

# United Kingdom and Ireland

## The Path to Prosperity

By Elder José A. Teixeira, Second Counsellor in the Europe Area Presidency

**M**any have looked at prosperity solely from a financial perspective; thus, to prosper in this narrow vision of things one looks only to the external signs of wealth, and consequently, soon the focus becomes on material possessions or the fixed idea of having them. Inevitably this arrangement leads to feelings of envy, greed and selfishness. It also creates an enormous distance between us and the needs of our fellow men, including our families, as time is not allocated any longer to what matters most, but to what we want the most.

What about spiritual prosperity?

We can gain a clear understanding that we are children of our Heavenly Father and that He has a plan of happiness for us. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and our faithfulness, we can return to Him. An understanding that He loves us and gave us commandments to help us face the adversities of life will guide us to a path of gratitude for everything we have. Even when we have little material possessions we will have a sense of gratitude for the things that matter most:

- Our families
- Membership in the Lord's Church
- Temples
- The messages of living prophets
- The scriptures

Just to mention a few of the many blessings we can savour in mortality.

As we long each day to become closer to our Heavenly Father we increase our desire to keep

all the commandments, and consequently we grow spiritually.

In Doctrine and Covenants 29:34 it states, "Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created."

The law of tithing is a matter of faith, not of money. It is a spiritual law, and when observed it reveals our spiritual prosperity and our concern for the welfare of others. It is an expression of love for God and gratitude for everything we have received.

Every time I prepare my donation slip to give my tithing and other offerings to the Lord, I feel great joy that I am contributing to the establishment of the kingdom of God. I know I am helping those who have even less than I. Above all, I feel I am truly in the path of prosperity because I grow spiritually, grow less attached to things that are temporary, and experience greater faith in the promises of prophets of old and of today.

Malachi 3:10 says:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

"I encourage you to accept the Lord's invitation to 'prove [Him] now herewith.' Pay your tithing. Unlock the windows of heaven. You will be abundantly blessed for your obedience and



**Elder José A. Teixeira**

faithfulness to the Lord's laws and commandments" (Robert D. Hales, "Tithing: A Test of Faith with Eternal Blessings," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 28).

Throughout my life, because of the law of tithing I have gained an added appreciation for the need to make and keep a family budget, and for a wise use of the resources that we have been

blessed with. Because of this law I have been blessed to discern more clearly what is most important for me and my family.

Tithing is not a law of money, but a law of faith and gratitude, and certainly one that will put us in the path of prosperity. Of that I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

## DAYS OF SERVICE

*Editors Note: To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Church welfare programme, President Monson asked us to participate in a Day of Service. Members throughout our nations have been busy in a variety of ways.*

# Charity, the Pure Love of Christ

By Irene Webb

A few years ago Marjorie Smith of the Stanley Ward in the Sunderland England Stake started knitting for charity. She started with knitting preemie hats for the maternity unit at Durham Hospital. After a time she moved on to chicken jackets for rescued battery hens that had lost their feathers through stress. Those were followed by Innocent Smoothie hats, for Age Concern. Innocent and Sainsbury's each donate 25p for every behatted bottle sold to Age Concern.

In a Relief Society meeting, Sister Smith was

***Sisters of the Stanley Ward knit to benefit a number of charities.***

asked if she would organize a homemaking meeting. She chose a "knit and natter night," where sisters could bring knitting, crochet, embroidery, learn to knit, or just come for a chat. Afterward, Pauline Chaytor, one of the ward's elderly sisters, asked, "Could we do this every week?" She had really enjoyed the evening.

After discussion it was decided that a monthly meeting would be held to do service projects for charity. This meeting would be held in Sister Chaytor's home. Over time the group has grown to include a nonmember friend of Sister Chaytor's. Jean attends another church but enjoys spending time with the sisters and helping in the service project.

As a group of sisters they make the Innocent Smoothie hats to send off each October. The hats are in Sainsbury's by November. It is also an ongoing event that knitted preemie hats are sent to Liverpool hospital for the neonatal unit to be used on the maternity ward, and items of baby clothing are sold for funds within the hospital, as the Durham Hospital does not require them at the moment.

The sisters have a new charity to add to their list which is Knit a Square 4 Africa. It is an Aids Orphan's charity. The knit and natter group is growing, and other sisters are knitting squares to make blankets. The squares are then sent off to be made into blankets, alongside vests and hats. In knitting and spending time together they have grown closer as sisters. ■



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IRENE WEBB

## Knitting for Africa

By Carissa Beharrell

**R**elief Society sisters, young women and Primary children in the Shrewsbury Ward, Newcastle-Under-Lyme England Stake, have enjoyed knitting squares and blankets for locally organised charity African Village Support. The blankets are sent via the charity to small villages in Eastern Uganda, where they are placed into “Mama Bags”

with a variety of other essential items needed for new and expectant mothers.

