

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP

Come, See and Feel

By Elder Wolfgang Pilz, Germany

Area Seventy

The 1960s were characterized by significant changes and new growth in the Church in Europe. Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, later President of the Church, was called to Europe to preside here in Frankfurt over the European Mission. Under his direction, initiatives were started to bring the Church out of obscurity in the lands of central Europe, and particularly in Germany, which was most heavily hit by the destruction of the Second World War. Many units in Germany had lost their buildings and were now meeting in apartment blocks or backyard buildings.

In my hometown, we met in a business building in the town center, where there was a shoe shop, a dental practice and, on the top floor, the apartment of the owner of the building.

An incisive experience from my childhood is deeply engraved on my memory to this day. A little Primary boy had struggled with the lock on the front door and obviously jammed it. Whilst the members of the ward were sitting in sacrament meeting, the owner of the building suddenly burst into the peace of the meeting and showered us with his angry curses and threats. Afterwards, nothing seemed as it was before. The feeling of safety and security was lost.

A short time afterwards, President Benson visited the ward in Darmstadt

and announced that a building of our own was to be constructed.

The great challenge for a group of ten young families and a few older faithful widows was to come up with a part of the necessary funding from their own contributions and essentially build it with their own labor.

What followed was three years of intensive cooperative work to construct a spacious ward meetinghouse at the edge of the city.

In a time when many of the families involved would perhaps have built a home for themselves with the assistance of neighbors, all our strength was concentrated and every spare hour spent on the meetinghouse. The building site, the cellars and the ventilation shafts became an adventure playground for us children because the families met there every weekend to work together. To this day I can see the picture of my mother with the biggest of all the available cooking pots in the house, in which a delicious stew was prepared, and taking it with her to the building site.

Between 1961 and 1967, in a unique initiative, more than 120 young brethren were called to serve as building missionaries. They lived with member families, worked from morning to evening on the building site and were for a time part of the ward family. For us children they were a great example. We remember their names to this day.

The construction of a ward meetinghouse was only possible with their work together with a few experts.

From Flensburg in the north of Germany to Graz in southern Austria, almost 60 buildings were constructed in this way.

Along with the temple and our own homes, the meetinghouses are sacred places in which we worship God, pray to Him, are taught and receive spiritual guidance.

The meetinghouse has a special place in that, because it is a place where everyone who behaves properly can enter without further preconditions.

In the past we have often taken our friends to the ward meetinghouse when there were cultural events, sporting activities or festivals to celebrate. They were all impressed by our ward life, but they often lacked the deeper spiritual insight.

We later recognized that our friends were only touched by the Spirit and could recognize Christ's teaching if we took them to sacrament service, where we ourselves gather "oil for our lamps" through regular participation in the sacrament.

Our chapels may be simple and without ornamentation, and the sacrament table only an altar during the holy ordinance, but the message that we worship Christ as our Saviour and



Elder Wolfgang Pilz

Redeemer, and that we can lay claim to His companionship and guidance through worthy partaking of the sacrament, can penetrate the hearts

of people in this sacred meeting.

There is no better place to go when we want to share this truth with a friend. ■

temple work to be completed and be released from spiritual bondage.”

President Leece adds, “We can now seek out the names of our ancestors in the comfort of our homes. We have two beautiful temples in this land where the Lord’s saving ordinances can be carried out. It’s never been easier to participate in the Saviour’s work of redeeming the dead. It’s our earnest desire to help the Saints assist Him as He hastens His work on both sides of the veil.”

Called as first counsellor in the temple presidency, President Broadway enjoyed a career as a chartered accountant and senior bank manager. He has advised the Church across Europe and Africa on financial control and materials management, and served as an assistant auditor, bishop, regional welfare agent, counsellor in a stake presidency, and temple ordinance worker.

