

Messenger

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'This is a strategic move that could give new impetus to the work; and that is our prayer. We are as eager to see growth in these fields as in Europe.'

Bertil Wiklander

The territorial composition of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Euro-Africa (EUD) and Trans-European (TED) Divisions will change on 1 January, 2012, according to decisions taken during the recent General Conference Annual Council in Silver Spring, MD, USA.

According to a report by Miroslav Pujic, TED Communications director, in the *tedNEWS* (9 October, 2011), *'the rationale for the decision is to give more resources to the Middle East, to keep countries with similar cultures together, and to focus on the needs and mission challenges of this part of the world. It is also a way to give the two European divisions more time to focus on the mission challenges in Europe.'*

This is how the realignment will take effect:

1. *'For the TED, this means that the Middle East Union Mission is joined with other fields in North Africa, Turkey and Iran to form a new union called the Greater Middle East Union Mission (GMEU). The union will be placed directly under the oversight of the GC.'* But *'Cyprus will remain with the TED.'*
2. *'South Sudan will be placed under the East-Central Africa Division with offices in Nairobi.'*
3. *'Pakistan will be moved to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division . . .'*
4. *' . . . The Israel Field will be directly under the GC as an attached field on its own.'*
5. *'The decision also includes Afghanistan, which is aligned with the Euro-Asia Division.'*

Pujic's report draws to a close with this important observation:

Church reorganises in Middle East

by Julian Hibbert

'By having the Greater Middle East Union Mission under the General Conference, the whole world Church will become more aware of the needs and work in this important region. This part of the "10-40 Window" will be a special mission field for the whole world Church.'

Dr Bertil Wiklander, Trans-European Division president, made this statement after the decisions were made: *'Of course at first we were disappointed when we were informed about this proposal. We have personal ties to our people in these territories and have spent much time in praying and working for them and with them. In one way, it feels like the biblical saying that "we planted the trees but others will eat their fruit"; but that is how it can be sometimes in the Church. We must remember that we are all united and work for the same goal.'*



HOPE Channel

Serving the UK for the last eight years
by satellite and the internet

Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication and Media Centre director, has announced that we can now embed HOPE Channel programmes in to Facebook and other social media. He states that all you need to do is click on the 'Share' link below any programme in the Media Gallery, www.hopetv.org.uk, and then select the social media of your choice. And he is absolutely right when he says that this is a great way to share the Gospel.

Adventist programmes on Revelation TV

Two of the most popular Hope Channel programmes are airing on Revelation TV this autumn. Following the initial twelve-week run of programmes by SECmedia, *Viewpoint* and *Adventists in Conversation* are now running and attracting an audience on the Christian SKY channel.

Viewpoint, which started to air in the last week in September, is a topical discussion programme that explores issues affecting UK society and the Church. The programme aims to provide a platform on which the Church can talk about uncomfortable and sometimes difficult topics that affect both the Christian and secular worlds. *Adventists in Conversation* allows church members to share their life, faith and witness in a non-threatening manner. The Gospel comes through in their stories.

Airing these two programmes via another Christian channel is raising the profile of Seventh-day Adventists within the larger Christian community and giving viewers the opportunity to see Adventist faith in action – whether in debates over ecology, end-of-life issues or the Sabbath, or simply exploring the intricacies of somebody's testimony. It is not easy to produce a programme that balances Adventist witness

www.hopetv.org.uk

within the context of an ecumenical TV channel, but it seems that *Viewpoint* and *Adventists in Conversation* are hitting the target. One viewer wrote, 'I've watched many, many religious interviews, but yours takes the cake!' Church members who are tuning in are stating that watching the programme makes them proud to be Adventists.

The programmes are airing as a co-operative venture between the SEC and BUC media departments, and plans are currently underway to provide positive Adventist programming through to at least the summer of 2012.

Viewpoint airs every Monday at 8:30pm on Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692). *Adventists In Conversation* airs on Thursdays at 8:30pm. They can also be viewed on demand on the www.hopetv.org.uk website. The Communication department would welcome your feedback on this initiative, suggestions for future programme topics and, most importantly, your prayers as these programmes go to air so that they can be instrumental in changing people's lives.

Enhancing Health

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

Golden eight — part 2a Sunshine

In this issue we commence our look at sunshine. The questions as to how much is enough to enhance health, and how much is too much, putting our health at risk, have engendered much debate in the past.

In a BBC health news report of December 2010, the Health correspondent, Jane Dreaper, published an article titled: 'New guidance on vitamin D recommends midday sunshine'. In it she highlights the recommendations of several national bodies and the latest conclusions drawn in the ongoing debate on nature's golden wonder.

She reports: 'Cancer Research UK and the National Osteoporosis Society are among the bodies which agree that 'little and frequent' spells in summer sunshine several times a week can benefit your health. The experts now say it is fine to

go outside in strong sun in the middle of the day, as long as you cover up or apply sunscreen before your skin goes red.

However, in the same report she highlights the views of other medical professionals who feel that overprotection gives rise to a deficiency in vitamin D levels.

Professor Rona Mackie, from the British Association of Dermatologists, says: 'Total sun protection with high-factor sun cream on all the time is not ideal, in terms of vitamin D levels.' He further states: 'Some of the messages about sun exposure have been too negative. . . . What's changed is that we're now saying that exposure of 10 to 15 minutes to the UK summer sun, without sunscreen, several times a week is probably a safe balance between adequate vitamin D levels and any risk of skin cancer.'

The article then went on to state that 'Winter levels of vitamin D can be helped by a break in the tropical sun.' Individuals with chronic conditions have found this advice beneficial.

Testimonies

I have spoken to many individuals from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean who take annual trips back to their homeland, not for leisure but for health. Most of them were diagnosed with low levels of vitamin D.

Kofi, whose eczema is classified as being 'severe', found that when he returns to Africa on holiday each year his skin 'improves tremendously'.

Isola suffers from arthritis that, she reports, gets worse in the winter in spite of the medication she is on. However, she has found that, since she has commenced annual trips to Barbados from November to February, she does not experience any symptoms during that time.