This ongoing project has certainly touched the hearts of the sisters involved and has been a great success, particularly due to the talent and dedication of Susan Docherty, who by the end of the year will have knitted 100 blankets for the charity! Through this act of service, the sisters in the Shrewsbury Ward have truly felt the spirit of the Relief Society motto, Charity Never Faleith. ■



*Juliet Clancey (left) and Susan Docherty (right) with some of their blankets for Africa.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
AIZA BEHARRELL

## Sponsored Walk Serves Cancer Charity

By Beverly Crowter

**O**n Saturday, 10 September 2011, several members of Brighton Ward completed a three-kilometre sponsored walk around the historic city of Lewes, East Sussex. Birthe Rutley, Brighton Ward humanitarian aid coordinator, organised the walk to raise money for the cancer research society. Ward members who were not able to participate in the walk offered their support by sponsoring the walkers. When all the funds had been collected a couple of weeks later they were pleased to discover they had raised £785 for this worthy cause.

People diligently arrived at

the meeting point despite the threat of rain. It turned out to be a glorious sunny day with raincoats remaining packed away in bags. Not only did

*Sisters of the Brighton Ward gather for their charity walk.*



Sister Rutley organise the route, she also acted as tour guide, pointing out sites of interest along the way and teaching some of the history of Lewes.

There was a fantastic sense of camaraderie amongst the participants. Rather than favour one particular walking companion, the walkers found themselves mixing together, each person walking alongside several different people as the walk progressed. Many new friendships were formed and existing friendships developed.

At the conclusion of the walk they enjoyed a picnic in the park, excitedly asking Sister Rutley when the next walk would be! ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHRYN DUCKENFIELD

# Grateful for the Restoration

By Sam Norton

**O**n Saturday, 6 August 2011, over 120 Aaronic Priesthood holders and their leaders from Watford, St Albans, Hyde Park and Northampton stakes gathered together in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, to restore a much-loved local community centre. The restoration project was the perfect way to welcome David L. Beck, general president of the Young Men organisation, to the UK. Elders George R. Donaldson and Stephen C. Kerr, both of the Seventy, were also present at the service day.

Many had finished their summer camps that week (some the day before) and, without missing a step, the young men, their fathers and leaders were there for an early start.

Under the direction of Robert Fu, Watford England Stake presidency, and Sam Norton, Watford England Stake Young Men president, the boys were split into smaller working groups and assigned jobs. Within four short hours the ambitious project was completed, and the results were striking.

At a time when British youth are being questioned and doubted for the riotous behaviour of the few, the results of the restoration project demonstrated what youth can achieve when they apply the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Organiser Jenny Norton, Aylesbury Ward, sourced the project from the local town council, after passing by the building with her small children. She said: “The building is charming but really needed work. Approaching the council was easy enough. We were blessed to work with a council official that knew all about the Church and said that he had been wondering how long it would be before we knocked on his door! He couldn’t have been more delightful—not least when he enthusiastically showed us a picture of him standing by the Joseph Smith statue in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City—the picture was hanging on his office wall no less! We’ve certainly all learned something about how these projects can be made simpler when we rely upon the Lord for guidance.”

The restoration of the community centre set the tone for the day. After lunch, the young men washed up, changed into their Sunday attire, and travelled to Hyde Park for a fireside with Brother Beck and Elder Erich W. Kopischke, Europe Area President, that was to be broadcast across Europe.

The young men thoroughly enjoyed the landmark fireside and felt the witness of the Spirit teach them about another restoration—the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood.

***Young men and their leaders refurbished a community centre.***



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SAM NORTON

Where the restoration of the community centre fed the boys' physical appetite for activity and service, the training on the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood, and more specifically the Duty to God programme, fed their spiritual appetite. During the evening, Brother Beck taught about the revised

Duty to God programme. He taught that "sharing was the discipline of implementation," and invited the young men to share their experiences and testimony more frequently—of both the Saviour and the Restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. ■

## Macclesfield Triathletes Raise Funds for Barnardo's

By Sandy Maclean

Six members of the Macclesfield Ward, Manchester England Stake, took part in a triathlon held in September at Tatton Park, Cheshire. It is one of the few triathlons held on a Saturday, and other Church members from wards in the northwest of England also took part.

Jared and Ben Moss, Cameron Loggenberg, Dan Rogers and Isaac and Daniel Liptrott began the event with a 750-metre swim in the Mere followed by a 20-kilometre bike ride and finally

a 5-kilometre run "or shuffle, depending on the fitness of the competitor", said Daniel.

