

# United Kingdom and Ireland

## To Know and to Understand

By Elder José A. Teixeira, Europe Area President

**H**ave you ever been confronted with the question, “How do I strengthen my testimony?” or heard the admonition in a Church classroom, “You need to nourish your testimony to remain strong”?

Obtaining a testimony and keeping it as a living witness of what we know to be true is of vital importance for our spiritual growth during this journey in mortality. Therefore, we need to understand what a testimony is, how we obtain one, and what things we need to do to nourish and strengthen it.

Let’s begin by seeking a deeper understanding of what a testimony is. Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “A testimony of the gospel is a personal witness borne to our souls by the Holy Ghost that certain facts of eternal significance are true and that we know them to be true.”<sup>1</sup>

The foundation of a testimony is the knowledge that Heavenly Father lives and loves His children; that Jesus Christ lives, that He is the Son of God, and that He carried out the infinite Atonement; that

Joseph Smith is the prophet of God who was called to restore the gospel; that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Saviour’s true Church on the earth; and that the Church is led by a living prophet today. With this foundation, a testimony grows to include all the principles of the gospel.

The Guide to the Scriptures defines knowledge as “understanding and comprehension, especially of truth as taught or confirmed by the Spirit.”<sup>2</sup> When we say we know something to be true in the gospel, we are really saying we have felt that it is true. We cannot know something to be true without feeling in our hearts it is true!

The Guide to the Scriptures also tells us that understanding means “to gain a knowledge of, or to perceive the meaning of some truth, including its application to life.”<sup>3</sup> To understand or comprehend those things we have felt to be true, we must live them and put them into practice in our lives. Only then will our knowledge be full and complete.

For example, I can know that the law of tithing is a true

principle and divine law of our Heavenly Father. That knowledge can come by reading, pondering and praying about the principle of tithing or by hearing someone teach about tithing and receiving a confirmation



**Elder José A. Teixeira**

of its truthfulness from the Holy Ghost. But if I never pay tithing after having that witness, how much can I say that I truly understand what tithing is?

A testimony of a law or principle of the gospel is a declaration both of knowledge revealed to us by the Holy Ghost and an understanding that we gain of that knowledge by constantly living that law or principle.

One of the greatest ways we can cultivate and strengthen our testimonies is to attend the temple. The temple is for us, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a symbol of our faith and testimony.

There is no better way to increase both our knowledge and our understanding of the gospel than to attend the temple. The things we must do to qualify to enter the house of the Lord and the things we learn once we are there continually feed and

strengthen our testimonies.

We have been blessed with many temples in our area. Let us make the temple a symbol of our devotion by attending as often as we can. As we do so we will continue to gain knowledge and understanding that will

strengthen our testimonies and fill our lives with joy and peace. ■

#### NOTES

1. Dallin H. Oaks, "Testimony," *Ensign*, May 2008, 26.
2. Guide to the Scriptures, "Knowledge," scriptures.lds.org (under Study Helps).
3. Guide to the Scriptures, "Understanding," scriptures.lds.org (under Study Helps).

## LOCAL NEWS

### Europe Area Presidency

Last spring a new Area Presidency for Europe was announced. On August 1, 2012, Elder José A. Teixeira began his service as Area President, with Elder Patrick Kearon as First Counsellor and Elder Kent F. Richards as Second Counsellor. These brethren bring diverse backgrounds and a wealth of experience to their new assignments.

#### Elder José Teixeira

Elder José Teixeira was sustained a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy on 5 April 2008. At the time of his call, he was presiding over the Brazil São Paulo South Mission.

Elder Teixeira's professional training was in business, he having received a degree in accounting and business management. Before his calling to full-time Church service, he was an international controller for the Church with responsibility for Europe and Africa. In this capacity he managed the Europe/Africa processing centre in Solihull, England, and supervised the controllers in the Europe East, Europe Central, Europe West, Africa Southeast, and Africa West areas.

Previous Church callings include full-time missionary in the Portugal Lisbon Mission, elders quorum president, high priests group leader, bishop's counsellor, high councillor, district president, stake

president, and Area Seventy in the Europe West Area from 1997–2005. In his most recent assignment he was serving as the Second Counsellor in the Europe Area Presidency.

