

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Righteous Example of Parents

By Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Great Britain

Area Seventy

The opening verse of the Book of Mormon—“I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father”—provides a clear indication of the role and importance of families and parents in the Book of Mormon and the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have found great learning and insight by pondering on the many examples of righteous parents in the Book of Mormon.

As I have read of Lehi and Sariah nurturing, teaching and guiding their children, I have sought to “liken (the) scriptures unto (me)”¹ in my role as a father. As my wife and I reflect on the examples of righteous parents in the Book of Mormon, a number of others come to mind.

As Enos was alone in the forests reflecting on his life and the need to receive a remission of his sins,² he reflected on “the words which (he) had often heard (his) father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints”.³ Enos knew his father “was a just man”.⁴ The righteous example of Enos’ father, Jacob, was instrumental in helping Enos receive a remission of sins.

In Mosiah we read of how many of the “rising generation” of the Church did not believe the teachings of the prophets,

“would not be baptized,” and became “a separate people as to their faith”.⁵ This caused great distress and troubled the prophet Alma and King Mosiah, which became exacerbated when some of their own sons became chief protagonists in opposition to the Church. A great miracle occurred when an angel appeared to Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah to stop their rebellion,⁶ at which point we see again the example of a righteous father, Alma, who when his dumb and stricken son was brought before him “rejoiced, for he knew that it was the power of God”.⁷ The righteous parents of Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah played a crucial part in their becoming faithful missionaries and leaders.

The valiant and faithful ‘sons of Helaman,’ when asked of the source of their faith, courage and strength, said they had been “taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them”.⁸ Their valiance is a wonderful example to all, and they were in no doubt as to the righteousness and faith of their mothers,



Elder Clifford T. Herbertson

saying, “We do not doubt our mothers knew it”.⁹

These are just a few of the examples of righteous parents in the Book of Mormon. I have always

found it interesting that in a number of instances, some of the children of these righteous parents had fallen away from the teachings and guidance of their parents. This is a situation that many in the Church face today.

In such situations, righteous parents (in Book of Mormon days and today) remain faithful and obedient.

As with Alma, they pray fervently for the welfare of their children and remain hopeful that, as with Enos, they will find themselves in a position to reflect on their parents’ teachings and example and make necessary changes in their lives to enjoy the blessings of the kingdom again.

President Boyd K. Packer taught:

“It is not uncommon for responsible parents to lose one of their children, for a time, to influences over which they have no control. They agonize over rebellious sons or daughters. They are puzzled over why they are so helpless when they have tried so hard to do what they should.

“It is my conviction that those wicked influences one day will be overruled. . . .

“We cannot overemphasize the value of temple marriage, the binding ties of the sealing

ordinance, and the standards of worthiness required of them. When parents keep the covenants they have made at the altar of the temple, their children will be forever bound to them”.¹⁰

The need for the example of righteous parents today is as great as it has ever been. Our children need to have faithful, obedient and valiant parents to look towards to

help them in their journey back to Heavenly Father. ■

NOTES

1. 1 Nephi 19:23.
2. See Enos 1:2.
3. Enos 1:3.
4. Enos 1:1.
5. See Mosiah 26:1–5.
6. See Mosiah 27:8–18.
7. Mosiah 27:20.
8. Alma 56:47.
9. Alma 56:48.
10. Boyd K. Packer, “Our Moral Environment,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 68.

LOCAL NEWS

The Big Choir

By Jeremy Kay

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is renowned worldwide for its beautiful music. They are part of a music-loving church, and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Chesterfield decided to share this love and enthusiasm with members of their local community by organising a “Big Choir” experience.

The aim was to give people the chance to experience the thrill of singing in a big choir for just one night. Local choirs were invited to participate, and on the night nine singing groups from the area met at Newbold Community School in Chesterfield to perform a piece of their own, followed by a rousing joint rendition of the ‘Battle Hymn of the Republic’.

Members of the various local choirs at the “Big Choir” event hosted by Chesterfield Stake

Around 170 singers raised their voices and lifted the spirits of the delighted audience. Andris Ugullis, music director of Chesterfield Male Voice Choir, remarked, “We were all excited to be involved in this interesting event. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves singing to such an enthusiastic audience.”