Fifteen-year-old Isaac was one of the youngest competitors and came in third in the youth category.

Some of the group used the event to raise over £5,000 for the children's charity, Barnardo's.

Each competitor was cheered on by a large group of friends, and the event was so successful that it is planned to enter again next year with even more members of the stake. ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY S. LIPTROTT

*The brethren from Macclesfield show their medals after completing their triathlon. Some £5,000 was raised for Barnardo's, a children's charity.*

## Pet's Corner Refurbished

By June McWatt

On 25 June 2011, approximately 130 members from the Westcotes, Glenfield, De Montfort and Evington Wards, located in the Leicester England Stake, worked alongside city parks staff to successfully refurbish Pet's Corner at the historic Abbey Park in Leicester. Many families,

including young children, along with full-time missionaries, had great fun working hard—despite the showers. They worked in two-hour shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The newly elected mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, made time in his busy schedule to accept an invitation to come along at the

start of the day to talk to the volunteers and help the children plant a weeping cherry tree commemorating the event.

In his remarks, Sir Peter said he was delighted that members had come along to make a difference, to improve the area for the people of Leicester and, by so doing, to follow the example of someone (the Saviour) who taught us about what the "Big Society" really meant long before



**Members of the Leicester Stake plant a cherry tree with Sir Peter Soulsby.**

it was fashionable with politicians. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of all the members involved in making a difference and said he would be very pleased to come along to any future Helping Hands events.

Aviaries, with the birds in situ, were repainted (some members daring to wear knotted four-cornered hankies as protective headgear!). New nest boxes were painted and erected.

Brother and Sister Chapman, members of Glenfield Ward, designed and painted a unique and colourful mural as an eye-catching feature in one aviary—whilst the birds inquisitively looked on.

The old duck pond was filled in and a new one created, and animal sheds were painted and decorated by some of the children and young adults.

Some 14 tonnes of gravel, along with 25 tonnes of bark

chippings, were barrowed and relocated to resurface duck, chicken, rabbit, guinea pig and goat pens. Cages and pens were painted and refelted, whilst goats were allowed to wander around, much to the delight of the children.

A new picnic table and seating was installed and flower beds were weeded and mulched. More than 20 new shrubs were planted.

Whilst all the work was taking place, the parks staff very kindly provided creative activities for the younger children to take part in, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

A surprise highlight of the day came when three new baby goats arrived in the afternoon and the children were invited to submit names for each of them. Rebecca Malatester from De Montfort Ward was thrilled to learn later that her submitted names had been selected; Sprint,

Grumpy and Toast! Reporters from the *Leicester Mercury* and the *Leicester Link*, which is posted to every household in Leicester, also came along to take photographs of the children with the newly arrived baby goats—who proved to be very camera shy!

Denise Jarvis, Parks Manager, along with her staff, expressed their gratitude for all the hard work by members and confirmed that this had been the largest group of volunteers ever to take part in such a project at the park. Good relationships have been forged and the event has opened the doors wider for further opportunities for service by Leicester members at the park, with a bulb-planting project in the autumn already being considered. ■

## Baby Unit Receives Much-Needed Funds

**By Barbara Chalkey, Julie Ann Brightman and Clare Mountford-Jones**

**O**n 30 July 2011, some of the Relief Society sisters of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Ward took part in a sponsored walk. It was a gentle walk around Westport Lake and was six miles in length. It was held for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the local hospital.

They chose this unit as it was close to the hearts of some of the sisters of the ward. They were blessed with a hot and sunny day, and they all came armed with plenty of drinks and food along with their children on push bikes and their dogs.

They had fun and exercise and fellowshiped one with another. Even a sister who has problems



with mobility joined in on a motorised scooter. They laughed and joked and bonded and had fun raising the money as well. Sister Mountford-Jones expressed the following thoughts about the day:

“As we walked I remember feeling that we had all felt something special that day—a sense of closeness, sharing in one joy. As the hymn says, we were doing something “good in the world today” (“Have I Done Any Good?” *Hymns*, no. 223.)

Once all the donations were counted the sisters were very surprised to find they had raised £587.17. As they had, in the hospital’s eyes, raised a significant amount, they were to have a small handing over ceremony.

On the day of the presentation the hospital provided a warm welcome to Relief Society president Barbara Chalkley and Clare Mountford-Jones. They were given a tour of the new department, as the hospital is currently going through a redevelopment programme, and they were shown the wonderful work that goes on there.

They discussed where the money will be spent. The unit has a dedicated wish list and, as the top of that list was Neo Puffs, they decided that this money could go towards the purchase of these items, which are best described as very small ambu bags which are used in helping extremely small babies to take their first breaths.

