

# Messenger

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## Irish Mission president at Welsh day of fellowship

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

On Sabbath 29 September around 200 people gathered at the Pavilion in the charming spa town of Llandrindod Wells for the annual Welsh Mission day of fellowship. The speaker was Irish Mission president Pastor David Neal.

His theme was 'To Win the Prize'. Although not an athlete himself, David confessed that his interest in sport had increased dramatically due to the Olympics and Paralympics. Speaking of how he went out to see the Olympic flame as it passed by his office in Banbridge, he said, 'There's something special about a symbol of hope coming to your district. It's inspiring and it brings life to a community.' In some respects this was similar to the 'Follow the Bible' project that culminated at the General Conference session in 2010. He then related the story of the Queen's coronation in 1953, and how she had been presented with a Bible by the Dean of Westminster. At that time the Archbishop of Canterbury had said, 'We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.'

Citing a number of Christian athletes who openly professed their faith, Pastor Neal quoted from Hebrews 12, which refers to another 'cloud of witnesses'. Like them we too must 'throw off everything that hinders and . . . run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith' (verse 1, 2, NIV).

The Sabbath School included encouraging reports of health evangelism (in Newtown and Newport), a barbecue to which the public were invited (in Rhyl), a major shelter project for the homeless (in Cardiff), and an update on the FreeBible project (now running across the UK). In the afternoon there were reports on the Special Needs Camp and the youth's exciting trip across Europe with Pastor Jovan Adamović this summer.

Throughout the day there was also lots of good music – as one would expect in Wales!

In his final talk, intriguingly entitled 'Snake-handling for Beginners', Pastor Neal showed how we should study the Bible. Beginning with the story of a Pentecostal snake-handler who, like his father before him, had died in church of a deadly snake bite, Pastor Neal asked some serious questions about our use of the Scriptures. He concluded with a list of guidelines which will prevent us from falling into the excesses of literal, and metaphorical, snake-handlers: read different versions; use a concordance and dictionary, and various commentaries; use the writings of Ellen White; and always pray that God will interpret the text for you.

This is the sixth year in a row that the Welsh Mission day of fellowship has been held in Llandrindod Wells – with beautiful weather on each occasion.

For more pictures from the day, plus an audio recording of Pastor Neal's sermon, visit the Welsh Mission website at: [www.adventistwales.org](http://www.adventistwales.org).



# Megapixels of creation

## Isn't nature wonderful?

I took this photo on the beach at Snettisham, Norfolk, on the edge of the Wash.

Please keep sending in your photos for *Megapixels of creation*. We are due to run another spread soon. Pictures of nature – landscapes, wildlife, water, close-ups. You never know your luck, you may get in print.

Send them in to me at: [dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk). Just remember to keep them 'hi-res'. Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

To see more of your images, go to: <http://adventistwebministries-org-uk.adventist.eu/megapixels>

## Enhancing Health

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

### Natural pain relief

The last instalment of *Enhancing Health* featured concerns from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), which warned that people suffering certain types of headaches could be in a vicious cycle where their headaches worsen because of medication overuse. In the light of these increasing concerns about the side effects of long-term pain medication, many patients are looking to natural alternatives for pain relief. In fact, there are now ongoing studies into the efficacy of exercise and food as possible pain relievers.

An online article by Total Health (21 May 2012), published in *Pain*®, carried the headline: 'Exercise as a form of pain relief'. Research from Heidelberg University, Germany, found that athletes can tolerate a higher level of pain than individuals exercising less often. In addition, they have found that pain perception differs depending on the activity level of individuals.

Lead investigator, Dr Tesarz, states that the research 'might foster the development of effective types of exercise for relief in pain

patients'. He further suggests that more research needs to be undertaken to ascertain the effect of different types of exercise on pain perception, which could lead to developing non-invasive treatments for patients with chronic pain conditions.

When we exercise, our body releases endorphins – hormone-like substances produced in the brain that not only give a 'feel good' factor but act as the body's natural painkillers.

What hope is there, however, for the less athletic or those unable to undertake moderate exercise due to frailty, chronic illness or disability? How about a visit to the kitchen?

Dr Neil Bernard's book, titled: *Foods That Fight Pain: Proven Dietary Solutions For Maximum Pain Relief Without Drugs*, is an insightful read. Highlighting the power of food to tackle pain, Dr Bernard states: 'Nutrients work against pain in four ways. They can reduce damage at the site of injury, cool your body's inflammatory response, provide analgesia on pain nerves themselves, and even work within the brain to reduce pain sensitivity.'

Available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), Dr Bernard's book also highlights the different types of food that can be used to fight the different types of pain. He states: 'Rice or peppermint oil, for example, can soothe your digestive tract. Ginger and the herb feverfew can prevent migraines. . . . Natural plant oils can reduce arthritis pain. Cranberry juice can fight the pain of bladder infections. Vitamin B6 can even increase your pain resistance, to name just a few.' In the next issue we will reveal more.

**Good health!**



# editorial

## Veterans needed



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

### When only symbols remain

It becomes difficult to inspire the next generation when the veterans are dead, and only symbols remain. This is as true for faith as it is for patriotism.

Christianity is not at a loss for symbols in this 'fair and pleasant land' – they are everywhere. Cathedrals and churches abound – presently between 45,000 and 46,000 of them.<sup>1</sup> The real crisis is that the 'veterans' of the faith are dying out!

The Christian faith needs its veterans too. Men and women who have taken Paul's advice to heart: 'Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.' (Ephesians 6:11, NIV.)

Our Church needs men and women, young and old, who have been on active service in the great battle – the cosmic conflict between good and evil. Believers who can echo Paul's comment: 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.' (2 Timothy 4:7, 8, NIV.)

My grandfather, Alfred Hibbert, was a veteran of the First World War. My father, also Alfred, was a veteran of the second. Knowing them and listening to their recollections – this kept my respect for their courage and sacrifice, and that of their comrades, alive.