In the next issue we examine how sunshine heals.

Good health!

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Please don't go AWOL next time

I have enjoyed some unusual Lord's Supper experiences, ranging from hushed candlelight services that replicated the 'upper room' to a forest fellowship that began with foot-washing in a freezing mountain stream!

But no matter where I share it, or with whom it is shared – it is always a moving experience.

It was really different!

Let me tell you, however, about one Lord's Supper that was really different. It happened in a church that was packed full of interesting characters – an 'outpost' where God had gathered a higher concentration of his colourful, controversial and 'hyperactive' family than normal!

It was the first Lord's Supper of the year and the elders, deacons and deaconesses had everything under firm control.

We gathered before the service commenced, and I quickly ran through the sequence of events, confirming that each participant knew what to do, and when to do it. There were nods all around and one comment, from the recently appointed head deaconess, Cheryl: 'I have made sure that this will be a special communion!' We nodded our appreciation.

Cheryl was passionate about her faith, and equally enthusiastic about her new role in the church.

It was very special!

The service ran to plan. The participants knew their parts; the transitions were smooth; and together with the beautiful music it all created an atmosphere of solemn joy. After the foot-washing we took our places again, while the deaconesses reverently removed the tablecloths. Then I stood to serve the bread. . . .

But the 'bread' looked unfamiliar. The pieces were flat, but cut in large squares and bursting with raisins, apricot pieces, dates and goodness knows what else!

Suddenly, Cheryl's words took on a new meaning: 'I have made sure that this will be a special communion!'

By now, the congregation, my fellow elders, and Cheryl had realised that something was wrong. I had been staring down at that plate for too long, obviously searching for words.

No fruit, nuts or sugar!

What had Cheryl done? Surely she knew the

recipe for our Adventist 'unleavened bread': two cups of whole wheat flour, half a teaspoon of salt, seven tablespoons of oil and half a cup of water. **But no fruit, nuts or sugar!**

By the time I had composed myself, and looked up at the congregation, my smile was back and my decision was made – we would use the unusual symbols. 'Friends, our communion bread will be a bit different today. We are using a one-off, unconventional recipe, just for today', I said with emphasis. 'I am sure you will enjoy it!'

And as my eyes met Cheryl's, she blushing said: 'I just wanted it to be special!'

And it was. It was one of my most memorable Suppers. The pieces were large, chewy, tasty and very special – and everyone was smiling over this never-to-be-repeated concession!

Shouldn't they all be special, though?

Shouldn't it be that way every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper? After all, what is the Lord's Supper all about?

It is meant to be a joyous occasion during which we commemorate the loving sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.

Paul sums it up like this: 'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.' 1 Corinthians 11:26, NIV.

In my words it sounds like this: 'Hey, the Lord's Supper reminds us about Calvary – where Jesus died to save us. That's great news! That's just so awesome! Don't miss the next celebration! Be there for the blessing!'

And it seems that the early believers were eager to celebrate the Lord's Supper too: 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.' Acts 2:42, NIV (my emphasis). Here Luke lists the four spiritual activities they were 'devoted' to, and the 'breaking of bread' is clearly a reference to the Lord's Supper.

Then why do we go AWOL?!

If it's such a great celebration, then why do so many go AWOL on Lord's Supper Sabbaths?

Jesus was emphatic about participation as he offered his disciples the cup of communion: 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' Matthew 26:26-28, NIV (my emphasis).

Nobody was excluded. All were expected to celebrate salvation. Not even Judas was AWOL (*Desire of Ages*, p. 653)!

We've missed the meaning

I think many go AWOL on Communion Sabbaths because they misunderstand what this celebration is all about. It's not about you, or me. **It's about Jesus!**

It is not a celebration of how good or perfect we are. **It's a joyous commemoration of how perfect, awesome and gracious Jesus is!** It is not a reminder of our weak or fragile faith, or our frequent failures. It is an opportunity to shout moving words like these from the depths of our hearts:

*'Redeemed! how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am.'*

Make this your prayer in preparation for the next communion Sabbath: 'Dear Lord, let us come to celebrate your salvation the way the people of this country turn out for a Merseyside derby, or the Last Night of the Proms. Let nothing hold us back or dampen our enthusiasm. Let it be a very, very special day! Thank you. Amen.'

And please don't be AWOL next time.

'AWOL is an abbreviation of 'Absent Without Leave', which refers to the act of leaving a 'post' or 'duty' without authorisation.
First stanza from 'Redeemed! how I love to proclaim it' by Fanny Crosby.



nurture

Real men

do cry

Text: Lamentations 1:16

Introduction

It seems to me that society has drilled into our heads that 'real men' don't cry! Throughout my life I have been taught that real men don't show their emotions! As a matter of fact, society has made us feel that the revealing of one's emotions is considered a sign of weakness in a man.

Yes, real men don't cry, and even in moments of weakness they know how to pull it off without too much embarrassment. Like the father said to his accusing sons who had noticed that he was crying: 'I'm not crying; I've just got something in my eye!' Real men don't cry; we just get something in the eye!

But attitudes are changing

But maybe attitudes are changing. In 2010 a poll was conducted among men as to the movies that made them cry, and topping the poll was *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. But I have a confession to make. I was on a flight to the United States recently and, instead of witnessing to the passengers on the plane, I decided to watch a movie, a children's comedy titled *Mr Popper's Penguins*, starring Jim Carrey. All I can say is that at the end of the movie, I was really pleased that the lights in the aircraft cabin were dimmed, as I had gotten something in both of my eyes which made them red! I was crying over the fate of computer-generated images of penguins! May God forgive me and my wife not leave me!

The prophet Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations, has become one of my favourite biblical characters because he allows us to see what is going on in his heart and life. Jeremiah is

a transparent prophet – that's why he is often called 'the weeping prophet'.