The Springwell Academy, composed of seven Chesterfield school choirs and directed by Brian Evans, was also very appreciative of the event. “The choir members enjoyed performing to a supportive audience in a non-threatening, non-competitive, fun environment—just what young singers thrive on,” Brian commented. “A big thank you to all the church members who helped make this event happen. We would like this to be a regular event.”

Prelude music for the event was provided on the big screen with a recording of Katherine Jenkins and Alfie Boe singing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This served as a fitting introduction to the free music resources available online on the Church’s website, www.lds.org/music. Designed to encourage the learning, development and understanding of musical skills, resources include copyright-free music, part learning and tuition in conducting and keyboard skills. These resources are available to all, totally free of charge, and could serve as a valuable resource to homes, schools, churches and other groups.

Though the “Big Choir” experience was designed to be a one-off event, the demand to host a similar event on a regular basis is now being considered. ■



JOANNA HALLATT

Former Secretary of State for Wales Visits Sunday Service in Colwyn Bay

By Reace Wade

REACE WADE



Left to right: Brother Martin Cook; Rt. Hon David Jones, MP; President Simon Shaw; and President Jared Ireland at the recent visit to the Colwyn Bay Sunday service

The Rt. Hon David Jones, MP and Secretary of State for Wales (2012–2014), attended a Sunday service at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Colwyn Bay, North Wales with his wife, Sarah.

After a chance meeting at the National Prayer Breakfast in June with Martin Cook, UK National Director for Public Affairs, Rt. Hon David Jones commented that he regularly passed the Colwyn Bay meeting-house on his way to the railway station. Learning of this, Martin Cook took the opportunity to extend an invitation to attend a Sunday service. Mr Jones, also being a devout Christian, gratefully accepted.

Martin Cook recalled, “We were a little worried at a quarter to 10 that he might be double booked, with it being the first day of the Conservative conference! But no, he arrived full of enthusiasm with his delightful wife, Sarah, at 10 minutes to 10”.

Mr and Mrs Jones were greeted by the local Church leaders—President Jared Ireland, Chester stake president, and President Simon Shaw, Colwyn Bay’s leader—and Martin Cook. Following the sacrament meeting, President Shaw provided Mr and Mrs Jones with a tour of the building and an opportunity to meet and speak with members. President Shaw explained about the work members were involved

with in the local community, including their ongoing support for the RBL Poppy Appeal, for which members provided over 150 hours of service last year.

The visit concluded with Mr and Mrs Jones being presented with a VIP pack.

Soon after, David Jones posted a picture of himself, President Ireland, President Shaw and Brother Cook at the main entrance to the chapel on Twitter, stating, “Was very pleased to attend a service at the @LDSchurch, Prince’s Drive, #ColwynBay this morning”. ■

The Baptism of Ridgon Porter

By Tanya Devany

The waters of Denbighshire’s River Elwy in North Wales saw a ripple in time this summer as visitors from the United States came to witness a repeat moment in their family history.

At seven-thirty in the morning, eight-year-old Ridgon Porter stood on the Elwy’s pebbled banks, dressed in his whites, eyes alive like he was about to join his dream ‘soccer’ team.

Around him were his American and Welsh family members, the local bishop, and just a handful of friends.

Around them, a yellow June sun animated clear waters, textured by Wales’ finest greenery. An old high-arched bridge painted a charming backdrop, and a watery limestone cascade hummed gently to the tree birds. It was the epitome of Welsh beauty—a picturesque scene, bringing its own kind of warmth.

Ridgon travelled with his parents and four siblings all the way from Gilbert, Arizona, for this special occasion. Just over fifty years ago, it was



Tim Porter, pictured behind, with Rigdon, standing in the waters of the River Elwy in North Wales prior to the baptism

Rigdon's grandmother and great-grandmother who stood on the Elwy's banks, dressed in white, with some of their loved ones. That year was the birth of the Rhyl Ward, and the baptism of 'Grandma Val' and 'Great-Grandma Ethel' into it.

At the 1961 baptism of Val and Ethel King, Church members dug stones out of the river in St Asaph to create an area of water deep enough. For Val's grandson, however, a deeper patch further up the river was chosen, so this special event could be as private as the family's first.

