

# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Fast Offerings: A Manifestation of Compassion

Elder Adonay S. Obando, Spain

Area Seventy

The Apostle Paul taught that “all the law is fulfilled in one word . . . ; Thou shalt love.”<sup>1</sup> True love, Paul continues teaching, comes from a “pure heart” and a “faith unfeigned.”<sup>2</sup> An essential part of our faith is reaching self-reliance, both spiritually and temporally. Self-reliance has been and is one of the priorities taught to the Saints in this dispensation. However, the path to self-reliance can be long and sometimes accompanied by interruptions, illnesses, financial crises, and personal and other decisions, which can interrupt the path to temporal self-reliance, one aspect of self-reliance. The other is spiritual self-reliance. Both are inseparable sides of the same coin: complete self-reliance.<sup>3</sup>

Without pausing to judge the reason for the misfortune of our brothers and sisters in their times of need, true love should move us to compassion, which, in scriptural terms, has a literal meaning: “to suffer with” others.<sup>4</sup> The Savior, “having the bowels of mercy; being filled with compassion towards the children of men,”<sup>5</sup> is, for us, the perfect example of compassion and charity. Each time that the Lord was close to someone in hardship or tribulation, He did not distract himself in finding out the reasons or condemning the poor decision. In His perfect love, He had compassion for each one of them and immediately acted, blessing them in their need or malady.

Just as the widow, who did not have whence to give, gave an offering,<sup>6</sup> each member of the Church has the marvelous privilege of sharing the divine gift of compassion through fasts and offerings. Without regard to social position or available means,<sup>7</sup> Latter-day Saints fast once a month, both to strengthen our spiritual self-reliance and to help others in need to reach theirs through the payment of fast offerings.

The Lord called His people Zion, considering

that they fulfilled three requirements for virtue: they were of one heart, they dwelt in righteousness, and there were no poor among them.<sup>8</sup> It is not by chance that the meaning of Zion is “pure in heart.”<sup>9</sup> Once more, the scriptures show us that the purity of the heart brings about compassion and mercy, in turn engendering charity. Understanding the commandment “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”<sup>10</sup> on the part of the people of Enoch led them to have compassion, to suffer with each one of their less fortunate brothers and sisters, and to work together to bring relief to the poor and the needy to the point of having no more poor among them.

In a world that increasingly disregards the Savior's teachings, many of our brothers and sisters struggle to fully grow in adverse conditions and surroundings or those of limited possibilities. We can renew our faith through compassion. Our belief in Jesus Christ and His gospel is sufficient to develop compassion and love for people in need. With conviction in the hope of a better world, we can contribute with generous fast offerings from a heart filled with love and compassion for our brothers and sisters.

As we move throughout this life with a grateful attitude, we will be sensitive to the fact that there are always people with needs greater than ours. We will be as the widow who, even in the most dreadful circumstances, considered it a sacred privilege to contribute to the poor and the needy.



**Elder  
Adonay S.  
Obando**

We can make fasting and the payment of fast offerings a part of our life, teaching it to and instilling it in our families and congregations. Your faithful observance will bring light to His disciples, the Savior will be our guide, and His people will be as a spring whose waters never fail.<sup>11</sup> Above all, we will care for the poor and the needy, all as children of the same Father, sustained by His love, retaining a remission of our sins, thus being able to walk guiltless before God.<sup>12</sup> ■

#### NOTES

1. Galatians 5:14.
2. 1 Timothy 1:5.
3. See Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Providing in the Lord’s Way,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 53.
4. See Guide to the Scriptures, “Compassion,” scriptures.lds.org.
5. Mosiah 15:9.
6. See Mark 12:41–44.
7. See Deuteronomy 16:17.
8. See Moses 7:18.
9. Doctrine and Covenants 97:21.
10. Matthew 22:39.
11. See Isaiah 58:10–11.
12. See Mosiah 4:26.

#### LOCAL NEWS

## British Prime Minister Receives Personal Family History from Church

By Malcolm Adcock

United Kingdom Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron received over six generations of his family history, together with detailed historical background, from representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during a meeting at the Houses of Parliament (February 4).

David Cameron is one of several distinguished world leaders who have been given personalised copies of their family

history archive. Previous government heads to be honoured include US President Barack Obama, former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and previous President of Germany Johannes Rau.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Church, Elder Patrick Kearon of the Europe Area Presidency said: “We are so pleased to be able to put together this family history record and present it to the Prime Minister and his family. We hope they will enjoy learning more of their heritage”. Elder Kearon was accompanied by Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Area Seventy.