In the same way, my faith has been sustained and strengthened by the testimonies of the many veteran Christians I have learnt to know.

### The Veteran

I love to read true stories of heroism – especially about men and women who faced danger and death 'in the line of duty'. I find these examples of human courage uplifting.

God's Word is packed with such 'in the line of duty' narratives. Stories of unlikely heroes – of ordinary men and women who held the line in the face of Satan's fiercest onslaughts. It also tells the tragic stories of some who flinched in the face of spiritual danger; some who deserted their posts of duty; and some who turned traitor!

Then there is one superlative story – of a Veteran who deliberately and willingly goes to His death. This Veteran didn't need to put Himself at risk, but – driven by a level of compassion we will never fully grasp – He allowed Himself to be captured, tortured and killed to save all His comrades – even the returning deserters!

### No last post for Him

No last post sounded for Him. No poppies wave above His grave. But soon He will lead the greatest Remembrance Day parade of all, marching His veterans proudly into eternity.

Will we be among them?

<sup>1</sup><http://www.visitlondon.com/events/detail/7152413-remembrance-in-london> <sup>2</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10634173> <sup>3</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papaver\\_rhoeas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papaver_rhoeas) <sup>4</sup><http://www.greatwar.co.uk/article/remembrance-poppies.htm> <sup>5</sup>In *Flanders Fields and Other Poems*, a 1919 collection of McCrae's works ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In\\_Flanders\\_Fields](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_Flanders_Fields)) <sup>6</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_last\\_surviving\\_World\\_War\\_I\\_veterans\\_by\\_country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_last_surviving_World_War_I_veterans_by_country) <sup>7</sup>[http://www.whychurch.org.uk/num\\_churches.php](http://www.whychurch.org.uk/num_churches.php) <sup>8</sup>Readers with concerns about whether the poem should read 'contemn' or 'condemn, kindly consult: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ode\\_of\\_Remembrance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ode_of_Remembrance).

**'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.'**

- From *'For the Fallen'*, by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)<sup>9</sup>

Annually, on the second Sunday of November, it is our custom to remember those men and women 'who gave their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts'. This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on November 11, Armistice Day, and will be marked as usual by a variety of parades and services.<sup>1</sup>

The day traces its roots back to the First World War, to the moment the guns fell silent on the Western Front, on 'the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918'.<sup>2</sup> At that precise moment each year, it is customary to observe a two-minute silence in honour of the fallen – including the thirty-nine who have died this year in Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup>

### The 'corn' poppy

The 'corn' or 'Flanders' poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) has become the symbol of this remembrance.<sup>4</sup> Why? Probably because these bright red flowers were the first sign of new life, as spring and summer came to those tortured Belgian battlefields in 1915.

The corn poppy's seeds can lie dormant for years until the earth around them is disturbed, for example, by the digging of fresh graves.<sup>5</sup> Apparently it was the sight of these poppy-covered mounds that inspired Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae (Canadian) to pen these lines:<sup>6</sup>

*'In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

Hopefully, many of us will purchase and wear a plastic poppy this November – in remembrance.

### But she's dead!

Yes, that's right. The last veteran of World War I was Florence Green, a British citizen who died last year at the age of 110.<sup>7</sup> She was our last living link with that dreadful conflict. All we now have left are sepia photographs, scratched and jerky films, and vast numbers of books about the event. Will that be enough to keep our brave forebears 'in remembrance'?

And when we are gone, will our children respectfully pause, with bared heads at 11am, on Remembrance Sunday? Will they tell their children about the courage and sacrifice of our grandparents? Will they bother to buy plastic poppies?





# The perfect exchange

by Pastor Ronald Edwards, retired pastor

While crossing a busy intersection on foot one day, a small, flat, circular object caught my eye. Curious, I picked it up. At first I thought it was a penny; but, having been ground incessantly beneath the tyres of innumerable vehicles, it was impossible to tell with certainty just what it had once been. So, curious, I took it home. There I tried rubbing it with 'Vim', then tried scraping; but still it would not reveal the

secret of its identity. So I dropped it into the bottom of a small glass, covered it with vinegar and left it a full day. Then, after rinsing, I could see minute traces of copper shining through here and there. On one side parts of the original outline of the Queen's head were visible; on the other, nothing. Yet that was enough to tell: it was a penny. It was totally unfit for circulation, however. No one would have wanted it in either their pocket or their purse. Now, a penny is not worth much – the smallest British coin in current circulation – yet, why waste it? So I took it to the bank

(the same, by chance, which originally went under the name: 'The Yorkshire Penny Bank')! There, the pleasant young lady at the till checked it and then, with a kindly smile, gave me a shiny, newly-minted penny in exchange. Retaining the mutilated coin, she said, 'We send these to the Bank of England.' Instantly it struck me: that simple exchange provided as clear an exposition of the Gospel as I had ever yet conceived.

Once our conscience has been awakened, we try by every means we can to restore our lost original divine likeness: by good deeds, by character improvement, by donations to good causes, and by every other kind of virtuous act. These are not evil things, but the best of which we are capable: yet entirely insufficient to 'pass muster' with our Holy God. After all our best efforts, we are still far, far from what we would like (and know we ought) to be.

Perhaps, unwilling to be beaten, we may augment our endeavours by more precise and detailed 'duties' and practices (as did the Pharisees of Jesus' time), sacrificially depriving ourselves of this or that necessity. Yet all of this is to no satisfactory end. It only demonstrates more surely our complete incapacity to become what we know we ought to be.

Finally, in our helplessness – if we are wise – we bring our faulty, flawed, disfigured 'righteousness' to God. A righteousness we have vainly attempted to restore, and which is known fully only to ourselves and God. He does not take us and 'polish us up' a bit more than we have already managed. Like that lady at the bank, He takes that old, mutilated 'coin' of our righteousness; and in return gives us the 'mint-coin' of the flawless righteousness of Jesus: no 'makeover', but the very righteousness of Christ Himself. What an incomparable exchange!