They learned that the smallest baby to have survived birth at this unit weighed in at only 500 grams—that is only about one pound.

They were very humbled to have been able to help this wonderful work in a small way. ■

**Barbara Chalkley (right) and Clare Mountford-Jones present the cheque to the neonatal intensive care unit.**

## Incredible Time in Scotland

By Melanie Holmes

**T**he paths of young men and women of many nationalities cross all around the world as they faithfully embark on their mission calls.

Missionary work by sisters and elders, both at home and abroad, demonstrates beautifully how the gospel translates globally, how strong and faithful new converts are as the gospel spreads far and wide and how small the world really can appear! One sister missionary also shares the impact of missionary work on the life of her family.

Naomi West, Maldon Ward, Ipswich England Stake, served in the Scotland-Ireland Mission from 2010 to 2011. Naomi’s last area of service was to be in Edinburgh. On arrival, she was introduced to her new companion, Sister Mickaberidze, who, it turned out, had been baptised by Dan Lucas, a young man also from the Ipswich Stake, only months previously while he was serving his mission in Georgia, Armenia, in 2010 (see story in local pages, August 2011).

Sister Mickaberidze was on the second day of her mission when she and Sister West shared the following experience, told by Sister West:

“Sister Mickaberidze (who at the time spoke very little English) and I went to visit a less-active member. We were late and couldn’t get hold of her. Not knowing what to do, but praying in my heart, we walked back and forth from bus stop to bus stop. We were prompted to stay at the first bus stop. There was no one to talk to and no sign of the bus that we needed. Then I felt and heard the Spirit telling me to turn around. Two African ladies were at the bus stop. We spoke to them and we were able to share our knowledge of the Book of Mormon. They did most of the talking! We managed to get a return appointment and found out that they had been fasting for three days to find



truth and a way to get closer to Jesus Christ.

“Perpetua was baptised on 12 June 2011. Just over two weeks later her daughter Tasara and Tasara’s best friend, Ashley, were baptised. Then three weeks later Ashley’s father, Stuart, was baptised. He had attended The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 34 years before with his mother. But when she had died he had been unable to go to church. A few months later, Perpetua’s husband, Robert, was baptised! Stuart also received the Aaronic Priesthood.

“This is the Lord’s work. He provides a way for His commandments to be fulfilled. Seeing both families recognise and feel the Spirit and then be actively involved in the ward is incredible and such a tender mercy. . . It has been incredible spending time with the Scottish people and Saints.”

Naomi and her sister, Rebecca, spent a few months serving in the mission field at the same time, and their younger brother, Oliver, was out in the field simultaneously for a while too! The family have served six missions between them. Rebecca, 29, served in the Portugal Lisbon Mission; Jonathan, 25, in the France Paris Mission; Oliver, 21, in the West Indies French-speaking mission and Timothy, 17, is currently preparing to serve. Their father, Richard, served in the Calgary Alberta Mission. Naomi’s grandparents served in Singapore and Malaysia. One can imagine the wonderful stories shared around the dinner table, especially while all of the “children” are living at home with their parents, Richard and Rachael. Naomi said that their missions have enriched their spirituality and desire to follow Christ. Their mission experiences really add to the harmony and spirit in their home.

**Sister West (right) and Sister Mickaberidze with Brother and Sister Tasara Cull.**

She said: “When we all centre our lives on Christ we are trying to be more like Him. It certainly makes a big difference in our home!”

Naomi’s testimony of missionary work is so abundantly strong. She said: “All young men and young women should prepare to serve a full-time mission. Parents should take the time every day to study the Book of Mormon and *Preach My Gospel*. As all the youth prepare to serve a mission it ensures that we are temple worthy and that we are relying on the Lord. As we do this there is a special spirit that comes into our lives. And we will be truly happy and experience true joy. This cannot be found anywhere else in the world!” ■

## A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

# Book of Mormon on a Mission

By Roger Head

**M**any years ago as a member of the St Albans Ward, I was assigned as a home teacher and became friends with Christiana, a newly baptized member, and her family. Chris was a faithful and active convert and longed for her husband to join the Church. Over the years Alan was always friendly and welcoming when we visited, but he usually disappeared before the message was given and a prayer was offered, and he always managed to avoid the missionaries!

The missionaries serving in our ward challenged the members to write their testimony in a Book of Mormon, return the book to them and they

would “send it on a mission”. As I pondered what I should write, I received a very strong prompting that I should not give my copy back to the missionaries but I should send it as a gift to Alan.

A few months later I had the very great privilege of baptising him, and after his baptism he bore testimony that “a major factor in his conversion” was the testimony written in that Book of Mormon. ■

## EDITOR’S NOTE

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