

UK & Ireland Local Pages

A Second Harvest

By Bishop Gérald Caussé

First Counsellor, Presiding Bishopric
Formerly First Counsellor, Europe Area Presidency

I have always been fascinated by the story of the pioneers of the Restored Church. Their acts of faith and courage provide a glorious and priceless heritage for all members.

Europe holds an important place in this heroic story. The European continent was a field ready for harvest, where thousands of these pioneers received and embraced the gospel before embarking for America, the place of gathering designated by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

In recent years I have been blessed to visit some of the sites from which these first converts came. I paused in Preston, England, to contemplate the quiet waters of the River Ribble, where the first baptisms in Europe took place just 175 years ago. On the quays of Copenhagen I admired the statue of Kristina, who, with eyes looking out towards the open sea, symbolised the hope of thousands of Scandinavians who left to go to Zion.

In many countries more recently opened to the gospel, the easiest thing is to directly

approach the first converts themselves! Many are still there—active, happy, and proud of their past. They can describe the fervour of those early years, when meetings were held anonymously in cellars, cinema halls, or the back rooms of restaurants. Many know about building the first meetinghouses or the interminable expeditions to the Swiss Temple. In the lands of the east, the local pioneers will describe the years of privation behind the Iron Curtain and the miracle that occurred when missionary work commenced in these lands after 1989.

This story is still ongoing. It continues to play out before our eyes. Prophecies are being fulfilled. The Lord is at the helm, and nothing can prevent the accomplishment of His work. Today, as yesterday, the growth of the Church is accompanied by acts of faith and miracles.

For several years the Area Presidency has proclaimed an ambitious and optimistic vision for the growth of the Church in Europe. As children of Europe,



**Bishop
Gérald Caussé**

we have seen the Church establish itself, grow, and mature. The testimony of past miracles nourishes our faith in the future.

We feel that a new spirit is hovering over our continent. The number of baptisms is seeing sustained growth. Many more young people are going on missions. Attendance at meetings and trips to the temple are constantly increasing. A new abundant harvest is being prepared.

Some years ago, then Elder Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) addressed two young missionaries in Sweden. He picked up a glass of water and said, “Sweden has for many years been like this glass of water—not much action. In the middle of the 1800s when the first missionaries came to Sweden, thousands of people joined the Church. It was a great

and mighty harvest. When you go home, I want you to tell the members that there will be a new harvest, a second harvest in Sweden that will bring thousands of Swedes into the Church.”¹

That second harvest is, and will be, broader than the first. Europe has become a crossroads and a gathering place for peoples of the whole world. One only has to walk through the streets of our major cities to see it.

Jesus told His disciples that in the last days, “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.”² This prophecy is being fulfilled by new countries being opened to the missionaries, but also by the conversion on our continent of thousands who have come from all the nations of the world. As these people of diverse languages and cultures are being welcomed into the Church, they are blessing our wards and branches.

The members in Europe today have a historic role to play in this second harvest, just as they did in the early years of the Restoration. I pray we will all be motivated by this glorious vision and that, united together, we will work to achieve it. ■

NOTES

1. Quoted in Erik Nilsson, “Goteborg, Sweden: A Second Harvest,” *News of the Church, Ensign*, July 2000, 77.
2. Matthew 24:14.

The Heart of Giving Is Not Just at Christmas

By Nancy Tuffill

Taking the last line from that famous Christmas carol, “In the Bleak Mid Winter”: “Yet what can I give Him. . . . Give my heart”.

Some of the sisters from Truro, Helston and Redruth in Cornwall took this truly to heart, meeting together once a month to make items for humanitarian aid. One such item was a heart-shaped cushion which they distributed to the Mermaid Centre in Truro and to St Joseph’s Ward in St Michael’s hospital in Hayle. These heart-shaped cushions are given to women who have had the misfortune to have undergone mastectomy

operations due to breast cancer. The cushions give great therapeutic support and comfort at a difficult time.

To date 1,078 cushions have been made and distributed. Like a lot of good things, this was started by chance as one of the women, Gill Pascoe, read a notice in a shop window in Falmouth, asking for volunteers to make the cushions!

Not a lot is heard about the work of the Latter-day Saints; they just beaver away quietly helping others in need. In so doing they follow the example of the Saviour, “who went about doing good” (see Acts 10:38). ■

*Carol Douglas,
Gill Pascoe,
Dot Bell, and
Elizabeth Miller
with some of
the cushions
made to support
women
recovering
from cancer.*



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NANCY TUFFILL

Helping Fife Children Feel Fairy Happy in Hospital

By Wendy Rand

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANGELA KELLY



It was Christmas all over again at the new children's ward at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy on Wednesday, 1 February 2012. Members of the Dunfermline Ward collected around 100 items for the Fairy Box at the hospital over the months of December and January. These were delivered by Iain Liston, Christopher McGregor and Wendy Rand, who were also given a tour of the new ward and were able to see how these small contributions could have a positive impact for the children who receive them.