He lets us see his feelings and his thoughts and the turmoils within his mind. As we read his books, both Jeremiah and Lamentations, we see a man totally absorbed in the message that God has given him to preach. While I would not accuse other prophets of hiding behind their work, Jeremiah allows us unrestricted access to his emotions. In Jeremiah we see a man who was so angry with his people that, at one point, he prayed that God would make wives widows, mothers childless and children starve to death (Jer. 18:21).

In Jeremiah we see a man who was so hurt by the unjust treatment he had received that he called upon God to exact vengeance upon his enemies (Jer. 18:23).

Point one: why was Jeremiah crying?

Now then, Jeremiah is not known as the 'angry prophet' or the 'vengeful prophet' but rather as the 'weeping prophet', because what dominate his message are his deep feelings and sensibilities as expressed in his crying for his nation.

When we come to the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah is extremely sad because he has just lived through the invasion and conquest of his nation by the Babylonian armies, including the overthrow and destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Lamentations has been described as a funeral dirge over the destruction of the Holy City.

Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet around the age of 18 or 19. For decades he had



by Pastor Ian Sweeney

are pawing through garbage for food. . . . Those who died in the war were better off than those who died later, who starved slowly to death, with no food to keep them alive. The disaster that came to my people brought horror; loving mothers boiled their own children for food. . . . Murderers roam through the countryside; we risk our lives when we look for food. Hunger has made us burn with fever until our skin is as hot as an oven. Our wives have been raped on Mount Zion itself; in every Judean village our daughters have been forced to submit.'

Who among us would not cry if we had to witness what Jeremiah did?

Point two: Jeremiah cried in prayer for the lost of his country

This week I listened to a *Thought For The Day* on BBC Radio 4, where mention was made of a toddler who was killed in China. I looked for the story on the internet and found it – along with some upsetting video coverage of this most horrendous story.

CCTV coverage of a street in the city of Foshan showed a 2-year-old girl who had wandered away from her parents into a busy street. A van knocks the little girl over, but the driver, instead of stopping to assist the child, stops momentarily and then continues to drive on, with his rear wheels running over the toddler's legs. Passers-by see this bleeding and mangled child, but they do not stop to offer any assistance. A few seconds later another van approaches, and she is run over a second time. This driver does not stop either.

Understand this: we are not taking about a motorway. The cars seem to be going no faster than 20 miles per hour. The little girl is passed by some eighteen people before someone has the tenderness of heart to pick up the crushed child, who was still alive at this point.

Despite the best efforts of the medical team, Wang Yue died later of 'systemic organ failure'.

Application

It is a sickening story of indifference and callousness towards a child, but, as I reflected on my anger towards those who did nothing, the Spirit revealed to me that many of us Seventh-day Adventists are just as callous and indifferent to those who are dying and bleeding all around us! As a Church, we, like Jeremiah, ought

to be crying for the 'lost' of our country. Many of us don't even care that people are dying all around us, as reflected in our prayer lives – which are so often all about me, myself and I.

Jeremiah cried for the *lost*. We should not simply be angry about the coldness and indifference of those eighteen people who did not assist that 2-year-old child dying in the street. For in our neighbourhoods, on our streets, in our communities, living next door to us, there are people who are *lost*, who have not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour! As Seventh-day Adventists we know that it does not simply end with: 'and they all lived happily ever after!' We know that millions upon millions of people will be lost when Christ comes again, and we cannot simply shy away from that or ignore it as though it will never happen.

Jeremiah cried over the *lost*. REAL Christian men and women will cry for the lost in prayer today.

Before Jerusalem's destruction, Jeremiah cried out in Jeremiah 8:

'My grief is beyond healing; my heart is broken.' (Verse 18, NLT.)

'The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved.' (Verse 20, NIV.)

'My heart has been crushed because my people are crushed; I mourn; I am completely dismayed.' (Verse 21, GNB.)

Jeremiah cried to God for the lost.

This is something we must be serious about if we truly want to be people who love and care. We must have that heart to see the lost saved!

This is not sentimentalism; it is a genuine grief for people who are dying even though they may not know it.

Real Christian men and women do not ignore the lost; they cry to God on the behalf of the lost.

Point three: Jeremiah not only cried over the people's condition – he did something about it Jeremiah lamented and wept for the spiritual wellbeing of others.

Have we done the same over the sins of our nation, or have we simply complained at how bad things have become? There is a difference!

Some of us can only condemn the evil in our world, but real Christian men and women cry to God, pleading forgiveness and mercy.

But Jeremiah went beyond just tearful prayers. He constantly told the people of Judah about the coming judgement and of their need to make their lives right with God.

Is the message we bear in 2011 any less important than that which Jeremiah carried?

Conclusion:

Jeremiah prefigured another real Man who cried over the lost. In Luke 19:41 (NLT) it is recorded: 'But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes."'

As 'real' men and women, we should be weeping and warning too!



the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



'Perfect'

Can we truly be perfectly righteous – that is, live a life completely free of sin? Of course, we will eventually, when Christ returns and restores our sinful, corrupted bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-57). We know this because there will be no sin in Heaven, where we who trust in Jesus are going (John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:14, 15) – until that time, we wait eagerly for the promised restoration (Romans 8:19-25). Even now, however, we as Christians have been born again, and are expected to 'do the truth' rather than 'practise evil' (John 3:1-21) – God has promised to renew our hearts, and we're expected to follow his judgements and be led by the Spirit, rather than live according to the flesh (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 8:12-17).

Does that mean we're expected to be perfect? Yes, according to Jesus – and not just perfect humans, but perfect like his Father (Matthew 5:48). The 144,000 present in the last times are to be without fault (Revelation 14:5). John says that whoever has been born of God does not sin, even cannot sin, and that whoever sins has neither seen him nor known him (1 John 3:6, 9). These are very strong statements!