When Rigdon and his father waded together into the chilly water, timely clouds drifted and warm golden rays shone off the white-clothed pair.

A reverent hush descended on the shore, the baptismal prayer was offered, and Rigdon was momentarily immersed in the water. The child came up with the maturity and dignity of one who respects his religion.

Beautiful was the unvoiced expression of love shared between son and mother as he waded out. When asked about this distinctive family holiday, Rigdon's mother, Stephanie, said, "I feel such closeness to the King family. We wanted our children to feel that, and who the King family is. Rigdon will have this engraven on his heart forever."

Rigdon's father, Tim, added, "We have a never-ending love and admiration for this country and our Welsh heritage. We could not possibly overstate this! We feel it an honour to be part Welsh. We wanted to honor our Welsh heritage by bringing Rigdon here for this purpose. We wanted to show respect and love to my mother and grandparents, as well as all the great Welsh Saints who we consider 'our pioneers.'" ■

Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake Youth Respond to Elder Andersen's Challenge

By Anne-Marie Roberts

During the October half-term holiday, youth from the Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake travelled to the Preston England Temple for their third annual visit. Over the course of two days and during four baptismal sessions, seventy-nine youth, supported by thirty-two leaders and parents, performed 652 baptisms for the dead, all of which came from their own or stake family file resources.

Responding to the challenge from Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to take their own names to the temple (see "Youth

Temple Challenge," [lds.org/topics/family-history/temple-challenge](https://www.lds.org/topics/family-history/temple-challenge)), the seventy-nine youth were encouraged to identify five ancestors; where necessary, they were assisted in their endeavours by other stake members, who freely provided family names from their family history files. This work enabled the youth to contribute to the Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake vision of "touching one life in 2014 by bringing one in and bringing one back."

While one group of youth were working in the temple baptism, others participated in service projects in and around the

Youth from the Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake standing in front of the Preston England Temple after performing 652 baptisms



temple grounds, as well as group activities in the local stake centre. These included viewing and discussing Mormon Messages films, playing Four Square (a new favourite ball game), clearing leaves from the temple grounds, cleaning the chapel in the stake centre and generally getting to know each other better.

The stake youth visit culminated in a testimony meeting where many youth expressed tender feelings of the spirit, gratitude for their leaders and

the overall strength gained by so many of them attending the event together. The environment within the temple baptistry enabled the youth to view all baptisms being performed; this brought an extra reverence to the proceedings.

This annual temple visit has become an established part of the stake youth culture and provides a spiritual focus for youth as they seek to build and strengthen their testimonies of the gospel of Jesus Christ. ■

The Milford Haven August Fast

By Tracey Prior

In recent months the Milford Haven Branch has suffered through the loss of 15 active members who have had to move away for work.

The Milford Haven members, under the direction of President Calvin Williams and President Govier, were challenged, at the Milford branch conference, to fast throughout the month of August 2014. Each member chose a day each and fasted for that time. In conjunction with this, the stake council officers also fasted on designated days to double the effort.

Members were asked to fast for a family to move in, a family to be reactivated and a family to be baptised into the branch.

Every single active member of the branch took part in the fast in some form or another, even the Primary children. A number of blessings were forthcoming:

During the fast, members were able to gather in sponsor money for the branch walk, which raised £165 for the mental health charity Hafal. This was presented to their officials at the chapel (which included a tour of the building), and another link was made to the community.

President Calvin Williams of the Milford Haven Branch (centre) presenting a cheque for £165 to a representative of the Hafal charity

The missionaries received a media referral, and the investigator, Daniel, immediately asked what he needed to do to be baptised! He explained that he had read the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price already and knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet!

An unusually large number of tourists and their families came to Church throughout August, more than many of us can remember. One family have expressed a very keen interest to move to the area in the coming years, and one couple from America also have a desire to come for a 'few years' and would love to serve as missionaries in the area.

A less-active sister and her three children began to come back to church and is now active again. Her son is a deacon and is once again enjoying the youth programme.

Youth attended FSY and were privy to spiritual experiences that strengthened them and their resolve to serve full-time missions.