Play Services coordinator Liz Nicol said, "It's wonderful to receive this very kind donation of toys to fill up our Fairy Box. . . . The Fairy Box is an excellent resource our play and nursing staff use to improve the experience of our young patients while they are in hospital. Rewarding a child with a toy, a book, or with art and craft materials can often have a positive impact by reducing any fears and anxieties they may be experiencing. We know this donation will go a long way in making the children smile in the new Children's Unit." ■

Members of the Dunfermline Ward donate toys to the children's unit of Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy.

Relief Society sisters in St Austell have made a variety of things to help many people deal with challenges in their lives.

St Austell's "Cottage Industries" Thrive

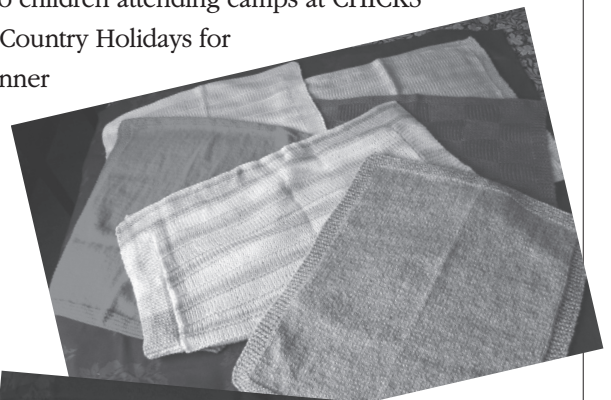
By Pauline Smith

When the Relief Society presidency of St Austell Ward, Plymouth England Stake, pondered how to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Church Welfare Programme, they decided to initiate a project called St Austell Cottage Industries.

Since then the sisters have pursued a number of projects. They have continued a long-standing project to make "welcome packs" filled with toiletries for two local women's refuges. In addition they have made quilts and pillows for children arriving in the refuges.

They have used spare wool to knit dozens of tank tops, which are sent for children in Africa via Operation Sunshine.

Others have made "memory bags" to be given to children attending camps at CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner





PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEVERLY PLESTER

Special Needs School Asks for Helping Hands

By Dawn Keogh

When Dawn Keogh, director of public affairs in the Dundee Scotland Stake, went to visit Jo Johnson, Deputy Headteacher of a local Special Needs School at his request, she couldn't help noticing the "Mormon Helping Hands" DVD on his desk. The school had recently been rehoused in a new building, but there was still some work to be done. Jo was keen to move a large area of plants and shrubs to make way for a communal sports area for the pupils and transplant them to the front of the school. There were still fences to be painted, areas to be grassed and a bamboo windbreak the length of the school to be planted. It was a big job and he had no one to help until a member of Dundee Council advised him to get in touch with the Mormons.

And so the latest Mormon Helping Hands project in Dundee was born. The project began on Tuesday, 20 March, when youth, young single adults, leaders and missionaries arrived at the school to do some gardening by moonlight. Armed with spades and forks, they dug

up the turf at the front of the school and turned it into three large borders. Carting the turf to the compost heap in a far corner of the school turned out to be a challenge, but one which even some of the young women took up with enthusiasm.

Saturday, 24 March, turned out to be the perfect weather for the next stage of the project, when families from Dundee Bingham and Second Wards got together to dig up the plants and transplant them to their new home. The children pitched in as they helped to paint a long, high fence as well as collect stones and branches from the perimeter of the school. The next phase of the project will require more muscle power as the Church volunteers get to grips with grassing large areas and planting bamboo screens.

Laura Smith, the headteacher of the school, was full of praise for the helping hands. She was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and hard work of the volunteers and explained that the work they had done would make a big difference to the education and social involvement of youngsters with special needs. ■

City Kids) at the charity's two sites, one on Dartmoor and one on the Cornish coast, both within the Plymouth Stake area. When the Dartmoor centre, at Brentor, near Tavistock, was being built, a stake Helping Hands activity was spent setting up many of the facilities now enjoyed by the children.

The St Austell sisters also make clothes and other items for the premature baby unit at the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Treリスケ, Truro. One sister, Mary Sinnott, who lives in Padstow, has made more than five dozen teddies for the unit, as well as contributing many other items.