Elder Teixeira was born in Vila Real, Portugal, on 24 February 1961. He married Maria Filomena Lopes Teles Grilo in June 1984. They are the parents of three children.

#### Elder Patrick Kearon

Elder Patrick Kearon was sustained a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy on 3 April 2010. At the time of his call, he had been serving as a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy in the Europe Area.

Elder Kearon was educated in the Middle East and the United Kingdom. He has lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and the United States in various industries, including health care, food, automotive and transport. He also ran his own communications consultancy. Civic and community involvement has included service on the boards of charities, a school, an enterprise agency and a college.

After joining the Church on Christmas Eve, 1987, Elder Kearon served in numerous Church callings, including assistant ward clerk, Young Men president, bishop's counsellor, branch president, stake president, and Area Seventy from 2005–2010. As a General Authority, Elder Kearon has served



**Elder José Teixeira**

as an Assistant Executive Director of the Priesthood Department and the Media Services Department.

Elder Kearon was born in Carlisle, Cumberland, England, on 18 July 1961. He married Jennifer Carole Hulme in 1991. They are the parents of four children, one of whom is deceased.

**Elder Kent F. Richards**

Elder Kent F. Richards was sustained a member of the Second Quorum of the Seventy on 4 April 2009. Prior to his assignment to the Europe Area, he served as the Second Counsellor in the Chile Area Presidency.

In 1969, Elder Richards received a bachelor of science degree and in 1972 a medical degree, both from the University of Utah. He worked as a surgeon and was chairman of the department of surgery at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also served as senior vice president for four years at Intermountain Health Care and was a member of their board and executive committee. Elder Richards was also a clinical professor of surgery at the University of Utah.

Elder Richards has served in many Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Southern Mexican Mission, elders quorum president, bishop, Scoutmaster, high councillor, stake president, and president of the Texas San Antonio Mission.

Elder Richards was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 25 February 1946. He married Marsha Gurr in August 1968. They are the parents of eight children.

**Exciting Times in Europe**

In 2009 the Europe Area Presidency, of which Elder Teixeira was a part, stated in the Area

Committee Report: “As we retain our convert baptisms, save our youth, and continue to reactivate the less-active, we will be able to double the active membership of the Europe Area within ten years.” The current Area Presidency is committed to continuing this effort that began three years ago, with the goal to reach the stated objective by 2020.

Wonderful things are happening in the Europe Area as members strengthen themselves and their families, seek to rescue those who are lost, and invite their family members and friends to attend sacrament meeting. The rising generation is growing in faith and testimony as they attend daily seminary and institute classes, participate in Special Multistake Youth Conferences and activities for young single adults, and apply in their lives the principles outlined in *For the Strength of Youth* and Duty to God. The number of young people being called as full-time missionaries is increasing each year. Temple attendance is on the rise, as is the number of convert baptisms.

The members of this Area Presidency love the Lord, and they love the members of the Church in Europe. They know the Lord can work miracles here as the Saints show their love for Him by following His prophet and chosen leaders, increasing their personal faith and testimony, and dedicating themselves to reaching out to others in a spirit of invitation and love. This is a great time to be a member of the Church in Europe! ■

# Historic Channel Island Conference Strengthens Saints

**By Jayne Kyprianou**

**O**n 18 September 2011, during the twice-yearly stake presidency visit to St Helier on the island of Jersey, John Crew, Poole England Stake president, explained that he had been having some thoughts about a

special conference. Instead of the Saints from the Channel Islands (Jersey & Guernsey) attending stake conference via a satellite link or, in the case of Guernsey, watching a recording of it, stake conference would come to the island of Jersey in the format of a Channel Island Conference for both islands.

Over the next few months President Crew and his counsellors worked with Bishop Key (St Helier Ward) and President Lingad (Guernsey Branch) to put together a plan to forward to the Area Presidency.

Approval was given, and the Channel Island Conference was no longer a dream but a reality. On the morning of Saturday, 10 March 2012, members and visiting leaders arrived for the start of this wonderful historic event.