However, John goes on to qualify them by saying that, actually, no one has seen God (1 John 4:12), and that if we say we have no sin then we're both lying and calling Christ a liar (1 John 1:8, 10). Many times, Paul declared categorically that no one can attain perfection through keeping the law (Romans 3:9, 19-23; Galatians 2:16; 3:11), and in Romans 3 he quotes Psalms 5:9; 10:7; 14:1-3; 36:1; 53:1-3; 140:3 and Isaiah 59:7, 8 in his support. Those aren't the only Old Testament texts he could have used, either – twice, Solomon states under the Holy Spirit that there is no one who does not sin (1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20). That's the very reason, after all, why Christ had to die for us – his atonement is a free gift that we cannot earn (Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 2:1-10), and whoever tries to earn it is belittling God's gift (Galatians 2:21).

How do we resolve these apparent contradictions? Can we be perfect now or not? Well, perhaps it depends on our definition of 'perfect'. Noah got hammered after the Flood, and yet Scripture calls him 'perfect' (Genesis 6:9; 9:20, 21, NKJV) – why? He found grace in the eyes of the LORD (Genesis 6:8). Abraham kept on misleading others about his wife, and apparently taught his son to do so too, endangering entire nations in the process (Genesis 12:10-13; 20:2-13; 26:6-9), yet he was accounted righteous because he trusted God (Romans 4:1-5). Clearly, taking God's free gift of salvation on faith changes how God sees us.

It also changes how we see God (1 John 4:19), and how we see each other (1 John 3:16-18) – filling us with love. That love, Jesus says, for God and for each other, is the foundation on which all of God's laws are based – in their entirety (Matthew 22:34-40). It literally inspires us – to serve in the Spirit of the law, rather than in the letter (Romans 7:6) – and the righteous requirements of God's law are met fully and completely by serving in the Spirit (Romans 8:4). That love – unconditional and undeserved – is described as 'merciful' in Luke 6:36 (NKJV): which is rendered in Matthew 5:48 as 'perfect'.

- The apostle Paul called himself the chief of what? (1 Timothy 1)
- For what was Paul striving, and telling others to strive, as well? (Philippians 3)
- What do we have with the Father if we do sin? (1 John 2)
- If we confess our sins, what can we expect? (1 John 1)
- Is there any condemnation whatsoever to those in Christ, who walk according to the Spirit? (Romans 8)



'A year dedicated to people of African descent'

It was only very recently that I became aware that 2011 has been set aside by the United Nations as 'A year dedicated to people of African descent', and they have done so for a very specific reason: *'In proclaiming this International Year, the international community is recognising that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected.'*¹

According to Navi Pillay, UN Human Rights high commissioner, *'This International Year offers a unique opportunity to redouble our efforts to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that affect people of African descent everywhere.'*²

The UK has become home to large numbers of people who are of 'African descent', many of whom can trace their family stories back through those sad centuries when 'human trafficking' was called by its rightful name, 'slavery'. A time when such degradation was

MESSENGER editor, with the help of a report from Sharon Platt-McDonald and photographs from Nicholas Blackburn

both prolific and legal!

In the face of this chronicle of suffering, and the residual discrimination that many still experience, this action by the UN Commission for Human Rights is timely, indeed.

Black History Live

Against this background, Black History Month (BHM) takes on a special relevance as *'a month-long celebration of African, Asian and Caribbean people's contribution to life in the UK.'*³ During October there has been a tight schedule of activities designed to foster this objective, including two days at Wembley Stadium called **Black History Live**, which provided *'a focal point for celebrations for people in London and the wider surrounding area at the beginning of October.'*⁴

I can only imagine that it was

a celebration of these unique cultures, brought alive by rhythmic music, vibrant drama, colourful costume and exotic cuisine.

Our members didn't miss this trick!

True to the style of our London churches, they didn't miss this trick! The Adventists were right at the heart of **Black History Live** with a relevant and practical contribution. According to a report we received from Sharon Platt-McDonald, they added value to the event in the following ways. . . .

Health Ministries

The Health Ministries department ran a large booth offering screening, counselling and general health information. Millie Williams (Area 6D Health co-ordinator) was instrumental

in obtaining a large donation of folders from the British Heart Foundation, full of healthy ethnic and traditional recipes that were well received by the passers-by.

Elsie Staple, SEC director for Health and Community Services, was present with her health-screening team of uniformed volunteers. The health professionals were dressed in distinctive T-shirts with the slogans 'Health for the Whole Person' and 'Know Your Health Numbers'.

A wide range of thorough health screening was on offer, including blood-pressure assessment, body-mass-index checks, blood-cholesterol and glucose tests, and peak-flow, age and fat analysis. According to Platt-McDonald, for many this was a 'moment of truth' as they faced up to the reality of their failing or inferior health, but the volunteers made sure that each person was counselled and encouraged to make the changes necessary for optimal living. (Apparently there were close to

120 screenings done during the event.)

There was good literature too

The range of literature provided by the health team included books promoting a holistic approach to life, encouraging the harmonious development of the physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions. The usual 'message' books were there too, like *Steps to Christ* and *When God Says Remember*, and these were taken with interest by the crowds.

John Loughborough boys

The John Loughborough School made its mark at **Black History Live** in a way that was totally consistent with the 'celebration of African, Asian and Caribbean people's contribution to life in the UK', when a number of its boys were publicly rewarded for completing the twelve-week NCFE Level 1 Award in Mentoring.

Platt-McDonald captured these remarks from an

understandably proud head teacher, Ms McFarquah: *'I am very, very proud of our boys. Today they are students leading in our schools, and I have no doubt that they will also be leading in our communities in the near future. They completed this excellent programme at our school under the tutelage of Dr Talburt, who is part of the National Black Boys Can Association'*.

Thank you for being there

It is satisfying to know that there was such a strong and positive Adventist presence at this recent event, and we salute our members for their involvement – **and especially those John Loughborough boys for doing us proud!**

¹<http://www.un.org/en/events/iypad2011/>, ²*Ibid.*
³<http://www.blackhistorylive.co.uk/whatsbhm.php>, ⁴*Ibid.*



Those John Loughborough boys who did us proud!