I shall never see that damaged coin again. It has been sent to the Bank of England and been destroyed. Just so, our sins were borne by Jesus on the cross, then buried with His body in the tomb; and left there when He arose. As we accept that in repentant faith, they *never* shall condemn us again. Now Jesus is in our place in Heaven, representing us before His Father. We are accepted by God on His account: just like that 'mint-coin'.

What if I now err? My heart's whole purpose, having repented, is to serve God. Yet, in my frailty, consciously and unconsciously, I err. Can I 'tarnish' or 'scratch' the 'mint-coin' of Christ's character? Never! For, having overcome, as Man, He is seated at the right hand of His Father, representing me. Nothing I do can affect His faultless holiness: which is credited to me, on His account, by the Father. As long as I remain repentant and dependent upon Jesus, that 'mint-coin' of His righteousness will stand in place of my imperfection.

The 'mint-coin' of Christ's unsullied character is God's answer to the irreparably damaged 'coin' of our own. This alone is the foundation of our faith in the Saviour: this and nothing else.

# Norman needed to know . . .

During a recent service at my home church, I had the opportunity to listen to the following account of some witnessing done by one of our elderly members, Winifred Cowley. Winifred is 97, and, because coming to the front of the church would have been difficult for her, her daughter, Liz Holden, told her story. This is what she said:



'I had this experience while receiving respite care at a nursing home in Bourne. I was there for ten days while my daughter and son-in-law were away on holiday. The surroundings were very pleasant and I had a nice private room, which I really appreciated. At the same time, however, I was free to join the other residents in the dining room or lounge as often as I wished.

'The room above mine was occupied by a gentleman who appeared to have some form of dementia. All through

the day he would keep crying: "Help, help!" It seemed that the only time he stopped was when he was asleep. I tolerated this incessant noise as best I could, but as the days dragged on I became very unhappy. It was then that I decided to try and speak to him – just to let him know that he had a Father in Heaven who loved him. I hoped that this might relieve him of his burden of fear.

'I walk with great difficulty, but the Lord helped me to use the lift to get to the next floor. When I eventually got there, the person in charge asked me what I wanted, so I told her about my mission: "I just want to tell this poor man about Jesus in the hope that it will alleviate his stress."

' "I know about Jesus," she said, "but don't talk to this man about Him. Rather go to the man next door. He is extremely lonely and needs someone to talk to."

'Needless to say, I was quite surprised at her response. But she took me gently by the arm and led me to the "lonely" man, whose name was Norman.

'I introduced myself to him and began to talk to him about God, and how much He loves each of us. I can't remember my exact words, but after chatting to him for some time I saw fit to return to my room. As I left, Norman took my hand – clutching it between his – and thanked me warmly for talking to him.

'The next day Liz came to take me home – my stay at the care home was over.

'Soon after my return home we received a call from the care home. During the conversation, the nurse told my daughter the following: "I heard that your mother went to visit Norman and blessed him or something. I'm not really religious, but I have to say that it did impress me – because that same night Norman died quite unexpectedly in his sleep!"

'I could hardly believe my ears, but it did occur to me that God must have arranged our meeting. Which only goes to prove how much He loves and cares for everyone. It also showed me that, when we allow the Holy Spirit to prompt and lead us, He can use even our humble abilities, no matter how old or frail we are!'

with Andrew Puckering



# Ultimate Comforter

During the reign of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, the returning Judean captives must have been feeling pretty discouraged. Their temple, which the LORD had left and the Babylonians had burned many years before, was still in ruins, and reconstruction had been cancelled by order of the king (Ezekiel 10:18; 2 Chronicles 36:19; Ezra 4:23, 24). The survivors who had returned from exile in Babylon were very upset; the walls of their city were still rubble; and the gates were charred wreckage. It was bad enough to make those who heard of it cry like never before (Nehemiah 1:3, 4; 2:1).

God, however, had a special message for His people; and in the reign of Darius, king of Persia, He sent Haggai and Zechariah to preach it (Ezra 5:1). The Babylonian soldiers who destroyed their city had indeed been sent by God, because there was simply no other remedy for His children's unfaithfulness (2 Chronicles 36:15-17; Jeremiah 25:9; Ezekiel 39:23, 24). Paradoxically, although it can't have felt like it at the time, this was for the Israelites' own good – in sharp contrast to their own actions, which were only hurting them (Jeremiah 24:5, 6; 25:7). God had been angry with His people, yes: but, unlike the Babylonians, He had always had good plans for them in the end, not evil intentions (Isaiah 54:8; Jeremiah 29:11; Zechariah 1:15, 16).

In time, those same tumbled-down walls, rebuilt by Nehemiah, would be neither necessary nor even convenient (Nehemiah 6:15; Zechariah 2:1-5). God Himself would protect His formerly 'barren' city – soon to be full to overflowing, with so many people and their animals that an all-encircling city wall would just get in their way – just as He'd promised even before the exile, in Isaiah's time (Isaiah 54:1-5)!

For Zerubbabel (civil governor of Judah and descendant of David) and Joshua (high priest of Judah and descendant of Aaron) God had particular, highly symbolic messages (1 Chronicles 6:1-15; Haggai 1:14; Matthew 1:6-12). Zerubbabel, representative of Judah's civil authority, was promised victory, and to be made the LORD's signet ring – the stamp of His authority (Haggai 2:20-23). Joshua, representative of Judah's spiritual life, was shown in vision to have his dirty clothes removed and clean clothes put on by the Angel of the LORD (Zechariah 3:1-5) – symbolic of the 'filthy rags' of their own righteousness being replaced by the righteousness of God (Isaiah 64:6). God was restoring His people to Himself once again!

