ADVENTIST PRESIDENT & YOUTH REACT TO LONDON RIOTS  [Richard de Lisser, SEC Communication Director]

The shooting of Mark Duggan by police, and the peaceful protest that followed to find out answers to the question why, transmuted into violence on the streets of Tottenham and beyond. The volatility of this fluid situation has filled the airwaves and TV screens with reaction and reflection in this 24-hour news driven generation. The Church is not immune to all that has ensued as members live, work and worship in the areas that have been affected. Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists stated, 

"We are saddened by the events that have occurred in Tottenham. The loss of Mark Duggan's life has mobilised many in the community to rightly ask for answers to what took place that led to this young man's loss of life. However, this can never justify the wanton violence and destruction of property, looting, and vandalism that followed the protest. Our members are part of the community and as such are entitled to enjoy the freedoms of society that we all have come to love and enjoy here in Britain. Freedom of movement, freedom of speech, and protection of life and property. Sadly on Saturday night those who were protesting crossed the line of what we all expect from an orderly society and took away the rights and privileges of many living in Tottenham. This can never be acceptable."

As a Church we are encouraging our members as they gather for prayer meeting, in small groups, in individual worship and Sabbath services to make peace in our society a point of prayer. The South England Conference Youth department has organized a Peace Rally in Tottenham at Seven Sisters Station on Tuesday, 9 August between 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm and again on Wednesday, 10 August between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. This event is planned under the LIVE motto 'Living Intentionally Verses just Existing.' The gathering will be used to promote peace by giving out Peace pledge cards and asking people to sign the cards to promote peace in their neighbourhood.

We pray as a Church that peace will reign in the hearts and minds of all those who are troubled today and that through our actions we can show the world the Prince of Peace in a time when many are troubled and in fear.
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