A few of the visiting leaders arrived early in the morning. On the way to the chapel they visited one of the island's lighthouses. Mike Winkworth, second counsellor in the Poole stake presidency, later stated, "Our visit to the lighthouse before the conference was in its way symbolic of the trip, in that members of the stake had travelled many miles and were drawn together, united by the light of the gospel which keeps us all out of danger." He also said that having visited Jersey and Guernsey many times before, he understands that the Saints of the islands can feel isolated, but that the weekend gave a real sense of unity and togetherness.

At the chapel there was a very warm welcome from the Saints already gathered, including four-year-old Joseph, who makes up the whole of Primary on Guernsey. Young Joseph was looking forward to spending time with the children from Jersey and being part of a "real" Primary for a day.

Auxiliary training was held for Relief Society, Young Women and Primary leaders.

Training was given by the stake presidency and by C. Raymond Lowry, London Temple

president, while afternoon activities were held for the youth and Primary-age children.

Jayne Kyprianou said, "I knew back in September when President Crew first mentioned a Channel Island Conference that it was going to be something special, and it has been all that and so much more. Being able to spend time with the Primary leaders from both islands and have them share their thoughts and feelings regarding the service they give, and then to be with the children and to see young Joseph being embraced by new-found friends was a real joy. There is just no doubt that this conference was inspired."

The theme of the whole conference was Matthew 25:40: "Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Throughout the conference, old friendships were reborn, new friendships were made and the unity of the Channel Islands was strengthened.

President Crew said, "The prompting to hold a conference for the Saints on the islands of Guernsey and Jersey was inspired of the Lord. All who attended were greatly blessed, edified and uplifted by the words of love, instruction and counsel shared over the conference weekend. There was a real sense of purpose, unity and harmony as members joined together with stake leaders. The success of the conference weekend was a cause for celebration, and the stake presidency is looking to repeat the conference format again."

Bishop Key commented, "It was amazing to be part of such an historic event. There was a time before the emigrations in the 19th century when hundreds, if not thousands, were members on our islands. The conference has helped to bond us all together and remind us of the strength we have in this stake and in the gospel." ■

# Inspiring Members Nominated to Carry Olympic Torch

By Debbie Twigger

**D**avid Graydon, Doris Collins and Karl Green were all given the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch on the 70-day journey around Great Britain for their inspiring contributions to the local community.

David Graydon, Gateshead Ward, Sunderland England Stake, was nominated to be a torch-bearer by the young people he works with as a youth worker for Gateshead Youth Council. David was chosen for the difference he makes in the community where he helps young people get involved in activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

David carried the torch on 15 June, day 28 of the relay, in the streets of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in northeast England, cheered on by crowds waving the Union Flag and packing the city centre streets, which were closed for the procession. The Olympic Torch was passed to David by England international footballer, Jack Charlton, who played in the winning World Cup team of 1966. David commented, "Being nominated to carry the Olympic Torch by the young people I work with was a great honour. I love my job, and seeing the young people grow

and develop is the best reward. Learning that they value my input and feel strongly enough to fill in a nomination is really humbling."



Doris Collins, Lancaster Ward, Preston Stake, carried the torch through Lancaster and Morecambe on 22 June. The 72-year-old grandmother spends her spare time raising money for charity in a variety of ways.

Recently Doris was presented with the National Women's Service Medal in recognition of her outstanding service to the local community for her charitable fundraising achievements. This award was presented by a member of the Marie Curie Organisation on

behalf of Princess Anne.

When Doris donated her torch to the local council, Councillor Ron Sands, cabinet member with responsibility for tourism, commented: "It is fantastic news that Doris has very kindly offered her torch to the council to retain on behalf of the entire community."

Karl Green, Lancaster Ward, was nominated to be a torch-bearer for the Paralympics as a member of a five-person team running a mile on the 24-hour journey from Stoke Mandeville to the Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony in London on 29 August. He was nominated for his work in disability arts and has made significant contributions to the Church, the Dukes Shattering Images Theatre Company, and to the International Aid Charity shop in Morecambe. ■

**David Graydon carried the Olympic Torch through Newcastle.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY GRAYDON

# Members Serve as Volunteers at Olympic Games

By Debbie Twigger

“Games-Makers” are the 70000 volunteers of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, so-called by Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee who commented that, “Volunteers can make or break the Games”.

Members of the Church are among the original 240000 who initially applied over two years ago to be part of the “Greatest Show on Earth” in London and around the UK.