8 Readers' gallery
Megapixels
of creation

Summer collection 2



1

- 1. **Droplet.**
Yvonne Bauwens, Panasonic FZ20.
- 2. **Cows.**
Victor Hulbert, Nikon D300.
- 3. **Wast Water.**
Luisa Hulbert, Nikon D300.
- 4. **Poppy.**
Garfield Lynch, Nikon D300.
- 5. **White Rose.**
Barry Alen, Sony DSC-H50.
- 6. **Sunrise over Lincolnshire.**
Geoffrey Lyford, Panasonic FZ5.

Thats that then!
I decided to run a second spread for summer pictures, as the quality was so good. Thanks once again. Now I really do want your autumn shots.
If you feel inspired by all these great pictures, send yours to me: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk – just remember to keep them 'hi-res'.
DAVID BELL

Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honour, and power.
For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life.
Revelation 4:11 (GNB-UK)



2



3



4



5



6



Baptism and firsts at Glasgow

The Sabbath of 24 September held a series of firsts for Glasgow Church: the first Filipino day of fellowship in Glasgow, the first time 200 members attended the church, and the first time seventeen people became members of the church, most during the first use of the newly installed baptistry.

Nearly 100 people were in Sabbath School, and Glasgow Church only seats about 110 people, but with a good video and sound relay system in the hall they were able to seat around 200 people comfortably during Divine Service.

Sixteen people were baptised and one accepted by profession of faith, and the young people being baptised could not wait!

Three additional people indicated their desire for baptism at a future date: that new baptistry seems like a wise and necessary investment!

CLIFFORD HERMAN



Giving carers and their children a voice

Exciting new research by the University of Bristol aims to find out more about the lives of families in which a relative or friend is caring for a child or children long-term because they cannot live with their parents. It is giving both carers and young people the chance to be heard.

Researchers are looking for young people aged 8-18 to take part in face-to-face interviews to explore their general wellbeing and what it is like being brought up by relatives or friends. They will also interview their carers to discover their experiences, such as how well they are coping, the levels of support they are currently receiving, and the support they would like in the future. Carers and children will each get a £20 voucher as a thank-you for taking part.

Commissioned by Buttle UK, findings from the study will provide vital information to the Government and service providers so that they can develop policy and practice to meet the needs of these families.

The research team is currently recruiting across the UK and is very keen to hear from carers. They are particularly keen to hear from African-Caribbean, African or Asian full-time carers, and from brothers and sisters who bring up their relatives.

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact Paula Vaisey on: 01179546728 or 07580312526, or email: Paula.Vaisey@bristol.ac.uk, or visit the website at: www.yourfamilyyourvoice.com.



Baptism and farewell at Wood Green

Pastor Dane Fletcher of the Wood Green church held a one-week mini-campaign – the 'Do or Die Gospel' series – which culminated in a baptism of seven precious souls on Sabbath 24 September, and another member was added on profession of faith.

In his short stay Pastor Fletcher ably served as pastor of the Wood Green church and chaplain at the John Loughborough School. Wood Green members thank Pastor Fletcher for his commitment, enthusiasm and vibrant sermons. Pastor Sam Davis, the SEC president, also joined them to wish Pastor Fletcher God's abundant blessings as he returns to work in Jamaica.

GEETA SINANAN



Back row, left to right: Pastor Sam Davis, Elder George Miltiadis, Elder Albert McFarquhar, Pastor Dane Fletcher, Elder Tristan Cuniah. Front row, left to right: baptismal candidates, Travers Sinanan, Nathaniel DaBreo, Craig Dinham-Jones, Remel Davidson, Tamika Taylor, Tesha McIntyre and Bwalya Chifuntwe.

Revival and baptism

'People Get Ready' was the theme of the Preston Church month of revival, led by Pastor Robert Williams, which culminated on Sabbath 24 September with the baptism of Christel Banks and Kervin Bryant. The officiating pastors were Pastor Paul Jayaraj and Pastor Mike Simpson.

Christel Banks walked into the Preston church on 29 January 2011 after reading about Adventism on the internet. She became interested in the Church and its teachings, and accepted Bible studies. Christel had been a Roman Catholic and then an atheist, and felt that something was missing from her life. In searching the internet to fill this void, she spent many months researching the teachings of the Adventist Church – and she discovered she had been created, and needed to be baptised. Christel said, 'I have no greater wish than for God to stay with me to the end.'

Kervin Bryant is a musician who wanted to be re-baptised. He could not contain his excitement about this day!

Each candidate was given plenty of reading material and partnered with their spiritual guardians.

JENNY JEFFERS



Welsh Mission day of fellowship

by John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

More than two hundred church members and friends met on Sabbath 1 October for the annual Welsh Mission day of fellowship at the Pavilion in Llandrindod Wells.

Not only the weather was warm – many people commented on the warm family atmosphere (almost miraculous given the diversity of ages, cultures and backgrounds that the Welsh Mission has, and even more so given the diversity of opinions expressed in the ten or so Sabbath School groups arranged by Pastor David Foster and his team!)

The guest speaker for the day was Pastor Cedric Vine, Undergraduate Course director at Newbold College. The congregation



Pastor Cedric Vine

Business is worship

The BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, 'led worship' for eleven hours at his first executive committee on Thursday 15 September.

'The *raison d'être* of our calling is to prepare people for [the Lord's] coming.'

While rejoicing in church growth in this country, Pastor Sweeney challenged the Church, 'Did Jesus only die for Seventh-day Adventists? No! He died for everyone – and therefore we have a mission.'

The 230 baptisms in the second quarter of the year were to be seen only as the launch pad for even greater evangelism ahead.

The long committee set up appropriate sub-committees so that leaders could outreach – including among the indigenous population.

Other items included the institution of the restructuring committee, the trustees' report for 2010, and the financial structure for the rest of 2011.

Meet the presidents from all the conferences and missions in a special BUC News video report where they share their vision for the next five years – go to: <http://www.hopetv.org.uk/content/media-library/media-story/ml/buc-news-media-archive/presidents-interviews/>.

BUC NEWS



was intrigued by the title of his sermon, 'Three Point Five', which related to Exodus 34:7. For Cedric 'the third and fourth generation' averages out at about three point five – but the point that he really wanted to make was that this number is actually very small when compared with God's 'maintaining love to thousands' mentioned in the previous line of the text.