The meeting was also attended by David Rutley, MP, and Craig Whittaker, MP, who are members of the Church.

The carefully researched documents were prepared by specialists from the Church’s Family History Department, which administers the most extensive

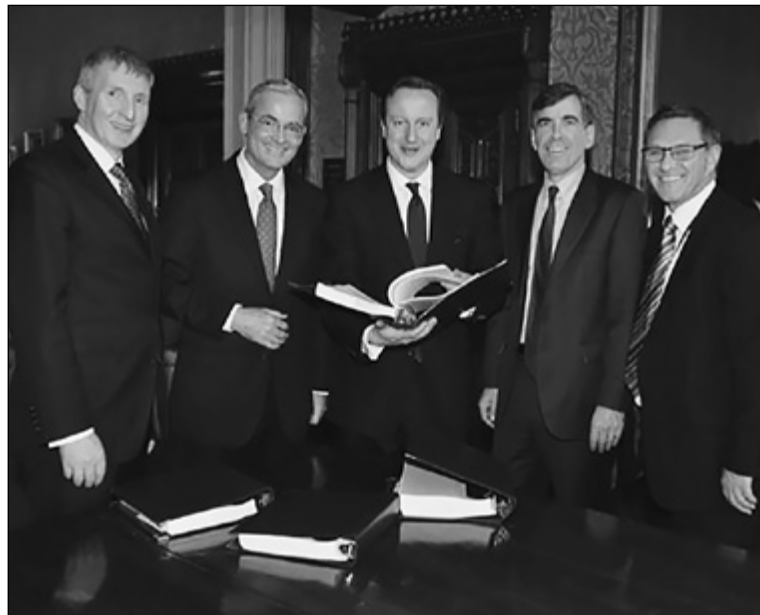
collection of genealogical records globally, including more than 5.7 billion names and 1.1 billion historic records available for free public access online via FamilySearch.org and through nearly 4,800 family history centres worldwide. Patrons can also build, share, and preserve their own family trees, photos, and stories online at the site.

There are 112 family history centres in the United Kingdom, all open to the public. The largest is located alongside the National Archives at Kew, West London.

David Cameron’s genealogy includes information about his ancestors who fought in the First World War, reflecting the Church’s work on World War I records, which includes computer indexing of millions of military documents.

The Church now has a membership of almost 190,000 in the UK across 334 congregations. ■

*From L to R:  
Elder Clifford T.  
Herbertson  
(Area Seventy);  
Elder Patrick  
Kearon  
(Europe Area  
Presidency);  
Rt. Hon. David  
Cameron, MP;  
David Rutley,  
MP; Craig  
Whittaker, MP*



SIMON JONES

# The Christmas Truce

By David Jones

When the UK Public Affairs National Council discussed the idea of preparing an audio-visual presentation of “The Christmas Truce” for every stake to commemorate that famous event, they had no idea how successful it would be.

Bro Martin Cook, UK National Director, said: “The story of ‘The Christmas Truce’ has universal appeal, and who better to recreate that event and tell that story than us, the Latter-day Saints? It was our desire to invite MPs, Mayors and local civic leaders to have an experience with the Holy Ghost in our chapels in order to create a new level of goodwill towards the Church throughout the UK. The story of that truce 100 years ago is the message of the gospel today, the brotherhood of man and Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace.”

In December 2014 Latter-day Saints across Great Britain shared in that same moment when almost 14,000 people attended one of the 41 “Christmas Truce” performances held across 30 participating stakes. More than 2,500 nonmember friends attended and joined in the Christmas carols. Several Members of Parliament participated at various venues.

The Chorley stake saw as many as 1,500 attend over two nights, including 400 nonmember friends. The Rt. Hon. Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, attended and read a letter from one of the servicemen in the trenches to his loved ones back home.

In the York Stake where 750 attended, including more than 100 nonmembers, Brother Mark Taylor commented: “The chapel was full right through to the stage. We had a number of VIPs who carried out readings, including Colin Northridge MBE (Chairman of the RBL North & East Yorkshire), Councillor Helen Douglas (York Council) and David Wilkes (Former British Armed Forces head chaplain). Max Newton (British Red Cross) and a number of York Interfaith Group board members and their guests also attended. The feedback was



**Performances of “The Christmas Truce” from around the UK**

phenomenal and they all were so impressed with the quality of the production.”

“This Christmas-based event has been the most successful event for nonmember participation and bringing people into our chapel,” reported President Simon Hill of the Bristol Stake presidency, where 800 people attended, including more than 100 nonmember friends.