What of His house, the temple? That He helped them to rebuild, as a sign of His favour, spurred on by Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 6:14-16; Zechariah 4:8-10; 6:11-13; 8:7-15). The restored temple – although it didn't look much to begin with, when compared with Solomon's temple which the Babylonians destroyed – would nevertheless surpass it in glory (Haggai 2:3, 9). Why? Because One greater than the temple was coming to it (Matthew 12:6); Zion's King, lowly, and riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9); One whom they would pierce (Zechariah 12:10); the Desire of Nations, coming to fill God's house with His glory (Haggai 2:7)! Furthermore, this Desire of Nations was not only for Judah, but for all people: every nationality is welcome in the LORD's house (Isaiah 56:1-8). God Himself was coming to live among them, and make many nations His own people (Zechariah 2:10-13), in the Person of Jesus Christ.

- When was the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 fulfilled?
- Can you find the prophecy of the Messiah in Zechariah 13?
- In which verse of Matthew 26 is this prophecy fulfilled?
- Which chapter of Zechariah mentions "thirty pieces of silver"?
- Who is referred to as 'the BRANCH'?

# Try listening to atheists

by Grenville Kent

I shouldn't have told the taxi driver I was going to the atheist convention. 'So they'll sit around saying there's nothing up there, it's nothing,' he said in a Middle Eastern accent, fingering his prayer beads. 'These people are mad!'

'It's a bit more than that . . .'

I started to say. 'These people want two men to marry each other, but they can't have no children, which proves them they're wrong. These @#\$% people ought to be shot.' He drove on angrily, making the wooden cross swing faster from his rear view mirror. Did he remember that the Man on it never forced anyone to obey, and was killed by religious intolerance? I kept quiet. Some beliefs are more like prejudice,

out of reach of reason. Is this what atheists put up with? If you were parented or taught by a believer like this, atheism might look open-minded and attractive.

Inside, comedians started carpet-bombing religion. 'To anyone who has lost a child, let me say: God loves you, so He'll burn your baby in hell forever and it's your fault. You didn't ask a paedophile priest to hold him and dribble water on his head to wash away the original sin of his ancestor Adam, whom the Church officially says never actually existed.' There is wincing, deafening laughter and applause from the 4,000-strong crowd, twice as many as last year. But he's attacking the God invented by the medieval Church, not the God of the Bible.

Outside, Muslim protesters were chanting that Christopher Hitchens, the atheist writer who recently died, would 'burn in hell forever'. A Christian group carried signs about eternal hell for atheists, homosexuals and 'church gossips'. I asked them politely how an infinite punishment for a finite crime would be just, and some actually thought about that. At least they were emphasising that Jesus died because He loved atheists and wanted to save them. Inside, hell often featured. One scientist told me, 'God is the cosmic Saddam Hussein, but worse, because at least a dictator leaves you alone when you're dead. God has you forever.' Mainstream Christianity really has to rediscover biblical teaching on hell, or churches will keep producing atheists.

I notice the T-shirts: 'Science flies you to the moon. Religion flies you into buildings'; 'Forget Jesus. The stars died so you could be born'; 'Smile, there is no hell; 'God is not my drug of choice'.

The conference is called 'a celebration of reason'. Reason is worth celebrating, and I want a faith that is reasonable, not blind. But where did we get reason? Did mere matter become conscious on its own? Did the human brain, easily the most complex object we know, assemble from chemicals by chance alone? Or is it more likely that

our reason came from another Mind? I'm producing a film about this in the *Big Questions* series.

A number of ex-Adventists say hello, including two former teachers and a former minister. Some are converts, some are just looking. I bump into an Adventist mother and son. He is a science student who asked the pastor to come around and help with some questions he was facing at university. The pastor never came, so he assumed Christianity had no answers. I've heard this story so many times: the bright kid goes to university and no one has developed the intellectual side of his faith, which stays at school level, and he outgrows it. His mum is at the atheist convention, despite concern from some church friends, to listen to the questions, and to work on answers with him. I feel a deep love for them both, and give them a book by John Lennox, a Christian professor of mathematics at Oxford, called *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*

I find some atheists want honest dialogue, while others take cheap shots and attack straw-man arguments, acting like intolerant fundamentalists – but I've heard some Christians do the same. Is anyone actually listening fairly? We need respectful dialogue, not tribal warfare. Atheists have reason and intuition, the ability to love,

some innate knowledge of right and wrong, a sense of purpose – because they are created in God's image, whether they recognise it or not. Some have never heard good reasons to believe, and have rejected illogical church dogma. Some have been abused by Christians. Many are influenced by scientists who act like all the evidence goes one way, and who wallpaper over large gaps in the naturalist account of how we got here.

I know of only one way to reach them: friendly dialogue.

Peter (1 Peter 3:15, paraphrased) tells Christians to do three things. One, 'Consecrate yourself to Christ as Lord'. That is, recognise your own need of a Saviour and spiritual transformation. That leaves no room for smugness.

Two, 'Be always ready to give a reason for the hope you have'. A reason (*apologia* in Greek) means a reasoned defence, a logical case for something. So it's not enough to say, 'Faith feels good to me.' We might need to repent of mental laxness and think harder about why we believe. I'm encouraged to see some Adventists reading the Christian apologists like John Lennox, Lee Strobel, William Lane Craig, Ravi Zacharias, John Dickson or Alistair McGrath. (You can find their talks on YouTube.) Most times when I talk with an atheist, I realise my ignorance on yet another topic, and go home to dig deeper.