As Cedric pointed out, there are times when we need to confront issues, but there are many more times when we need to be loving, understanding, kind, diplomatic and forgiving.

Many others helped to make the day a success: musicians and singers, Sabbath School teachers and story-tellers, deacons and technicians, to name just a few. In the end, though, everyone played their part with warmth as members of the family of God.

Pictures from the event can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.



Picnic in the sunshine



Tamworth children's day

Tamworth children and parents had been looking forward to their 21 May children's day! The theme for the day was 'To Be Like Jesus'. Sabbath School included parable-based activities, and Yanique (11), Chavvis (14), Javahni (14), Jerome (6) and Lydia (13) conducted Divine Service, with special items from Neelson (6), Bham, Abi and Amma.

The afternoon puppet ministry was presented by the older youth for the young children. Well done, Tamworth children!

PAULINE NEWTON

Area 7's new Youth Federation

The Area 7 Youth Federation was launched on Saturday 1 October, as young people throughout Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire joined forces to uplift Christ in the Church and the world.

The morning's discussion panel, interview and missionary work report from Adventist Volunteer Services were followed by the guest speaker for the day, Elder Eric Salisbury; the official launch and introduction of the Federation members, conducted by Pastor Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director, followed in the afternoon, along with a praise concert.

SHAINELLE HALL



Penny pictures for a church building!

On Sabbath 24 September, Loughborough Church held a service asking for God's blessing as members seek to buy a church building of their own. Olivia (9) asked: 'Will I be a teenager before we have a church?' Loughborough members hope to answer 'No!' to that question!

After listening to the story of Joash repairing the Temple, the children collected their parents' 'penny jars' and used the coins to make pictures of a church, a heart and a cross.

The total collected in the penny jars was £205.28 – much more than expected! Monthly pledges from the adults and other fundraising activities will further boost the fund.

More information can be found on the Loughborough website: <http://loughborough.adventistchurch.org.uk/>.

VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK



Vacation Bible School 2011

From Monday 8 to Friday 19 August, five members of the Burngreave youth ventured into the local community by holding a Bible-based summer school. The kids started colouring, painting, crafting and exercising, and learnt Bible stories!

The second day saw more children from Sheffield and Rotherham, who made face masks inspired by Daniel in the lions' den and a Bible reading from Ecclesiastes 8:5. In the competition between the boys and girls, the girls narrowly won after the boys were distracted by the fruit snacks.

The school also included activities based around Noah's ark, cake-baking, new games, songs and Bible verses, and even a bowling day!

Friday was the grand finale, and was celebrated in style. Kids and carers alike look forward to doing it all again next year!

JONATHAN PHIRI



Yarmouth shoppers screened

On Sunday 18 September, another Great Yarmouth health screening session at the local shopping mall served more than 160 people with tests including Body Mass Index, Blood Glucose, Blood Pressure and Carbon Monoxide. The Health advisor also offered health and lifestyle consultations.

One man discovered he had very high blood pressure, and was referred to a general practitioner – as were several others, after taking tests and receiving advice. One person commented that the screening was a very good idea as it raised health awareness in the community, and another said the area needed similar events in the future.

The health screening certainly made the church more visible in the local community and built many bridges. Many people took *FOCUS* magazines, as well as other literature, like *He is Coming* and *Steps to Christ*. Members were gladly following in the footsteps of Jesus!

IZABELA CLARRY

Day of celebration

The 3 September day of celebration recognised the diverse membership of the Seventh-day Adventists in Great Britain in fellowship, worship and praise at the West Bromwich Town Hall, in the West Midlands.

Pastor Don McFarlane and his wife Mary attended, and he reminded congregants to trust Jesus Christ to calm life's storms.

During afternoon worship, the 300-plus congregants enjoyed singers and musicians from as far as Liverpool and London, including the Romanian Choir, Faith Vocal, Vaisile, Joshua, Carl Parnell, John Timotheus, Jeharna South, Louise Richards, Nightingales, Shepherd's Quartet and many more.

A similar event will be organised next year, and a DVD is currently under production covering the highlights of the day. Please contact your local pastor or the Conference Music department if you would like to be involved next year.

WILFRED MASHI & PASTOR S. ALMEIDA



Goodbye to a great team

No fewer than nine staff members bade farewell to the BUC office family on Tuesday 13 September in a moving evening reception. Pastors Alan Hodges, Eric Lowe and Richard Willis retired, along with two of the support staff, Maritza Sabatier and Judith Willis.

Pastor Don McFarlane is crossing the Atlantic to serve as part of the pastoral team of Sligo Church, Maryland. Pastor Des Boldeau was thanked for his many years of service in Youth ministry, and will shortly be taking on a pastoral role in the Willesden district of London. Pastor Curtis Murphy is leaving his love of Publishing to return to pastoral ministry in Newcastle. The final thanks went to Hilary Thompson, who has given faithful service as an ADRA secretary and previously as the BUC receptionist.

BUC NEWS



Revelation seminar at Holloway

Sunday 15 May was the opening night of Holloway Church's Revelation seminar – with fifty-seven presenters! A total of 140 students enrolled; many more attended to be informed about the prophecies.

Fifty-one students graduated from the seminar in a grand ceremony on the evening of Sabbath 21 August.

The presenters said they had never experienced such enthusiasm and devotion; to God be the glory!

PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT



Health expo team at Land Rover plant

The Natural Solutions health expo team participated in the World Food Day event at the Land Rover Solihull plant on Thursday 13 October, giving workers an opportunity to have their health tested and receive massages. The team were glad to make new contacts, with the Lord's guidance, and look forward to conducting similar events in the future.

The World Food Day is designed to highlight the food poverty of nearly 70 million people in the world who are suffering due to rising food prices.

MALCOM WATSON



From the heart to the heart!