The story continues across Great Britain, including the tiny Porthmadog Branch in Wales, where 4 nonmembers joined the 20 members who participated.

Guests and friends attending these performances were moved by this extraordinary reminder of World War 1 in the special centenary anniversary year in 2014. ■

# Reading Football Team Are Euro Champions

By Nic Read

On his mission in Zurich, Switzerland, Jacob Pine first heard about an LDS football tournament held in Berlin each year. After returning home to the Reading England Stake, he received an invitation over Facebook and wasted no time strapping on his boots to form a local team.

Last year they won the 2014 LDS European Football Tournament against a growing number of teams already comprised of Church members from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands and England. “A last-minute goal from the Austrian team put us in a difficult position this year,” says Brother Pine. “If we didn’t win every game thereafter, we’d be out.”

His team pulled together, evaluated their strengths and weaknesses, and formed new tactics against each opposing team. They won 1–0 against Dresden, 2–0 against Berlin, then 3–1 against Switzerland before facing the Spandau team—archrivals they lost to in 2013.

“We were determined to win against Spandau,” says Brother Pine. “It was tough, but we claimed a 3–0 victory, then progressed to the final against the Netherlands, which we also won 3–0. Being crowned the LDS European champions is an excellent achievement!”

The European LDS Football

Tournament is a wonderful opportunity to build and strengthen relationships. Brother Pine reports that spending 15 hours on a bus allowed members from across his stake to bond with each other, plus nonmember friends who joined the team. Being reunited with former mission companions was a highlight for Jeremy Bailey, who served his



COURTESY OF JACOB PINE

mission in the French-speaking Swiss mission.

At the end of the tournament, members exchanged contact details with new friends and plan to stay in touch. The 2015 Tournament will be held in the summer. ■

**Jacob Pine holds the first place certificate and trophy, surrounded by the jubilant Reading England Stake team.**

## Helston Celebrates 40 Years with 4 Mayors

By Dorothy Martin

A special ceremony was held on Sunday 28th September at the Latter-day Saint chapel in Helston, Cornwall, as members of the Church celebrated 40 years since the dedication of the building, with four local mayors in attendance.

The membership and friends enjoyed the service, with special invited guests Councillor Mike Thomas, Mayor of Helston; Councillor David Nebesnuick, Mayor of Penzance; Councillor Gillian Grant, Mayoress of Penryn; and Councillor Daniel Williams, Mayor of Porthleven.

Several hundred members live in Cornwall, worshipping every Sunday, and throughout the week, gathering in chapels in Helston and Redruth. The building, located on Clodgey Lane, was built in 1974 with funds collected by the members. The construction was overseen by an appointed building

supervisor, but members of the congregation donated labour hours whenever they could. Many worked throughout the night on the construction and returned to their daily employment without rest!

Many recall the service that they gave during the construction. John Hunt of Falmouth, who was part of the build, recalls digging a trench at night, “and the only illumination we had was a tilly lamp hanging from a garden fork stuck on the side of the trench.” Elizabeth Bray of Helston fondly remembered planting, tending, and harvesting potato and strawberry crops to help fund the construction. ■

**The 4 local mayors of Helston, Penzance, Penryn and Porthleven at the 40th anniversary of the chapel in Helston, Cornwall**



DEREK JACKETT

## Waterford Branch Building Opening

By Eamonn Sheridan

The official opening of the new building for the Waterford Branch was performed on Saturday 20th December 2014 by Councillor John Carey, Deputy Mayor of the Waterford Metropolitan District. He was met on his arrival by district president Tom Murphy, who introduced him to President Alan Brown, mission president for Scotland/Ireland. Also in attendance was Sister Brown; the counsellors in the district presidency, Niall Graham and Robert Kearney; and Patrick Carthy, the Waterford Branch president, with his counsellors, Philip Mullan and Michael Moylan. The auxiliary leaders and members of the branch also showed their support for the event.

The Deputy Mayor was very impressed with the presentation given by the missionaries and the displays by the auxiliary leaders. In his address following his tour, he mentioned how impressive the new building is and that it will encourage growth in the future. His knowledge of the Church was impressive, especially the history of the Church in Ireland. In his comments he mentioned the Prophet Joseph Smith and our present prophet, President Thomas S. Monson.

The Deputy Mayor afterwards gave his personal phone number to the missionaries and invited them to call on him in the future. The missionaries presented him with a Book of Mormon and a box of handmade chocolates for his wife. ■

**From L to R: President Tom Murphy, Cllr. John Carey and President Alan Brown**



SISTER MARY RYAN

## Malawi Interfaith

By Linda Coulter

The Coleraine Branch in Northern Ireland, supported by the Coleraine Borough Churches Forum, hosted an interfaith event to learn more about the work being done in Malawi by the Presbyterian Church.