Three, 'Do this with gentleness and respect'. I need to respect people who have prayed and felt unanswered, who feel they're on a mudball hurtling through space, unguided, unparented, trying to make their own meaning and purpose and to live their lives as best they can. I need to respect their intelligence in how I present Christianity. If a loving Father is calling them home, how could I represent Him by arrogance? I need to take a different road from my taxi driver. And so I sneak into the convention centre's prayer room – it's not like anyone was using it – and ask for love and logic as I interview celebrity atheists. I pray that I'll really listen, and make films for my church that will begin to answer the real questions of this growing segment in Western countries. God wants to answer their questions as He did for 'Doubting' Thomas, and enjoy their reason, their individuality and their company. Forever.

## Empowered

A report of the BUC Women's Ministries conference

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

'Delicately engineered', 'charmingly delivered', 'engaging and thought-provoking', 'Spirit-filled' – these were some of the terms used to describe Empowered, the BUC Women's Ministries conference held on Sunday 9 September. That day the Stanborough Park church was alive with the sound of 170 women from all around the British Isles, who, in the words of a lady from the North England Conference, had come to 'be empowered in a warm and safe environment'.

The event was the brainchild of Sharon Platt-McDonald, organiser, host and BUC Women's Ministries director, who was ably supported by her team. The aim of the programme was for women to 'reach other women, restore lives and reflect Christ'.

The day began with a welcome from Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president, who was followed by his wife, Jennifer, an experienced health practitioner who, though generally shy and retiring in public, delivered a powerful and meaningful devotion, encouraging the attendees to be 'all they can for God'.

Throughout the day there were several plenary sessions. 'What's Your Story?' was the opening presentation delivered by Helen Pearson, a PR consultant, church elder and counsellor. She spoke about the importance of 'story' in our lives and the uniqueness of each of our lives. Valerie Bernard-Allen, sociologist and PhD candidate, engaged the audience with statistics about Seventh-day Adventist singles. Her ground-breaking research aroused much interest and opened the floor for a frank discussion on the issue: so much so, that she was asked to run an unscheduled workshop on the subject.

She was later joined on the platform by the other morning presenters and Pastors Kirsten Øster-Lunqvist (SEC Communication director) and Mary Barrett (Watford Town, Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City), to share thoughts and opinions around current issues regarding women in the Church. Questions were taken from the floor, as well as

guided enquiries from the day's host. Issues under the spotlight included Women in Church Leadership, Singleness, Sexuality, Marriage and Childlessness. Credit should be given to the panel members for their honesty, their willingness to be vulnerable and also for their spiritual guidance in response to questions that were very challenging. Some of these are not addressed in the normal church environment, but are very relevant to the lives of over 70% of the Adventist membership in the United Kingdom.

After lunch Thembe Mapingire, co-ordinator for the SEC Counselling Service, spoke on the delicate subject of the sexualisation of women and children as depicted in the media. This session was followed by workshops. The topics included: The Last-chance Parents (Malika Bediako); Recession-Proof Woman (Sandra Golding); The Time of Your Life (Geraldene Farmer); Pink-Ribbon Breast Cancer Prevention (Grace Walsh); What's Your Story – Making Your Own Decisions (Helen Pearson); and Writing a Devotional (Sharon Platt-McDonald).

At the event, *Light for Your Path*, the BUC weekly devotional book for women, was officially launched. More than thirty-eight people contributed to its fifty-two readings and activities. Many had never written before, but one lady from South London said, 'I didn't think I could write. But when I prayed and then chose a passage of Scripture, the words just flowed.'

'Flow and grace and harmonies from Heaven' were the words that one lady from Watford used to describe the music that embellished the day's activities. Marie Garrison and Hopieanne Platt ably blessed the congregants with their musical renditions. And music wasn't the only art form utilised for ministry. Well-crafted poems by Rosalind Clark, from the Brixton church, were scattered throughout the day's proceedings and available in the women's packs.

A period of respite and relaxation was included in the day, and women were encouraged to try a 'hand massage', browse at the stalls of women who ran their own businesses, and purchase some of the resources produced by the BUC Women's Ministries department. The day ended with a presentation by Utiluvu on the work that they are doing with women overseas.

A visibly emotional Sharon ended the day's proceedings with thanks to her counterparts from the conferences and missions, the presenters, workshop facilitators, exhibitors and staff. 'I felt the moving of God today,' she said when interviewed later. 'I believed that His Spirit was present as we dealt with controversial issues, addressed neglected matters of importance and helped individuals connect with each other.'



This article first appeared in the Record, 19 May 2012.







## Witnessing in South Cumbria

On 31 July, eight young and eager volunteers from around the NEC came to Dalton-in-Furness for the IMPACT South Cumbria project, now in its second year.

The volunteers, under the leadership of Joseph Philpott (NEC Task Force worker) and the local pastor (Ian Philpott), were taught different evangelism techniques and then sent out to knock on doors and street-witness in Barrow-in-Furness.

The project lasted for three weeks, culminating in a mini-campaign held over three nights at a local community centre. The title alone, 'Know Your Future', drew a lot of curiosity! People were also able to watch the pre-recorded series online.

Twenty-nine members of the community came over the three nights; with eleven people making a decision to join a small group, which has now begun, and five people requesting in-home Bible studies.

The volunteers also went to the park to mix with local teenagers, resulting in some of them coming back to the Dalton church, where the male volunteers were staying, and having Bible studies and watching prophecy DVDs.

Some volunteers could even be found talking about their faith to the regulars outside the pub.

There are so many testimonies of how God worked over the three weeks, with many lives being touched and changed. We give God the glory for giving us the privilege of being part of His work.

J. PHILPOTT



## Jema Hucuma's baptism

On Sabbath 16 September the Swansea church said welcome and farewell to Jema Hucuma all in the same day. She declared her love for the Lord and was baptised by Pastor Jovan Adamović at the Waterfront Apostolic Church, and left the next day for Portsmouth University to study pharmacology. We wish her God's blessing as she begins a new chapter in her life.