The branch members were able to visit the temple as a group. All but three active members were in attendance, and much work was done for our kindred dead, showing that not all answers to prayer and fasting come in the way that you would imagine.

The Milford Haven members are now happy to report that the branch fast has brought them together as one in the gospel, has helped bring an increase in the Spirit and has been successful in achieving the original outcomes. They also know that the blessings of this fast will not stop just because August is at a close. ■



Theresa and Michael Mycock

Merthyr Tydfil Meets All Faiths

By Julie Jones

In acknowledgment of Inter Faith Week, UK leaders from the Interfaith Council for Wales gathered at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Merthyr Tydfil chapel on Wednesday, 19 November 2014. Joining together as “Communities of Faith,” each of the representatives from the Sikh, Muslim, Baha’i, Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales), Jewish and Latter-day Saint faiths addressed the Mission Statement of the Interfaith Council. The Interfaith Council for Wales aims to help build a culture of mutual understanding and respect between the different faith communities living in Wales, and to raise public awareness of what makes each religious tradition different and of what unites them.

Throughout the evening comments from leaders reaffirmed a desire to work together, to strengthen and uplift one another, and to build on the common religious threads that bind communities together.

Saleem Kidwai, representing the Muslim faith, also shared how he was taught as a child in a Catholic school and discovered that the same values and principles of good that he was taught there were equal to those he learned from his Muslim upbringing.

Vivian Bartlett of the Baha’i faith shared a love of many of the religious leaders of the past such as Abraham, Jesus Christ and Muhammad and how each one taught principles of good that can be demonstrated in daily life.

Following the speakers’ comments, an exhibition displaying various artefacts, books, and presentations of each faith was available, all while participants shared a buffet prepared to accommodate the varying dietary requirements of each religious practice.

Those attending became more aware of the common roots of each religion, particularly the historic connections of the Abrahamic faiths: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. It was an evening of shared traditions, including an understanding of sacred vestments as well as significant anniversaries or celebrations of worship.

All involved expressed their appreciation and gratitude for being invited to participate in this community event. Revd Alan Bayes, the Vicar of Penllergaer and the chair of Interfaith Wales, remarked that it was a wonderful evening and added that he felt blessed to be a part. In reflection, Lisa Gerson, representative of the South Wales Jewish faith, added, “I felt privileged to be included in the Communities of Faith Evening of Culture, Tradition, Entertainment and Faith and am grateful for having the opportunity to be involved.”

By sharing experiences of his youth with multi-faith contacts, Merthyr Tydfil Mayor Brian Mansbridge emphasised the need for unity. By evening’s end, mere acquaintances became good friends in an environment of shared respect and mutual understanding. ■

Left to right: Julie Jones, Public Affairs Wales Interfaith Representative; Keith Bishop, Great Britain Public Affairs National Council Interfaith Leader for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Revd Alan Bayes, Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) Representative, Chair of Interfaith Wales; Brenda Mansbridge, Mayoress of Merthyr Tydfil; Brian Mansbridge, Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil; Channi Kaler, Sikh Representative; Lisa Gerson, South Wales Jewish Representative; Surinder Channi, Sikh Interfaith Representative



REBECCA EVANS

Missionary Memories Link Pageant Past to Pageant Present

By Sister Linda Jones

Rekindling the zeal and dedication of early Church members, the 2013 British Pageant depicted the pivotal history of early British members in song and story performed at the Preston temple site. The story of the “cradle of the Restoration” was brought to life again in the summer of 2014 at the Nauvoo Pageant in Illinois. It is a story of faithful Saints from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who lived and died for their religious convictions.

Thanks to the discovery of missionary couple Elder Jay and Sister Joan Peck from Utah, currently serving in Chorley, priceless family documents reveal an event that links Great Britain’s past to the present. While viewing the British Pageant in the summer of 2013, there stirred within them recollections of past family letters and photos referencing a similar pageant gathering in 1937. In their possession also rests the *Millennial Star*, which records the centennial celebration of the Church in Great Britain held at the magnificent Rochdale Town Hall on Saturday, 31 July 1937.