In attendance was a cross section from the community staff from Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust, Western Health and Social Care Trust and paramedic staff from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. The chairperson and members of the Churches Forum and Minister and members from the Church of Christ in Coleraine were also at the event. The mix of faiths in attendance were Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Baptist, Brethren, Roman Catholic, Church of Christ and Latter-day Saints.

For the past four years, the members of Coleraine Branch have been supporting this charity and supplied medical supplies to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, clothing and toiletries to the adults of the area, toys and clothing to the Chifundo Orphanage and educational supplies to the two schools. This has amounted to several boxes being sent and also included over 100 individual schoolbags made by the sisters and filled with supplies. Members of Holywood Road Branch have also been involved in this effort by donating clothing, toiletries, toys, and

money raised from a car boot sale.

The speakers at the event were Mrs Christine Nsona, President of the Women's Guild in Ndirande Church, Blantyre, Malawi, and Mrs Heather Clements, head of the Missionary Committee in First Limavady Presbyterian Church, which provides aid to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, the Chifundo Orphanage and two schools.

The evening ended with branch president Adrian Culbertson presenting Mrs Nsona with a King James Version of the Bible for her church in Malawi. He commented, "All present have been humbled and inspired by what we have heard—humbled by the great need in Malawi but inspired by the commitment of the two speakers to improve conditions for



REV. P. J. RITCHIE

**From L to R: Mrs. Christine Nsona and Dr. Heather Clements at the interfaith event held at the Coleraine Branch chapel**

those living there. We leave tonight with a renewed commitment from all here to help this great cause in every way we can.”

Members of the community in Coleraine, Portstewart, Belfast and Londonderry have also contributed to this great cause.

One man bought 400 pairs of children’s trousers which he donated through the Coleraine congregation. Heather commented that all the contributions really are making a difference to the people of Malawi and are greatly appreciated. ■

Nearly 3000 members in 11 congregations throughout Northern Ireland believe that serving their fellowman is the key to serving God. Last June a special 40th anniversary commemorative service was held. Stake president James McCrudden said, “As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we believe that serving our fellowman is how we show our love to our Heavenly Father and to all people. We want to help guide our Heavenly Father’s children back to Him, to once again live in His presence and there enjoy a spirit of love and unity. As with other great Christian religions of the world, we invite all to come unto Christ.”

In Londonderry, each year the Church runs an 8-week Intergenerational Programme with neighbouring Greenhaw Primary School. This addresses family issues and family-related work with schools. The programme has been so successful that another school has asked to be involved next year.

In Coleraine, individual members give of their time to serve in their local community by volunteering in various organisations, including (but not limited to) the Royal British Legion, the

‘Bark’ dog charity, the Riverside Theatre, Riding for the Disabled and the Milk Cup football tournament.

Individuals have also been serving their communities. In Lisburn, one member raised over £800 for the Children’s Hospice. In Bangor, Colin Walker took part in the Belfast marathon and raised over £500 for the NI Hospice. Another Bangor member, Steven Murphy, ran a marathon in Florida to raise money for Autism Speaks. Relief Society sisters in Bangor work with other churches in the area to stock a food bank which provides free food for those in need. ■

## 40th Anniversary of Belfast Stake: 40 Years of Serving in the Community

By Linda Coulter

Although the Church has existed in Northern Ireland since shortly after it was founded in America in 1830, the Belfast stake was only fully established 40 years ago. This year, to mark the 40th anniversary, congregations province wide have been reaching out, hosting activities, raising money for charity and getting involved with community projects.



*Five leaders over the past 40 years. Back row (left to right): Raymond Lowry and Peter Ferguson. Front row (left to right): Andrew Renfrew, James McCrudden, and Eric Noble.*

# Dudley Hill Ward: Hard Work Reaps Rewards—150 Ancestors Discovered

By Steve Worley

Such is the enthusiasm at the Dudley Hill Ward in Leeds that all the members took up the challenge to find names of their deceased ancestors and then attend the temple to complete the required work.

The ward decided to follow the path of a 40-day challenge to see how successful they could be within that time period.

The *My Family* booklet was presented to the members, and on the following Sunday everyone was challenged to find a new name in their ancestry over the next 40 days.