SWANSEA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



## Four baptised at Edmonton youth and teens tent campaign

On 8 September, the Edmonton church began its two-week youth and teens campaign entitled 'Being Known for Making Him Known' in Jubilee Park, Edmonton, with rousing praise and worship led by Edmonton youth and teens, followed by a Sabbath School discussion and preaching from Kenwyn Richins and Ricky Gillin.

Trevor Johnson provided an afternoon workshop, followed by Pastor Eddie Hypolite's evening service, which used humour to express how much God loves us. Sunday morning's drama and music workshop was led by Marsha Morrisson, and a community health fair was led by Melvina Kirwan and her team. The evening message was given by Elder John Matieu from Hackney Church. The campaign and health fair continued throughout the week with preaching from Adrian Lee, Kenwyn Richins, Gershom Allen and Asher McKenzie.

The second Sabbath's message was provided by Pastor Petras Bahadur, concerning how we can reach out to Muslims by showing the similarities between the Bible and the Koran. An afternoon Creation debate was led by Robert Haye, and the evening programme was led by the London Youth Federation praise team, with the message preached by Pastor Dejan Stojkovic.

The Sunday morning workshops were business and careers talks led by David McQueen, Paul Thompson and Kirstyn Lobo, who later said she would also like to start coming to church. The health fair continued until the evening service, with the Word preached by Costa Vaggas on our imperfections and God's perfect plans for us.

Another week of evangelism and health fairs continued, with messages provided by Andrew Fuller, Sherron McKenzie-Cook, Malika Bediako, Pastor Eddie Hypolite and Pastor Kevin Johns. The final Sabbath concluded with preaching by Warren Gillin and the baptism of four precious souls – Rawlings Sam, Winnie Nsimbi, Seneve Mpisi and Victoire Mpisi!

RICHARD DE LISSER

SEC Youth Ministries Presents

# iLead

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

29th March - 10th April 2013

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
at the BRADFORD CLEVELAND BROTHERS BUILDING

For more info visit: [www.youngadventlists.com/iLead](http://www.youngadventlists.com/iLead)

## 'Jesus Paid it All'

From 23 June to 14 July, youth came to Hanwell Church from north and south to hear the Word of God preached through Andrew Fuller and Dean Cullinane. Due to the mass 'Social Media' invitations made by the 'Preaching Place' ministry, which included a video promotion on YouTube and Facebook, youths were able to invite their friends by simply sharing the video on each other's Facebook pages. This proved to be hugely successful.

The campaign yielded thirty-three souls in total for baptism, of whom fourteen to date have joined the Church through two baptisms: one on 26 May, the other on 14 July. Nineteen are being prepared for baptism. Several candidates were being prepared for the baptism scheduled for the last day of the campaign on 14 July; however, the mother of one candidate, Tamara Fleary, was scheduled to come from the USA before the end of May and wanted to see her daughter get baptised. Tamara therefore requested an early baptism: and her mother, having arrived, decided to join her daughter in getting baptised also!

Wayne has been threatened with the sack for refusing to work on Sabbath: but he trusts that if he loses his job the Lord will provide something better.

Heerum Abdullah, a former Muslim, read the Christian book, *How to Win Over Depression*, which touched her heart. Although her parents rejected her because of her new-found belief in Christ Jesus, she started reading the Bible and going to church.

David became a Christian after receiving Bible studies on Facebook. Of Hanwell Church, David said: 'I felt at home, as I received a warm welcome and many members introduced themselves to me. . . . I knew God was speaking directly to me.' David's mother now regularly attends church, with his older brother coming to Bible studies.

On 14 July, the last day of the campaign, seven more joined the church through baptism and one on profession of faith. Brian, a 23-year-old youth from West London, had been on the 'streets' as a gangster. Brian was totally convicted of the truth as he attended the campaign night after night; he decided to become fully dependent on Christ. Brian's new-found joy is studying his Bible daily. The change in his life appeals to many of his 'street' friends.

Young people came to hear the truth preached straight from the Bible. It is the continuing Bible studies that will finish this Gospel work.

HANWELL AND SOUTHWALL COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENTS



May 26 baptism photo, left to right: Anne-Marie Aird, David Redhead, Wayne Francis, Pastor Everett Picart, Marion Fleary, Tamara Fleary, Heerum Abdullah.



July 14 baptism photo, left to right: Daniel Manji, Shobi Springer, Afiya Alexis, Jonathan Gardner, Laura Gordon, Brian Nimba, Patrice Dantzie, Evelyn Charles, Pastor Everett Picart.

# Nkosi Ka Ndlovu & THE EXPERIENCE

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SEC Pathfinders & Youth Ministries Present

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### Team Jesus in Bristol

After the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in Bristol the Gospel took centre stage. Between 1 and 15 September, for the first time, all four Bristol churches – Central, Lodge Causeway, North and South – organised a joint campaign at Broadmead Baptist Church entitled ‘Secure Your Destiny’, with international evangelist Pastor Lawrence Dorsey Snr, who is also the senior pastor at the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Los Angeles.

The meetings covered last-day events and were attended by visitors from other denominations, who described the messages as ‘dynamic’ and ‘powerful’. Singing evangelist Beverly Dorsey (Lawrence’s wife) sang most evenings. One phrase struck a chord, referring to the unified efforts of the four churches: Team Jesus.

On the final Sabbath, 15 September, twelve were baptised and more than forty individuals expressed an interest in Bible studies, many of whom were young people. Those baptised were Chiluba Chipula, Marsha Cochrane, Natasha Denecheau, Hayden Hudd, Laetitia Lacroix, Biancha Musamadya, Daniel Odumuzor, Siphon Msipa, Memory Sithole, Joy Okotie, Cherie Ford and Marcia Thomas.

SHILOH HARMITT



### Inspire Share Witness

Two TV channels to share the best of British and International Adventist programmes with your friends:

**Revelation TV** (Sky 581 or Freesat 692) A Christian TV channel sharing Adventist programming twice a week: Thursday 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.