On Sabbath 8 October three teenagers, Katya, Gregory and Misha, and their mum Tanya Makarchuk came from the Russian community in Bracknell to give a concert to members and local friends at the Carmarthen church, in aid of the local heart rehabilitation charity, 'Calon +'.

Mr Laurence Richards, a representative from the charity, expressed gratitude for the funds raised by the concert.

Thank you, Tanya and family, for the selfless way you shared your gifts and talents – and please come back again!

JON MEREDITH

New Life needs your help

New Life (West Midlands) has recently opened a community charity shop in the Hill Top area of West Bromwich.

The New Life Seventh-day Adventist Community fellowship believes in practical ministry. Their motto is to help 'restore lives' – to do something for the community in which the church resides. The charity they are sponsoring is one they themselves have set up, called The O'Neil Smith Foundation, after a youth worker who helped people struggling with substance abuse and who passed away suddenly in 2005.

Homelessness and substance abuse are concerning issues, and the work New Life is doing is greatly appreciated by the local authorities.

The New Life charity shop blessing took place on 1 October, and they desperately need donations of any unwanted items, new or used, of reasonable quality – they hope to house bulky items at a later stage.

For further details, please contact Winsome Baadjies by telephone: 07727270753, or email: winsome.souls.4christ@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

PATRICK HERBERT

Loving Hearts charity concert

26 November, Newbold Church 6pm

Please support this charity work in aid of mission and the homeless with your attendance.

For more information, telephone Bernadette Jerry on: **07981190665**

Fundraising Concert

In aid of JULIA'S WISH

Hosted by Chiswick Gospel Choir

With Guests
By Faith Singers
A New Beginning
Chiswick Junior Gospel Choir
Leon Barclay
Paulette Prendergast
Boldeau Brothers Steel Band

December 10th 2011 7.00pm
Doors Open 6.30pm

Venue: St. Michael and All Angels Church, Bath Rd., Chiswick, W4 1TT
Tube: Turnham Green (Turn right from station to Bath Rd.) Buses: 94, E3, 272

Tickets: Adults:- £10, Children 5-15 yrs:- £7, Concessions:- £7, Family:- £25 2 Adults + 2 Children For tickets, contact Jose Morgan on 07432 655969

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
www.chiswickdda.org.uk juliaswish.org

IN SEARCH OF THE OLDEST BIBLE! DO YOU HAVE ONE? IF SO, DIG IT OUT FROM THE ATTIC... WIP IT DOWN FROM THE SHELF... YOU HOLD A PRICELESS TREASURE, AND YOU COULD WIN A PRIZE!

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Exhibition Opens: 6.30pm-7.15pm Lecture starts: 7.30pm-8.30pm
Refreshments provided: 8.30pm-9.00pm. Every night except Thursday
To submit your bible or for more information, please call 0121 344 3672 or 07761 816 987 or email: contactus@handsworthdda.org.uk

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AGAPE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

A dramatic presentation by Director Mark Grey

LOGAN HALL
20 BEDFORD WAY LONDON WC1H 0AL SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2011 7.30PM
TICKETS £15 & £12

BOOKINGS: [HTTP://ELLENWHITETHEEVIDENCE.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://ellenwhitetheevidence.eventbrite.com)
INFORMATION: 0800 112 3152

obituaries

Evelyn (Peggy) Beechey (1924-2011)

Born in 1924, Evelyn Beechey, known to all as 'Peggy', was baptised into the Swindon Seventh-day Adventist church in 1937. In 1952, as a fully qualified and experienced nurse, she set sail for Africa, where she was ward sister at the Nokuphila Adventist Hospital in Johannesburg for a number of years. As well as her nursing duties, Peggy also led out in Sabbath School for the local children there. One year, it was a photograph of Peggy with one of 'her' babies that was used for all the Ingathering (ADRA) publicity for what was then the Worldwide Advent Missions.

After Nokuphila, Peggy took up new duties in the Heri Mission Hospital in Kenya. It was here that tragedy struck: a fire in the hospital kitchen left Peggy severely burned. After months of painful skin-graft surgery, she returned to England to become a district nurse in her home town of Swindon, then moved to Exeter to be a district midwife. Her years of professionalism and care made her a firm favourite with the many, many families she served there.

Having retired from a lifetime of nursing, Peggy returned to Africa, as a volunteer for two years, to be midwife

in charge at the Yuka Adventist Hospital in Zambia.

At her funeral, conducted by Pastor Ken Clothier, the Exeter church was packed with mothers, 'her' babies (now with grown-up children of their own), colleagues from the nursing profession, fellow charity workers, church friends and family. Pastor Clothier reminded us of Peggy's devotion to duty. She had always held offices in the church, but her favourite was Community Services: always reaching out to others. She will be much missed in the Exeter church.

We thank God for her lifelong faith, and her devotion to her calling as a midwife and charity worker.

MRS R. LOREK

Eric Alexander Stephenson (1933-2011) d. 22 September.

Eric was born on 2 May, in St Annes, Jamaica, in 1933. He was a twin to Dudley and he had ten brothers and sisters.

After leaving school he worked with his father, who was an engineer.

Eric sailed to England in November 1955, with his friend Roy Simpson. Eric was heading for Kent, but was persuaded by Roy to live in Huddersfield instead.

Eric worked for a while in engineering as a spot welder. Later on

he worked for twenty-two and a half years as a driver on the buses.

Three years after coming to the UK Eric was conscripted into the British Army to do two years of National Service. He served in the Yorkshire Regiment and trained as a machine-gunner. He was stationed in Aden in the Middle East, and in Gibraltar.

Eric was married three times. His third marriage started on 18 August, 2004 when Eric united his life in marriage with Elrith Pecco, known as Faye. They shared seven happy years of marriage. It was through Faye that Eric was introduced to the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A number of members visited Eric and encouraged him, and it was Brother V. Baptiste who gave Eric a series of Bible studies which led to his baptism in 2007.

All three Huddersfield church elders, Courtney Robinson, Patricia Clarke, and Edwin Baker, led out in the funeral service. The message was preached by Pastor Barry Stokes, who pointed the congregation to put their hope in the sure promises of God.