"Our sisters have big hearts and gifted hands," said Beverly Plester, Relief Society president. "We are working together as women for other women and children in our immediate community and beyond. I am continually thrilled at the kindness and generosity of my sisters." ■

The “Nutter”

By Lynne Day

The following experience was recounted to me some years after its occurrence. It began on a September evening in 1978 when two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints called at our home. It was quite literally one of those “last house on the street” scenarios you hear about. The missionaries were travelling home by bus at the end of a busy day and felt prompted to get off at the end of the road on which I lived and began knocking at doors on the street. I was attending a college class that evening and my older sister Jean answered the knock at our front door. The missionaries said they had a message of great importance to share and asked if they might meet with the family for a few minutes. She politely declined their invitation but said if they would come back the following evening her younger sister Lynne (me) would be interested in listening to what they had to say. Well, fortunately, they did come back and I listened.

At the time I was attending Bible Study classes at another church and I had a small Bible I kept under my pillow. I knew there was something missing from the instruction I had been receiving, but was not sure what it was. When the elders started to teach the message of the restored gospel, it all made sense. I just knew it was right. As I prayed and continued to ask questions, that feeling of assurance grew stronger. Six weeks later, on 1 November 1978, I was baptised a member of the Church.

I was very excited by my new-found faith, and I have always had a great capacity for talking, which is an interesting combination. It has been said that if talking was a national sport I

would have a place in England’s starting eleven. And so it was that each Sunday with great enthusiasm I would stand on the pavement outside the Dewsbury chapel and invite those passing by to come and attend our Sabbath worship service. Jeffrey Day, a member of the bishopric at the time, observed this pattern of behaviour over several weeks and was once heard to comment; “She’s a ‘Nutter’! She won’t last!” About this same time Brother Day’s son Ian began attending Church meetings after a long period of inactivity, and we became acquainted. He always sat on the back row of Sister Gregory’s Sunday School class and never brought his scriptures, so I would let him share mine.

The following year the “Nutter” decided to serve a mission. With nothing more than an excitement for the gospel message and the ability to talk endlessly, I was assigned to the England Birmingham Mission in August 1980. I felt very inadequate and unprepared for the missionary experiences which lay ahead. I remember on one occasion knocking on a door and, having introduced ourselves, we were met with all kinds of abuse and ridicule. At one point in the exchange the man said that he might listen to our message—in fact, he might even join our church, “but for that Brigham Young!” I whispered to my companion out of the corner of my mouth, “Who’s Brigham Young?” Well, somehow me, the Lord and my companion made it through. I returned home in February 1982, having successfully completed my missionary assignment.

I remember that during my missionary service the rebellious young man from my Sunday School class at home turned up at a zone conference at Woodsetton chapel, having also

been assigned to the England Birmingham Mission, April 1981. We really didn't know each other very well. Our paths had only crossed briefly, as I was preparing to leave for my own missionary assignment. But it was fun to think that we were from the same ward back home and had received the same mission assignment, and so we had a photograph taken. Contrary to more recent speculation, we were not holding hands at the time the picture was taken.

Ian returned home from his mission assignment in November 1981 to find that “the Nutter”

was his institute teacher. I wasn't as tolerant as Sister Gregory had been. I insisted he bring his scriptures to class. Two weeks later he was playing football and sustained a serious injury. As a result of that he spent three months in hospital recovering from a broken leg. I was away on extended holiday in America during much of the time he was in hospital and didn't get to visit much, but several members of the institute class did visit. One of the class members, Penny Elstone (now Casey), asked what he did to pass the time. Ian said he was making a list of all the girls he intended to date when he got out. Penny asked if she could see the list and said, “Ian, you don't have Lynne Sutton's name listed here?” He added my name to the bottom of the list and sure enough, when he got out of the hospital we began dating. I think you would understand if I said that one of my favourite scriptures is “And the last shall be first” (see, for instance, Matthew 19:30). The rest of my story is now history. Ian married “the Nutter” on 7 May 1984, and Brother Day Senior got “the Nutter” for a daughter-in-law. The lesson



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LYNNE DAY

is—you brethren best be careful what you say about the sisters. You never know.

Fast forward to May 2003 when Ian was called as president of the Huddersfield stake and visited each ward in the stake, encouraging greater enthusiasm for missionary work and citing his wife, “the Nutter”, as the ultimate model member missionary and coining the catchphrase “This church needs more ‘Nutters’”. There were many that year who wrote that expression as a prompt on the front of their stake diaries or in their scriptures (TCNMN), and everywhere I went I was known as “Sister Nutter”.