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English	midnight – 2am
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Russian/Ukrainian	2pm – 7pm
English	7pm – midnight

Highlights from the UK include:

‘In Conversation’ – sharing inspiring life journeys: Monday, 12:30am, Wednesday, midnight, Friday, 8pm & midnight. Sabbath, 9am and 7:30pm.

‘ViewPoint’ – discussing issues of life and faith: Monday, 9:30pm, Wednesday, 8am.

**Faithtalks** – Tackling the basic issues of faith and Christianity. Thursday, 12:30am, Friday, 8:30pm.

ALSO visit the Hope TV UK website for on-demand programming and exclusive BUC News reports and features: [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk)

# Newport's fourth annual health fair

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

On Sunday 23 September the Newport church held its fourth annual health fair at the Eveswell Primary School near the church. Nearly fifty members of the public visited the event, most of whom took part in the health activities on offer.

Newport members were particularly grateful to exhibitors who came to support the event this year. NEW START, led by NEC Community Service director Grace Walsh, had eight stalls. The Phillips Memorial Trust, Sight Support, the Welsh Refugee Council and the Samaritans were also represented.

The excellent free food at lunchtime was a big attraction, prepared by the Newport Health Ministries team and members and staff from Eveswell School. Welsh Mission Health sponsors Lil and Irving Saunders support the Health Fair every year, and their medical expertise and culinary skills alike are much appreciated.

The enthusiasm of Tony Trigg, site manager for the Eveswell Primary School, was evident as he eagerly showed visitors around the classrooms. Together with his wife and daughter he also enjoyed the health fair itself.

This year Pastor David Rancić invited visitors to complete a satisfaction survey as they were leaving: ‘There was no negative feedback at all,’ he said, ‘unless you count those people who weren’t happy with their cholesterol levels!’

Pictures from the event can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at: [www.adventistwales.org](http://www.adventistwales.org).



Top right: Representatives from the Welsh Refugee Council.

Top left: Tony Trigg and daughter Olivia.

Middle: Stan Wells checks his respiration capacity.

Left: Smiles in the kitchen.

Above: The team from the Samaritans.



### Health screening at Portsmouth

Portsmouth Church conducted free community health screening as part of a ‘Community safety, health and fun day’ at The City of Portsmouth Girls’ School on 30 June. Health professionals and volunteers encouraged attendees to adopt a healthy, holistic lifestyle.

Community members and pupils visited a number of stations for health screening, advice, spiritual counselling and a relaxing massage – and health-promoting freebies in an eco-friendly reusable tote bag printed with the church’s name, contact details and the Lord’s assurance in Jeremiah 30:15, that He will restore our health.

A number of copies of the recent health edition of the *FOCUS* magazine and books and leaflets supplied by national health charities were handed out to attendees, along with spiritual tracts and books such as *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Hope* and *When God Said Remember*. Attendees were very appreciative.

The opportunity to conduct this screening event arose during a similar health expo earlier this year. One of the attendees – the city’s neighbourhood watch chairwoman – was so impressed that she invited the church to conduct a health-screening programme at the school. The church was delighted to share healthful living and the Good News of Jesus with the wider community.

MARY JACOBSON



## The Big Tidy-up – keep Britain tidy

Manchester Southern Asia's Adventurers and Pathfinders have been involved in community service this year. During the summer we participated in two 'Big Tidy-up' events on 20 June and 16 September, and Adventurers and Pathfinders could complete their requirement on community services. Both adults and young children participated in tidying up all kinds of litter from the Ardwick and Rusholme neighbourhoods in Manchester. During one of our events the BBC filmed and interviewed the group.

SUREEN RAYAVARAPU



## Area 1 day of fellowship

Members from across Devon and Cornwall came together on 22 September for a day of fellowship at the Rattery Village Hall.

The youth studied outside with Steven Hulbert, as Pastor Ian Lorek led the adult lesson study on the term 'anti-Christ' and Romola Lorek engaged the children in Bible activities.

In a service with varied hymns and praise music, the main speaker was Dr Cedric Vine, who asked, 'Why did Jesus have to die?' Dr Vine demonstrated the parallels between the early Christians and the early Adventist Church in their labours to understand this question.

'Wouldn't you have loved to have Jesus' Bible study notes?' asked Dr Vine.

Also present was SEC Communications director, Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, who gave a presentation on the place in the Church of communication and media as evangelism.

PASTOR KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDAQVIST



## Flags for the Kingdom

In August a group of Seventh-day Adventist home educators, who meet monthly in Warwickshire, enjoyed some activities inspired by the Olympics.

We talked about people coming from different countries to support their teams and how they were proud to display their country's flag, and how the colours and designs on flags have meanings. We then talked about how, although we belong to the United Kingdom, we also belong to another Kingdom: that of Heaven. The children, aged up to 15 years, were then challenged to design a flag for the Kingdom of Heaven. The results were diverse and well thought out.

For more about Seventh-day Adventist home educators, contact Neal Lawrence (BUC Home Education advisor) at: [homeschooling@adventist.org.uk](mailto:homeschooling@adventist.org.uk) or on 01686 651067.

VICKY BEAMISH

The Worcester church are happy to announce that Roxann Pirvu has gained her BSc (Hons) in Psychology; and Nesty Villanueva has passed his studies for the Diploma of Higher Education in Nursing, Adult Branch. We wish them God's blessing as they use their skills for the benefit of others.

DORIS J. LACK

# obituary

**William Glyn Inskip (1920-2012) d. 8 July.**

William Glyn Inskip was born on 31 January 1920 in Chiswick, West London, the first child of Mary and William Inskip. Three years later a sister, Mary, completed the family.

Life was tough in Britain in the 1930s when Glyn, aged 14, started work. With three million unemployed, jobs were hard to come by: and to make matters



worse, Glyn suffered a vision problem – coriditis of the retina – which continued throughout his life.