One of Sister Broadway’s first callings was as a stake Junior Sunday School coordinator, following which she has been president of Young Women, Primary, and Relief Society organisations, and a temple ordinance worker. She is a self-confessed ‘family history nut’ with several thousand names in her family tree. Reflecting on her new calling, she said, “I love the Lord and His gospel, and hope to see temple service become a lasting memory for all those who attend.”

In 2011, President Broadway was diagnosed with a terminal illness, with life expectancy of between six months and 2 years. “When I lay in the depths of that illness, I had time to reflect. My mind grew still, and the veil drew very thin,” he recalls. “My experience of the Saviour’s love was profound. I feel an obligation now to help others achieve

LOCAL NEWS

New Presidency for Preston England Temple

By Nic Read



First counsellor Keith Broadway with Sister Frances Broadway (left), President Joseph Leece with matron Lyn Leece (centre), and second counsellor Michael Rigby with Sister Carol Rigby (right).

A new presidency for the Preston England Temple began serving on 1 November 2015. Joseph Leece of the Preston England Stake is the new president, with his wife, Lyn Leece, serving as temple matron. Keith Broadway of the Preston England Stake is serving as first counsellor, with Michael Rigby of the Nottingham England Stake as second counsellor. Frances Broadway and Carol Rigby are serving as assistants to the matron.

Prior to his call as president of the Preston England Temple, President Leece served as an area family history adviser, counsellor in the Preston temple presidency, volunteer temple recorder, and stake president. He has

also served as a branch president, stake patriarch and counsellor in the England Missionary Training Centre. President Leece is a retired director of European operations for an American laser manufacturing company.

Sister Leece has served as an assistant to the matron at the Preston England Temple, an area family history adviser, in a stake Relief Society presidency, stake Primary presidency, as ward Relief Society president, ward Primary president, and Church-service missionary. President and Sister Leece have six children and 16 grandchildren. “Our kindred dead are very much alive in the spirit world,” explains Sister Leece. “They feel an urgency for their

this same closeness.” President and Sister Broadway have three sons and one granddaughter.

Called as second counsellor in the temple presidency, President Rigby has served as a temple sealer for seven years, and with Sister Rigby as a temple ordinance worker for nine years. He has served as a stake president, and from 2002 to 2014 was involved in administering young single adult conferences and For the Strength of Youth

programmes across the UK and Ireland. His career was in training and advising people whose jobs were made redundant. President and Sister Rigby have six children and 19 grandchildren.

Sister Rigby has served in stake Young Women, Primary and Relief Society presidencies. “Family is so important to us,” says Sister Rigby. “It’s special knowing we can be together forever. Our priority is to ensure the rising generation can identify

with the gospel and the blessings the temple brings.”

President Rigby adds, “We really enjoy seeing the youth, young single adults and young married couples attend the temple. They bring such vibrancy to this work! I’m reminded of President Monson’s talk [April 2014 general conference] where he said love is the essence of the gospel. It’s wonderful to see our young people show their love by giving service in the house of the Lord.” ■

Rugby Legend Addresses Poole Fireside

By Andrew Gyll

Legendary rugby union player Jonah Lomu, who sadly died on 18th November, and his wife, Nadene, addressed a packed meeting at the Poole stake centre on Thursday, 22 October. The Lomus had previously spoken in their native New Zealand about the challenges they have had to face and the strength their faith gives them. Staying in the Bournemouth and Poole area during the Rugby World Cup, they were invited to lead a fireside at the local chapel and gladly accepted. Jonah was the youngest player ever to debut for the All Blacks in 1994 and went on to play professional rugby in both New Zealand and Europe before retiring in 2007 due to health issues arising from a serious kidney condition.

In her talk Sister Lomu spoke of the challenge of packing for a family of five for a trip of three months’ duration. She also spoke movingly of her husband’s health and recalled the occasion just after the opening ceremony of the 2011 World Cup when

he returned home and simply said, “I don’t feel so good.” Jonah was rushed to hospital, and in the following days and weeks as she prayed and fasted, Nadene came to realise that everything would ultimately be all right but that it would be in the Lord’s time and not necessarily hers. She concluded her words by speaking about fear, advising young people in the audience not

to be afraid to say no to a drink or a cigarette and not to tolerate bullying, either physical or online.