In attendance was Church President Heber J. Grant, who had served as mission president of the British and European Missions before World War I. President Grant presided at

the centennial event, and his visit proved to be a welcome homecoming for the Mormons of Britain. Also in attendance were First Presidency Second Counsellor J. Reuben Clark, mission presidents Joseph J. Cannon and Hugh B. Brown, all missionaries then serving in Britain, and many British auxiliary leaders.

In addition to the pageant, the Centennial Conference included many activities during the four-day event, including a re-enactment of the first baptism, with the presentation of the memorial plaque on the banks of the River Ribble by President Grant, as well as a baseball game, where he threw out the first ball of the baseball “match” at the age of 81.

While serving as a missionary in the Rochdale area, Elder Garn Capener, father of Sister Joan Peck, shares details of this extraordinary event. Acting the part of William Tyndale in the pageant in addition to participating as a member of the Rochdale Greys baseball team, Elder Capener records in a letter to his parents: “Everybody seemed to be well satisfied with the way thing(s) went over and we had to put on the pageant two night(s) and then all of the people didn’t get to see it. . . . We had a wonderful time and the building we had would not hold them all.” Elder



COURTESY OF ELDER AND SISTER PECK

Capener also noted, “President Heber J. Grant is surely a wonderful man and the people have sure taken to him.”

Lillie Smith Fountain, age 94, longtime resident of Rochdale, remembers well the grand event and especially her delight and that of her close friend Doris Cook, both of whom who not only participated in the 1937 pageant but also shook hands with President Grant.

Elder and Sister Peck leave their home for England

Sister Lil Fountain, aged 94 years, who participated in the 1937 pageant



COURTESY OF LIL FOUNTAIN



President Grant (centre) presents memorial plaque at the River Ribble.

According to Lil, “As excited seventeen-year-old girls we were skipping down the beautiful marble staircase, chattering about the show that was to go on the next day. The door opened and bingo! There he was, President Heber J. Grant, who greeted us and shook our hands.”

Years have not dimmed her memory when speaking about the pageant and its impact on her life. In further reflection Lillie Fountain explains, “The pageant of 1937 has more than anything strengthened my testimony these many years later. It was wonderful to be a part of something so grand. It really was something!”

The same fervour and dedication of the early Mormons in Britain exist today in the

faithfulness of Sister Lil Fountain and the service of Elder Jay and Sister Joan Peck. Though not easy for a missionary who is a wheelchair user, Sister Peck rejoices in her opportunity to serve as a missionary as she returns to the same area where her father served as a young man. While Elder Peck shares his legal expertise with the Office of General Council in Chorley, Sister Peck serves in the Preston temple. Without the use of legs, Sister Peck figuratively stands where prophets have proclaimed the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through cherished memories and treasured family records, generations of faith are linked by pageant past with pageant present. ■

Correction

The News from Scotland section of the December 2014 issue listed an incorrect author for the article ‘Dundee Branch—a History.’ The author of the article was actually Frank Bowness. We apologise for the error.

Editor’s Note

The editors, **Jason Watling and Debbie Twigger**, invite all news stories, articles and photographs to be sent to ukiensign@ldschurch.org. Stories should be in Microsoft Word, 350–500 words, with photographs in jpg format, around 3–4mb in size. Please submit stories for the News section as close to the event as possible.

The signed written permission of all participants in the photograph, as well as the photographer and author, is required for the Church to use the article.

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All articles and photographs for the websites and Local Pages should be sent to ukiensign@ldschurch.org. ■

Kirkcaldy Visit by Local Councillor

By Frank Bowness

The Kirkcaldy Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was very pleased to welcome Cllr Judy Hamilton to the Primary presentation in their sacrament meeting on the 26 October 2014. The children aged 3–12 years old gave the presentation in song, scriptures and talks,

sharing their belief in this year’s theme, which was “Families Are Forever”. Cllr Hamilton enjoyed the presentation and was impressed by the children’s confidence in giving their talks. Cllr Hamilton represents the Electoral Ward in which the chapel is situated and already knew some members of the

congregation from her work as a councillor and having attended previous events there. ■



Councillor Judy Hamilton (left) with Frank Bowness at the Kirkcaldy Ward Primary presentation.