With his father a sea captain in the Merchant Navy, Glyn was drawn to the sea. At age 16 he got his first job on a ship, and Glyn sailed all over the world until 1947, when he was discharged because of eyesight problems.

Glyn's mother, Mary, was a Seventh-day Adventist, and it was when she passed away that Glyn woke up spiritually. He started attending church and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in



## Balham Church's 90-somethings

Balham Church has six members who are over 90 years old: each with quite a testimony.

Merle Groves (91) grew up in the Moravian Church, becoming an Adventist in England after taking Bible studies from members who came to her door to witness to her, and has been a member ever since.

Joseph Henry Stockpole (92) came from an Anglican background, but a family friend used to take him and his sister to an Adventist church on Sabbaths. In 1955 he sometimes attended a Mystic Science group, but Adventist family members invited him to church and he was baptised into the Adventist Church in California.

Louise Fuller (90) was brought up in an Adventist family and was baptised in 1940, one of the pioneers of the Balham church when it opened in 1969.

John Marshallleck (92) and Nell Marshallleck (91) went to school together and both were brought up in the Anglican Church. Soon after their marriage in 1946, Nell joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church; but John remained quite hostile to Adventism until 1983, when an American evangelist, Dick Barron, came to London. John drove his wife to church but this time decided to stay for the service, and to everyone's surprise gave his life to Jesus and got baptised!

Beryl Lindsay (93) was brought up as a Methodist and introduced to Adventism through Sister Gentles, who regards her as 'her mum'. They lived in the same block of flats in the 1970s and studied the Bible together. Beryl was baptised in 1987 during a campaign at Brixton Church, after finding the Adventist Church to be more of a family.

1956. It was at the Adventist church in Chiswick that Glyn met his wife Hai. 'She was the best thing that happened to me,' he used to say, and they lived happily in London together for twenty-five years. Hai and Glyn were faithful members of the Central London church.

When Hai became ill with Alzheimer's disease, Glyn cared for her at home for three years. Then they decided to move to Scotland, to Roundelwood in Crieff, where they lived until Hai's death in 1999.

Glyn was a faithful follower of Christ. When, latterly, he could not attend church, he loved to watch the Hope Channel and keep up with what was happening in his church around the world. On his coffee table lay his large-print Bible and lesson book, alongside his shipping magazines. The sea was in Glyn's

blood, and conversations always included a story about life on the ocean waves.

Glyn passed away on 8 July 2012. Death held no fear for him.

He looked forward to being together with Hai in God's Kingdom and to having restored eyesight. For Glyn, it will be a very different view of things. Glyn's funeral was held at the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church on 11 July, officiated by Pastor Doug Sinclair and Pastor Bernie Holford, with Ann Kemp, Glyn's niece, giving his life sketch. Buried in Crieff Cemetery beside his beloved Hai, Glyn now awaits the Resurrection Morning. Together with Glyn's sister Mary and her family, his church family at Crieff look forward to seeing him again that day.

CHRISTINE BAUWENS

These six soldiers have blazed a trail that their friends are privileged to follow!

ERROL ANDERSON

PHOTOS BY BRIAN FERGUSON, MARK GREY, MARIS FERGUSON, JOSEPH CLEM

## The Mosers' golden wedding anniversary

Stanborough Park members Doctors Eric and Susan Moser celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the end of May. They first met as students at the Christian Medical College, Vellore in Tamil Nadu, India.

They worked as doctors for forty-three years in India and England, and they keep themselves busy in retirement with hobbies and church activities. Susan leads the singing band, which visits a different local care home each week, as well as visiting old and sick church members.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT





# back page



## J-walking in Crieff

On 23 September, friends, neighbours and members of local towns were invited by Crieff members to come J-walking, as the church and grounds were transformed into a theatrical set with nine biblical characters telling their stories of how they had met Jesus.

After looking around an exhibition taking them back to Bible times, guides took the J-walkers to meet the various characters stationed in simple, evocative sets with appropriate theatrical props: including John the Baptist, Peter, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Martha, Lazarus, Simon of Cyrene, Thomas and the disciple John, who recommended that the group read his Gospel. Each visitor was given a Gospel of John and invited to attend the 'Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus' evangelism series starting in October.

There were also activities for the children with games and puzzles – they enjoyed meeting the pony too!

For more photos of the event, see [www.crieffadventist.org.uk](http://www.crieffadventist.org.uk).

PASTOR BERNIE HOLFORD AND CHRISTINE BAUWENS

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## Sixty years of marriage

Pastor Roy Burgess and his wife Sheila, members of Stanborough Park Church, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in the Isles of Scilly. The event was reported by the *Watford Observer* with the headline, 'Church meeting led to a diamond life'. Roy and Sheila first met as teenagers when her family began attending Stanborough Park Church.

They married at Stanborough Park Church on 18 August, 1952 and began ministering and teaching across the country. They now have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and maintain an active retirement – Roy still preaches regularly around the country.

JUNE COOMBS



## Holocaust survivor at Stanborough Park Church

Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Knoller at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis.

Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the 'lovely atmosphere' they found at the club.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## Rochdale change of address

The Rochdale Seventh-day Adventist church company moved premises, due to an increase of members, on 6 October 2012. The congregation now worship at: KYP, Unity Building, Belfield Road, Rochdale, OL16 2UP.



New book of the week

## The Great Controversy Countdown

This new study guide for the *Conflict of the Ages* series, produced by the Pacific Press, *The Great Controversy* project and The Ellen G. White Estate, is perfect for small groups or individuals wishing to discover precious gems of truth in Ellen White's seminal works.

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Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Oct 26	5.44	5.56	5.45	5.45	6.00
Nov 2	4.31	4.43	4.31	4.30	4.45
9	4.20	4.32	4.19	4.15	4.32
16	4.10	4.22	4.08	4.03	4.20

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