Brother Lomu spoke about his chequered past, his difficult childhood and his spiritual search. Like many sportsmen, he had certain ways of preparing before a match. Part of his pre-game ritual was to drape his shirt over his shoulders and to pray. Despite this, he still was not attending any church but was still on his own personal search to find the right one. As a consequence of his medical



Jonah Lomu, pictured centre, and his wife and children at the Poole stake fireside with stake president John Crew (right).

condition, he and Nadene had been told that they had virtually no chance of having any children. Despite this, Nadene fell pregnant, and after this personal miracle Jonah started going to church, meeting with missionaries and working towards his baptism. When he finally committed to be baptised, he was told by his bishop,

“You will be tested,” and then he almost immediately fell seriously ill once again.

In the ensuing crisis, he realised that there was only one person who could really help him and that was “the man upstairs.” As soon as he was well enough, he “got down to Wellington and got into the water.”

Brother Lomu concluded his words with his testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and added that it took him 36 years to find the Church but now he has the assurance that his family can be for all time and eternity. “I don’t just want to be known as a rugby player,” he said, “but also as a great dad!” ■

Young Women General President Meets Northampton Youth

By Gill Barstow

On Saturday 17th October, young women and leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the Northampton Stake were visited by Young Women general president Bonnie L. Oscarson from the Young Women organization of the Church in Salt Lake City, USA. She was accompanied by her husband, Paul Oscarson, and by Elder Robert Dryden, Area Seventy.

A training meeting with local Young Women leaders commenced in the

afternoon, followed by a meeting with Northampton young women, aged 12–18 years, in which President Robert E. Clayton, a member of the stake presidency, quoted Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles about the influential women in his life. “We can all choose whether to be a positive or a negative influence on others,” he said. “If you want to do good, you need to be good.”

Sister Oscarson taught about the importance of obedience to the

commandments: “Without road traffic laws the world would be pretty chaotic, and similarly, life would be spiritually chaotic without the commandments.”

Around 400 young people and their parents joined Sister Oscarson for an evening meeting in which she spoke about her feelings when she first received the responsibility to serve as Young Women general president. “I felt overwhelmed,” she confessed, “but I had faith in the Lord and knew He would help me and be my partner.”

Those who met and listened to Brother and Sister Oscarson were impressed by their warmth, friendliness, wisdom and insight. “It was an experience I’ll never forget,” said one. ■



Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson, Young Women general president of the Church, centre, with Northampton Stake Young Women leaders

DEBBIE TWIGGER

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Family Values Award Recipients

By Daryl Watson

The Family Values Awards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recognise civic, faith and other community leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the family. Murdo Fraser MSP and Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE were recipients of the 2015 awards presented at a celebratory dinner in Edinburgh.

Family members, interfaith representatives and church leaders from across Scotland gathered on Friday evening, November 20th, to attend the annual awards dinner. Presenting the awards, Elder Clifford Herbertson (UK Church leader) commented on how both recipients “had shown great courage, by consistently raising their voice to stand for strong family values

through their personal examples of faith and service both in Scotland and abroad.”

Murdo Fraser MSP is a patron of the Conservative Christian Fellowship and an active member of his local Church of Scotland. Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE is the first Muslim woman Justice of the Peace in Scotland, was awarded an MBE in 2004 and is serving on the National Muslim Women’s advisory board established by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears. Both recipients were delighted to receive the awards, each expressing sincere gratitude and sharing insightful thoughts on the importance of family values in society today. ■



From left to right: Daryl Watson, public affairs director for Scotland; Sister Watson; Murdo Fraser MSP; Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE; and Elder Clifford Herbertson, Area Seventy

COURTESY OF BETHANY MCCRUDDEN



Bethany McCrudden, awarded the Martin Cup for Musicianship 2014–2015

Talented Pianist Gains Top Marks

By Linda Coulter

Seventeen-year-old Glenlola Collegiate pupil Bethany McCrudden has been awarded the Martin Cup for Musicianship 2014–2015. Bethany received the award for gaining the top mark in GCSE music. She scored 100 percent in the examination.