Volunteers were used in many roles; most gave up at least 10 days, worked up to 11-hour shifts, often at their own expense, and attended a minimum of three training days.

Debbie Twigger said, “I was given a role as Team Leader within Events Services, which is the public face of the games and deals with the spectators, including scanning tickets, manning information points, providing mobility services, etc., at Horse Guards Parade in the centre of London for the beach volleyball. I am also at the Paralympics for the road cycling. Receiving this opportunity has been a dream come true and definitely one on my wish list to tick off. There was a brilliant atmosphere in London with happy spectators who were very complimentary and appreciative of all the volunteers and the roles they played. I have been very impressed with the organisation of the whole Olympic experience, and there has been a real feeling of everyone working

together with a unified purpose.”

Richard Davies was a team leader on the Time Trial cycling events and a marshal on the road races. He is a British Cycling Club Coach, has worked on the Tour of Britain, and was a member of the safety team on Le Tour de France a few years ago when the start of the race was in London.

Jan Davidson, Wembley Ward, a keen former athlete, worked with the print distribution team at the Volleyball Tournament at Earls Court, one of venues within London. She said at the time of her service, “I am blessed to be amongst a fabulous group of people that make up our team, and the spirit of camaraderie has been amazing. The atmosphere in the stadium is electric, and fans of all the nations taking part bring the place alive. You cannot buy this once-in-a-lifetime experience; it has been worth every ounce of sacrifice, and the memories of it will stay with me long into the future.”

Elliot Blakemore helped with security.

Wendy Milner worked at Old Trafford, Manchester United’s ground.

Emma Hart helped at Wimbledon for the tennis events.

Nicholas Walker had a role as an ambassador on the south coast of England. “I am the smile that welcomed the world to Weymouth and Portland for the sailing events,” he said.

Robert Wharf worked at the

Olympic Park in Stratford, East London. He said, “It is something I will never forget doing.”

Adrian Evans was one of the first people to see the Olympic athletes, coaches and officials as they arrived at Heathrow Airport. He assisted athletes and officials on arrivals and departures.

Shauna Hichens was part of the team at the multiagency communications centre for Eton Dorney, where the rowing and canoe sprint events were held.

A number of members worked as volunteer helpers at the Paralympic Games.

Laura Parker worked on the Events Services team at the EXCEL building on London’s Docklands.

Timothy Kay helped people find their way to the North Greenwich arena for the O2 arena for the wheelchair basketball.

Pat Orme worked on the Technology team.

Louise Hadfield helped in Weymouth for the sailing events.

Tony Twigger was a wayfinder at the Excel building, guiding spectators to the different events.

Nathaniel Chell made the time to serve despite his busy schedule as bishop of Stevenage Ward, St Albans Stake. ■

*Editor’s note: For more detail on this story and to read other stories from the Church around the UK & Ireland go to [www.lds.org.uk](http://www.lds.org.uk)*



## My Little Corner of Wales

By Margaret Bartley

**W**ales is a small country with its own government, language and culture. My name is Margaret Bartley, neé Jones, and I became the fourth local member of the Church in Rhyl, North Wales. I was present in 1961 when James A. Cullimore (1906–86) came to establish a branch of the Church here—which is now a ward—and this was a memorable day for us all.

Later we purchased a large house called Maes Gwilym to meet in. Fourteen years on, we were able to build our own chapel on the same site. In time we opened a family history centre, in which I love to serve, helping both members and other patrons search their ancestry. I am fortunate in that I live close to our County Archives where my own family's records are held—it is a real treasure trove of family history—and frequently travel to the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth where our Welsh nation's records are kept. I have learned so much about my ancestors' lives and background from whom I inherited a deep religious faith.

Over the years I have also learned about some of the historical background of the Church



*Captain Dan Jones*



*John and Samuel Bennion*



**Dan Jones  
Awakens  
Wales, © Clark  
Kelley Price**

in North Wales. Captain Dan Jones was born in Halkyn and could speak, read and write in Welsh. In June 1844, Joseph and Hyrum Smith were arrested and imprisoned in Carthage Jail. With Willard Richards and John Taylor, Jones was chosen to accompany the Smiths to jail to offer support and protection. The night before Joseph and Hyrum were killed, Joseph Smith asked Jones if he was afraid to die. Jones replied, “Has that time come, think you? Engaged in such a cause, I do not think that death would have many terrors.” The prophet replied with what many have identified as his “last prophecy”: “You will yet see Wales and fulfil the mission appointed you before you die” (*History of the Church*, 6:601).