I am proud to be known as “Sister Nutter”. Why? The dictionary definition of a *Nutter* is: *One who is mad, silly or strange; an enthusiastic; but also slang for someone who is fearless, someone who has feelings of excitement and urgency.*

I love the gospel of Jesus Christ and am so very, very grateful for the blessings it has brought into my life. I never want to lose that feeling of excitement and enthusiasm for the gospel message. Sharing the gospel with others

Sister Lynne Sutton and Elder Ian Day as missionaries.

only intensifies those feelings—whether it is at home with our family or with someone I meet on the street or visiting another member. As I share my testimony with others I feel the Spirit just as I did those many years ago as a missionary or as the “Nutter” on the pavement. It still continues to witness to me that the gospel is true as it did that first night I heard the missionaries teach the message of the restored gospel.

Two scriptures that have been a powerful influence in my life are:

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17) and “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

From the time of my baptism in 1978 to the present day I have always tried to be obedient to the teachings of the gospel and, even though I have not witnessed miracles or had an angel visit me or seen visions, I have felt Heavenly Father guide me in the paths He would have me travel.

As a family we have been richly blessed. The knowledge I have of the truthfulness of the gospel did not come in any miraculous way but came as I trusted in the Lord and did His will. It does not mean that my life has been without trials or challenges. It does mean that I know that the Lord is watching over us at all times and will always guide us to choose the right path and, if we have the faith to trust in Him and put Him to the test, the evidence and knowledge we seek will follow. Just having the gospel in my life is a daily miracle. I know our family is guided by a loving Heavenly Father who knows each one of us and wants us to return back to Him. ■

Brothers Serve as Missionary Companions

By Jack and June Wilde



Future missionary companions: Luke Garraway (left) and Jack Wilde

About 2100 years ago, the brothers, Ammon, Aaron, Omner and Himni, the four sons of King Mosiah, served a mission together to the Lamanites.

Birmingham, England, may not be Lamanite territory. And these brothers didn't ask to serve together—they were called under inspiration to serve in the

same mission, 18 months apart. Luke Garraway and Jack Wilde are step-brothers. Inseparable in their growing years, they were excited to discover that they would serve in the same mission. While serving in Gloucester, Elder Garraway's final missionary companion was . . . Elder Wilde. Unusual? Yes! A blessing for both young men? Absolutely! ■



Missionary companions in Gloucester: Elder Wilde (left) and Elder Garraway

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JACK AND JUNE WILDE

Missionaries around the World

By Sheila Saxon

For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul” (D&C 4:4). What a wonderful promise to those who devote themselves to missionary work! It is also a vision shared by Bishop McNee of Selby Ward, York England Stake. He felt prompted to challenge all the members of the ward council to lead by example and dedicate 2011 as a year of missionary focus.

Selby Ward is fortunate to have been blessed with an array of ward members who have served honourable missions across the UK and in foreign climes. The Selby and Pontefract Primary organisations felt inspired to make full use of these members and their mission experiences by introducing the theme “Missionaries around the World” for their Faith in God activities throughout the year. Each month a returned missionary was invited to speak about the country in which he or she had served—about its culture, the status of the Church and, where appropriate, some of their personal experiences.

As a result, the children were blessed to participate in and enjoy some wonderful presentations covering some fascinating mission fields. They learned to sing “Follow the Prophet” in French; they played a didgeridoo and did a “tim tam slam” for Australia; they played hockey for Canada. The children labelled a map and learned about each area of South Africa and tasted the sweetness of the gospel in England. They were inspired by seeing different cultures, sampling both local and exotic food, learning about the Church in other countries and sharing personal spiritual experiences from the respective missions.

In the final instalment, a large map of the world was set out in the Primary classroom and

photographs of the missionaries who had shared their experiences were attached to the countries in which they had served. Each child took the opportunity to choose a country anywhere in the world where they

would like to serve their mission. A photograph was then added to the country of their choice. It was a touching experience as each child shared reasons why they wished to serve in their chosen country. Many were eager to serve in the same missions and follow in the footsteps of their parents.

Christ told His disciples that He would make them fishers of men (see Matthew 4:19). We too can become fishers of men as we do missionary work and serve others. In order to teach this principle, the names of new members and members in need of cheering up were placed on papers with clips attached. Using a magnetic fishing rod the children “fished for men”, after which they decorated cakes to give to the member they had “caught”. The children loved the service project and the members were lifted by the simple gifts.

The Faith in God activities provided the children with a taste of what missionary service entails and of some of the experiences and blessings that come from serving both the Lord and our fellow men. We hope that the missionary seed that has been planted in the children’s hearts will continue to grow and that they will, as the disciples of old, become fishers of men as “Missionaries around the World”. ■



The children of the Selby Ward enjoy learning about missionary experiences around the world.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELE ADAMSON

To submit all stories to the editors, Paul & Beryl Oliver, as ‘Word’ files and photographs as ‘jpg’ files please use the email address ukiensign@ldschurch.org.

EUROPE AREA (ENGLISH)