When asked about her success, Bethany, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Belfast, explained, “I play the piano every Sunday for the congregation in my church, and so I am used to playing in front of lots of people. Because of this experience I was quite calm in the run-up to and during the examination and didn’t suffer from nerves as some students did.”

Bethany follows in the footsteps of her older sister Aimee, who won the music cup in 2002 when she gained 100 percent in her A-level music exam. Aimee also benefited from the experience of being the pianist in church during her school years and says that she was excited rather than nervous when she took the exam. ■

Interfaith in Dunfermline Chapel

By Frank Bowness

On the 12 September 2015 during Fife Diversity Week, an event called "Try Interfaith" was held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Dunfermline.

A panel of four faiths had been organised: Daryl Watson, public affairs director for Scotland, represented the Church; Samarah Haq represented the Muslims; Behdokht Eliasieh represented the Baha'i; and Colm Wilson represented the Quakers.

Each member of the panel gave a 5-minute talk about their faith and beliefs, followed by a question-and-answer session. Many interesting and lively exchanges

Dunfermline inter-faith members with Daryl Watson, public affairs director for Scotland (right)



EVELYN LISTON

were made, and in one case when Samarah was answering a question on behalf of the Muslims, Daryl Watson said that he would be happy for Samarah to teach that in Sunday School for the young women of the Dunfermline congregation.

After the discussion, a visit was made to the Dunfermline Mosque, where the group were received by the Imam and two members who had responsibilities in the mosque. A guided tour was given, and members of the Fife Interfaith Group who had attended

a visit to the mosque a few years ago were able to see all the vast improvements and redecoration the mosque had undertaken by their own labour and finance. It now includes a large area which is the community hub for Muslims in Dunfermline.

The visit finished with the Chairman of the Fife interfaith Group hosting a meeting as to how all faiths can help refugees who may move into Fife by guiding and helping them find their faith in Fife when they arrive. ■

Scottish Youth Donate to the Homeless Charity 'Somebody Cares'

By Sandra Wood

A regional youth day at the Aberdeen stake centre was organised by youth leaders throughout Scotland. The 105 young men and women, aged between 14 and 18 years, came from Thurso, Dundee, Edinburgh, Paisley, Glasgow and Aberdeen, with 31 leaders in attendance.

The day included service projects for the Aberdeen City Council, with each youth bringing a can of food to be donated to the charity 'Somebody Cares,' who feed and provide for the homeless in Aberdeen. Mr Brian Taylor, a representative from the charity, came along to receive the donations.

Team-building exercises, including first aid, self-defence training, wall climbing, and crafts, took place in the afternoon, with the day finishing with a dance in the evening.

Ivan Williamson of the Bridge of Don Ward made a massive pile of pancakes as part of breakfast on the morning of the event, using 12lbs of flour, 3lbs of sugar and 28 eggs, which were enjoyed by all. ■

Youth at the regional convention, held at the Aberdeen stake centre, who donated food for the charity 'Somebody Cares'



IVAN WILLIAMSON

Big Food Packaging

By Margo McClumpha

Members of the Church and community volunteers in Dumfries, Scotland, gathered together to help package the hundreds of food donations that were received for refugee aid at the church meetinghouse. The event was named 'Big Food Packaging Night'. Individuals as well as families worked at designated stations, unpacking large boxes of food donations received from the general public as well as community organisations and food outlets.

Care was exercised in ensuring that all food products were packed in accordance with the guidelines received from

Members and friends of the Dumfries Ward help sort donations for refugees.



JAN MCCLUMPHA

refugee aid agencies in Calais. Tables were set up as stations, each one clearly labelled with the name of the food item. One woman, when asked why she had become involved in this event, remarked, "I like to think that someone would do this for me. It's about loving one another and caring for each other."

