Cranfield read out an email from her family in South Africa which was to congratulate her on the excellent decision to be baptised.

Donna's husband Michael and 4-year-old daughter Marian were present to support her and she, too, was warmly welcomed into the fellowship of Gloucester church.

Before leaving the baptismal pool, Pastor Tarlev gave a call for anyone else who felt God's prompting to come forward and commit. Much to the delight of the congregation, two people came forward, one of whom was Michael Adams, Donna's husband (baptised on 22 August).

ANGELA CONNICK



Congratulations

to Razvan Veer of the Hampstead church on gaining an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

to Esther Brown of Lewisham church on gaining a 2:1 in her Journalism BA Hons course at University of the Arts, London.

to Matthew Marshall of the Stanborough Park church on gaining a Second Class Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Essex University at Colchester.

to Catherine Sly of the Grantham church who scored 12 As in her GCSEs, seven of which were A stars. Catherine wants to be a Maths/Science teacher.



New books of the week
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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Sept 25	6.52	7.04	6.56	7.04	7.15
Oct 2	6.36	6.48	6.39	6.45	6.57
9	6.20	6.32	6.23	6.27	6.40
16	6.05	6.17	6.07	6.10	6.23

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