Eric leaves behind his widow, Faye, two daughters, Sonia and Vivia, two sons, Errol and Derwyn-West, four brothers, two sisters, and nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eric was laid to rest in the Almondbury Cemetery, Huddersfield, in the hope of life eternal when our Lord returns.

COMMUNICATION LEADER

CHIP Volunteer required

The Adventist CHIP Association UK & Ireland requires a Volunteer to cover holidays and other absences. The Volunteer would:

- Preferably live in or near the Watford area - will be based at the BUC office,
- Be prepared to undertake light office duties - in the region of four hours per week,
- Work in close co-operation with the ACA secretary,
- Have computer access at home with an email address,
- Prepare and pack orders to be collected from the BUC office,
- Make and receive related telephone calls,
- Undertake photocopying,
- Keep an accurate record of stock levels,
- Accomplish other admin tasks as required.

Please contact the ACA secretary on: 07801 062417 or: 07534 913864 to express an interest, or email: info@chipuk.org.uk.

A 25-year-old Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist lady is seeking to stay with a family in England from the second week of February to the first week of March 2012 in order to improve her English. She is able to pay for her expenses, and does not mind about location - anywhere in England is fine. If you can help her, please email: joseph.rao@gmail.com.

LONG SERVICE

Years of dedication

Mrs Erwyn Davies (pictured with her youngest son David), a faithful, much-loved and respected member of the Rhyll church for almost seventy-five years, has served the church with distinction as Sabbath School superintendent, church organist, church clerk, head deaconess, Children's and Youth Sabbath School teacher and Communications secretary, and also provided beautiful flower arrangements each week.

Her husband Russell, together with his mother and other members of his family, was a founder member of the original Rhyll company. He officiated as church treasurer for fifty years, and, in the role of head deacon, routinely maintained the church with the help of his son, David.

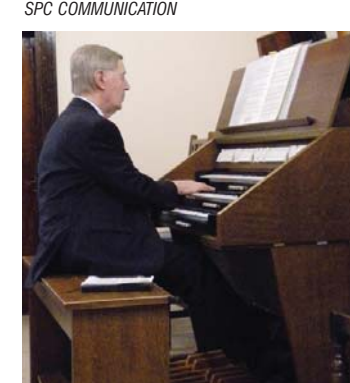
Brother and Sister Davies always had a warm welcome for visitors, ensured that sick and housebound people were regularly visited, and provided transport for the elderly and incapacitated members and friends. It is a joy to worship with Sister Davies each Sabbath.

LISA LEAL



Head organist for fifty years

Stanborough Park Church's head organist for the past fifty years, Brian Combridge, received a special commendation from Pastor Paul Clee during a recent Sabbath morning service. Brian plays alongside Romola, and both are thanked by an appreciative church.



The SEC invites you to . . .

The Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) training session at the Advent Centre on Sunday, 11 December 2011.

This training will give concrete and practical examples of what is happening in the AMR department within the SEC.

All are invited to attend, especially churches that have already set up their own AMR initiatives. This training programme will be interactive and provide ongoing support for those who are already aware and those who are attending for the first time.

Date: **Sunday, 11 December 2011**

Place: **The Advent Centre,
Crawford Place, London, W1H 5HD**

Time: **10am-4pm**

Nearest Tube: **Edgware Road**

Lunch will be provided.

Price: **Free**

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Ms Zinze Bishop at: zbishop@secadventist.org.uk or phone: 01923 232728 to confirm your attendance.

Hospital ministries at Leeds Central

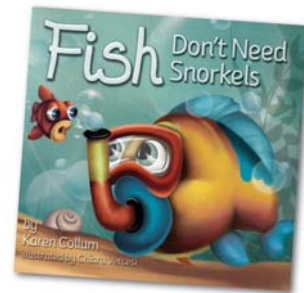
The Community Services department at Leeds Central has started a new ministry of hospital visitations this year, visiting the various hospitals in the Leeds area. The visits have been supported by the Leeds Pathfinders and a number of church members. During the visits, prayers are offered and hymns are sung to staff, patients and their visitors.

V. MAYNARD



Important notice

If anyone knows the whereabouts of Mr Stanley Kelly, please contact the Irish Mission church clerk. Telephone: 02838 881194 or email: marci@adventist.ie.



New book of the week

Fish Don't Need Snorkels

Karen Collum

Illustrated by Chiara Vercesi

Kids can find out, through simple words and beautiful pictures, how the animals have been designed by God for the challenges of their environment – and how we are designed in his image!

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December

4 Wolverhampton/Peckham 10am-2pm

11 John Loughborough/Brixton 10am-2pm

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9am-1pm, 1.30-5pm Monday-Thursday

9am-12pm Friday

Birmingham Aston-Newtown

11am-4pm, Wednesday,

4pm-8pm, Thursday

9am-1pm, Friday,

11am-3pm, Sunday

Advent Centre

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Sundays, 11am-3pm

Today's lesson is kindness

On Friday 30 September, lessons were cancelled as students, teachers and staff members went out into the community to celebrate Community Service Day. Stanborough School has been celebrating this day since 2005, when Mr Kish Poddar (assistant head teacher) introduced the event to the school.

The students visited care homes, receiving invitations to return at Christmas; packed bags at local supermarkets (refusing 'tips' – their service was free!); washed the cars of the school's neighbours; collected clothing and shoes for a local charity organisation; reconditioned some neighbourhood gardens; painted the school fence; cleared litter, planted bulbs and made hay for the Watford Borough Council; and served healthy refreshments!

The students and staff made a huge difference, and serve as a living example of practical Christianity in action. Well done!

MRS E. HUSSEY & MS V. PIZZUTO



Pictures: Mr. D. Hoga & Mr. P. Cooper



Messenger

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Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lond	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Nov 11	4.18	4.30	4.17	4.13	4.29
18	4.08	4.20	4.06	4.01	4.18
25	4.00	4.12	3.58	3.51	4.09
Dec 2	3.55	4.07	3.52	3.54	4.02

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