During his first mission in 1845 Dan Jones stayed for a while in North Wales, where he printed a booklet in Welsh similar to the *Voice of Warning*, before moving down to South Wales. Jones was asked to preside over the missionary efforts in Wales. At this time, there were just over 200 Latter-day Saints in Wales. Under Jones's leadership, between 1845 and 1848 the missionaries in Wales baptized approximately 3600 persons. When Jones left Wales, there were 72 branches of the Church and 4645 Latter-day Saints.

In 1846, Jones began to publish a Welsh language periodical for the Church entitled



PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN FROM A COLLECTION OF LOCAL AND CHURCH HISTORY PICTURES

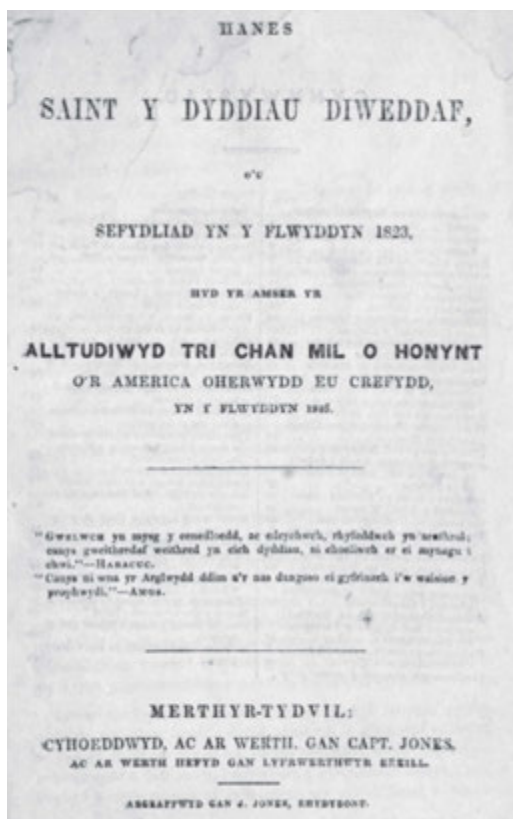
*Prophwyd y Jubili (Prophet of the Jubilee)*. It was the first Mormon periodical to be published in a language other than English. In 1847, Jones published the most famous of his many Welsh language pamphlets and tracts, *Hanes Saint y Dyddiau Diweddaf (History of the Latter-day Saints)*, during which time he oversaw the translation of the Book of Mormon into the Welsh language—only the third language to be so translated other than English.

In a nearby village, Trelawnyd, lived the noted stonemason family of the Parrys, one being John Parry, a well-respected musician. Parry was a Baptist preacher and was the leader of a church in Newmarket called John Parry's Association, which was fashioned after the teachings of Alexander Campbell. In 1846 Parry and his wife, Mary Williams, were baptised. He and about 100 Welsh Mormons sailed from Liverpool to America. Upon arriving in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on 17 May 1849, Mary Parry died of cholera. Parry continued the

Mormon pioneer journey to Utah Territory and arrived later in 1849. Others of the village followed him; among them was one of my ancestors, John Roberts.

At the October 1849 general conference of the Church, Parry conducted 85 Welsh converts in singing several musical numbers. After the conference, Brigham Young invited Parry to formally organise a Church choir that could provide music at future Church conferences. Parry thus

***Hanes Saint y Dyddiau Diweddaf (History of the Latter-day Saints).***



**Maes Gwilym**



**Rhyl Chapel in 2012**

proceeded to organise what would later be called the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Parry was the conductor of the choir until 1854.

A few miles further east lies another village, Hawarden, where two Bennion brothers, John and Samuel, ancestors of President Henry B. Eyring, were born. They also emigrated to America. Not far from their birthplace, a prize-winning chapel was built at Ewloea few years ago.

This year we celebrated our 50th anniversary in Rhyl, and so far, my journey into the gospel has been most rewarding. ■

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](mailto:ukiensign@ldschurch.org).