Commented Beverley Smith, family history consultant, "I prayed about it and I felt I was directed to the list of women on my family tree who were shown by their first name only. There turned out to be 240 women. I opened the list and prayed again. Then I started at the top of the list and went past the Anns, Amelias and Elizabeths and there she was, an Emily. I knew without any doubt that she was 'my person'.

"After some research, she turned out to be the daughter of Henry Stockings and Mary Cox and the wife of Daniel Barnard Farr, born on the 30 April 1853 in Garboldisham, Suffolk. I now had her complete name, which could be submitted to the temple."

Beverley continued, "I began posting daily helps on Dudley Hill congregation's Facebook page,

set up a display at Church and a weekly reminder of how many days were left. 40 days go by very fast!

"Then the miracles began to happen. One sister came to me a couple of Sundays in and said, 'I found my person'. Being one of the members that felt her tree was already complete and she wouldn't find anyone else, she had prayed about it and with some research she had found someone who needed temple work. From then on the requests for help came in thick and fast, and I as well as the other family history consultants were kept busy assisting members with their research."

Barry Cooper, local priesthood leader, related his experience: "When I was researching my mother's ancestors many years ago, I had no information regarding her father, who was not named on her birth certificate. When I told Susanne Rooney about this, she suggested that I give her what I had and she would look into it for me.

"The next day she called me on the phone and told me she had found my maternal grandfather and that she also had an additional 69 names for me. You can imagine how I felt about her discoveries."

Commenting on the resources she had used to find these names, Susanne mentioned that she had done the research using Ancestry.co.uk, civil registrations, parish records, censuses and WWI

records. She felt that she had been prompted by the Spirit to achieve such great results.

Four of the youth from Dudley Hill joined with eight youth from the Wharfe Valley Branch to take 59 names to the Preston England Temple to complete the baptisms and confirmations.

Information was discovered on over 150 ancestors in the UK, India and Jamaica. ■

## 100 Years of Charity Never Failing: Grimsby Celebrates 100 Years of Relief Society

By Jenny Collier

A celebratory evening recently took place at Grimsby Chapel as the women celebrated 100 years of Relief Society in the Grimsby area.

The evening was attended by Councillor Alex Baxter, The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of North East Lincolnshire, with The Mayoress, Mrs. Anne Baxter, who remarked on the hospitality extended to them. The Mayor and his wife were welcomed and accompanied during the evening by stake president Ash Poulton and his wife, Kim.

Relief Society president Pauline Crofts and her counsellors began planning the event ten months beforehand. Throughout 2014 the Grimsby women gathered together regularly to create a special quilt depicting both serious and humorous events that took place in the last century. Once completed, the quilt was quickly snapped up by a private buyer for £200.

As 2014 was also the centenary of the start of World War 1, Pauline Crofts decided it would be appropriate to donate the proceedings from the sale of the quilt to the charity "Help for Heroes". This is a British charity which was launched to



*Left to right: Kim Poulton, Muriel Adams, Pauline Crofts (Relief Society president), and President Ashley Poulton (Hull Stake president) admiring the handmade centennial quilt made by the Grimsby sisters for the 100th RS anniversary*

help provide better facilities for British servicemen and women who have been wounded or injured in the line of duty.

A representative from “Help for Heroes” attended and received the cheque from Pauline Crofts.

During the evening, brief remarks were given by four women who represented four generations and talked about Relief Society and its effect on their lives. There were photo displays of Relief Society spanning the past 100 years. Also on display were articles made for charitable projects throughout 2014, including gifts for the Women’s Refuge and knitted baby clothes donated to the Neonatal Unit of Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital. ■

#### 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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## Kettering Young Men Collect for Food Bank

By Debbie Twigger

On a very cold January evening 25 young men, with their leaders from the Kettering Ward, collected donations of food from the 230 regularly attending members who live in the four towns in the ward’s boundaries for the local St Jude’s food bank. Ward Young Men president Keith Reynolds remarked, “The young men planned the activity and were keen to help out, so 16-year-old Luke liaised with Sue Preece of the Relief Society presidency, and a list was sent around to all the sisters for collections to be made from their homes on the youth night.”

Boxes and boxes of food donations were then handed over to the local food bank in Kettering in the new year, which were gratefully received. Regular donations from the Relief Society in the ward are organised on a monthly basis, but the Relief Society leaders were so pleased with the response from the young men that they asked the Young Men presidency if the service project could be repeated again.

This is an ongoing project by the ward for the St Jude’s food bank, who rely on donations from the public as well as businesses in the area. ■

BEVERLEY REYNOLDS



*Young men from Kettering Ward with donations for the local food bank, St. Jude’s in Kettering*