Border ITV filmed the volunteers as they worked together in sorting and packaging food items. The film footage

was used in a programme broadcast last November which included the story of the Church and the community working together to bring humanitarian aid to refugees in Calais.

The packaged food boxes contained a selection of food items, rice, salt, canned goods and other items to bring relief to refugees and their children. The food boxes were transported to Calais for distribution to refugees. ■

Staines 'To the Rescue' of Refugees

By Louise Elder

Members of the Staines England Stake and community volunteers turned out in force on Saturday, 21 November, to assemble food parcels and pack warm coats and shoes for desperate refugees in Calais. Over 150 people met at the stake centre in Staines to put together more than 460 food parcels, which were then immediately driven to Calais that afternoon.

The event was named "To the Rescue". Church members wearing the familiar Mormon Helping Hands vests, together with members of the community, exercised care in ensuring that all food products were packed in accordance with the guidelines received from the charity 'Care4Calais'. Many

had spent almost three weeks gathering donations from family and friends and, in several cases, donating entire parcels, valued at £25 each, themselves.

Organiser Fiona Phillips said, "This is what we do best. The Helping Hands programme of our church works regularly in the community to help people. We are organised to be able to respond when there is a need."

A Facebook page named 'Project: To the Rescue' was set up to ask for



Members and community friends from Staines with the donations for the refugees in Calais

RUSSELL BALL

donations when the event was announced, and within 12 hours numerous complete food parcels and individual food donations had been offered, with the final total being over 80 parcels and 46 warm coats given.

Lisa Alderton from Woking is not a member of the Church but gave 75 parcels on the day that she had been gathering together herself. Lisa said, "I felt like no matter how hard I worked, I couldn't generate an offering that would make a significant impact. This is a great community."

The donations were driven in convoy on Saturday afternoon to Calais, where 16 men and women from the Church met with 'Care4Calais' volunteers on the ground to then distribute the parcels directly to the camp. The response from volunteers and recipients alike was humbling and the delivery timely. Owing to the terror attacks of Paris eight days previously, aid reaching the camp had been severely impacted, and as of Saturday morning, there was a shortage of food. "On Saturday night, fewer refugees went to bed hungry than the night before", said Church leader Paul Hearne. "However, there is still much more to do."

Russell Ball, Staines stake president and one of the drivers to the camp, remarked, "Laying aside political views, there are thousands of people suffering in camps 22 miles from the English coast. There are many things I don't know about these people. What I do know is they fear their homes more than these dreadful camps, that they're hungry and cold. The charities on the ground in Calais are desperate for more help, and I have to say that we will be going back." ■

Kettering Donates to the Refugees

By Debbie Twigger

Youth, leaders, parents and community friends all gathered at the meetinghouse of the Kettering Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Saturday, 12th December, to sort donated bags of clothing, bedding and food for the European refugees. The youth and leaders collected bags of donations from members and friends on the Tuesday night a few days before and then helped sort the items for collection on Saturday morning.

The charity 'Jungle Care' is the delivery agent that 'Corby Stands with Refugees' and other local Northamptonshire charities use to get desperately needed items to Calais, Dunkirk and Greece. By lunchtime the sorted bags were collected by 'Jungle Care', amounting to two van loads, for direct distribution to the refugees currently staying in the Calais area in appalling conditions.



Youth, leaders, parents and friends from the Kettering Ward with the donations of warm clothing, bedding and food for the refugees in Calais

DEBBIE TWIGGER

The local organiser for the Church in Kettering, Noah Nelson, commented, "This was an opportunity for the entire congregation and community to pull together and help people that can't help themselves. Despite religious background, faith, politics, or skin colour, we were united in the common goal: to serve our fellowmen. What a better time of year to do that than at Christmas! We would like to thank 'Jungle Care' for helping with the distribution of the donations direct to the refugees." ■

Editors' 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, 300–500 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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