

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Becoming Temporally Self-Reliant

Elder Timothy J. Dyches, United States
Second Counselor, Europe Area Presidency



Elder
Timothy J. Dyches

In the springtime of the year, we are privileged to celebrate Easter, where, in the northern hemisphere, the frosty hand of winter has waned and the warmth of spring is in the air. It is a time of rebirth and new beginnings for life all around.

We invite you once again to become spiritually and temporally self-reliant. Spiritual and temporal self-reliance are mutually inclusive in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Self-reliance is the ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family. As members become self-reliant, they are also better able to serve and care for others.

“Church members are responsible for their own spiritual and temporal well-being. Blessed with the gift of agency, they have the privilege and duty to set their own course, solve their own problems, and strive to become self-reliant. Members do this under the inspiration of the Lord and with the labor of their own hands.”¹

How can I become temporally self-reliant?

Learn the Value and Blessing of Work

“Let us realize that the privilege to work is a gift, that power to work is a blessing, that love of work is success.”²

The value of work in our lives is vital in learning the lessons that will bring

lasting happiness and growth. I grew up in a large family that was reared upon the principle of work—from preparing and tilling the ground for planting, to the planting of seeds themselves, daily watering and weeding throughout the growing season, harvesting and then storage through canning or freezing. And that was just in the summer.

My parents were always there encouraging, faithful, teaching and working alongside. They would never ask us to do something they themselves would not do. The blessings of work in the family included the thrill of the creative effort and “a job well done”, acquiring useful skill sets for then and the future, providing service to others, understanding job expectations and performance, and learning self-discipline.

Benefit from Educational Opportunities

In the year before kindergarten, we were expected to learn to tie our shoes, to tell time on a round clock face, to memorize our address and telephone number and to practice walking to school. Throughout the school years, we were urged to always give our best in school, and our parents always held us to our potential. We are always learning.

Faith Precedes the Miracle

“The Lord does help when we go to Him in times of need, especially

when we are committed to His work and respond to His will. But the Lord only helps those who are willing to help themselves. He expects His children to be self-reliant to the degree they can be.”³

A recent graduate from the self-reliance course relates her own journey of faith and action:

“I began putting to practice everything I learned, including using my time wisely. Now I feel that I am important as an individual and able to do things I would have never imagined in the past.

“Every day I read the scriptures and I pray with all my heart—I know that I am important to my Heavenly Father. Things began to happen to me that I would have never imagined. It was incredible. It’s as if someone was guiding my steps in my job search. I didn’t experience problems with the language.

“When I presented myself to a woman looking for child care for her daughter, as soon as I walked through the door the little girl hugged and kissed me. She stayed by my side during the whole interview, and for this reason I got the job. Her husband is now helping us find work for my son.

“Since then another person has offered us work. A sister in the Church helped me find an apartment to live. For the first time in my life I am doing things never before possible for me.”⁴

As we develop temporal self-reliance, we maintain good health with regular

exercise, a nutritious diet and good personal hygiene. We live within our means and save our resources while avoiding debt. The self-reliant will fast and joyfully donate a generous fast offering.

The pathway to perfection requires living the gospel each and every day. Striving to become temporally self-reliant, then, employs all the

principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that during the coming months and years we all may so do. ■

NOTES

1. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 6.1.1.
2. David O. McKay, *Pathways to Happiness*, comp. Llewelyn R. McKay (1957), 381.
3. L. Tom Perry, "Becoming Self-Reliant," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 64.
4. See also Doctrine and Covenants 60:13; 130:20–21.

LOCAL NEWS

Jersey Latter-day Saints Celebrate 50th Anniversary

By Yvonne Ashton

It's 50 years ago that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was re-established in Jersey, and commemoration services, with the Bailiff of Jersey, William James Bailhache, and Mrs Bailhache in attendance, were recently held. In 1848 Thomas B. Stenhouse came to the Channel Islands and left a legacy of memories of his mission in his diaries and letters. The Church was very successful, and at one time there were four branches on the island and around two hundred members. A prominent founder member was Philip de la Mare, who, in partnership with his father, Francis, was responsible for building the harbours of St. Helier. Whilst engaged in building the Albert Quay, Philip met up with a Dutch blacksmith named Jan de Coog, who introduced him to the Church, so that Elder Stenhouse already had one member awaiting his arrival.

At that time, and for many years after, the call was 'Come to Zion,' and

by 1900 all the members, including Philip de la Mare and his family, had left Jersey and settled in Utah, USA.

In 1965, Thomas Wills and his wife, Enid, known as Judy, returned to the island from New Zealand, where they had both joined the Church. Tom discovered that there wasn't a branch in Jersey, so he contacted the South British Mission president and missionary elders were sent to the island. The first meeting place was the Oddfellows Hall.

Since then the Church has grown and now occupies a substantial building in a lovely setting in Rue de la Vallee, St. Mary. Fifty years of Church growth and of faithful service have been celebrated by a number of very enjoyable events, including a showing of *Meet the Mormons* and a service project at St Mary's School on the 26 September. In the evening there was a public lecture at the chapel, given by Barry de la Mare, a descendent of Philip, who painted a portrait of his ancestor, his faith, family and story well beyond its island roots. In Utah, Philip established a sugar refinery in Sugarhouse near Salt Lake City and raised a large family.

Last autumn the sacrament service started at 10am as always, with invited guests, including the Bailiff of Jersey, William James Bailhache, and Mrs Bailhache. Also attending were President Crossland of the London England Temple presidency with Sister Crossland, assistant to the temple matron; President and Sister Gubler of the England London Mission; and Poole stake president John Crew and his 2nd Counsellor, Michael Winkworth. A special meeting followed in which the history of the Church in Jersey, goals, opportunities and blessings were discussed.

From left to right: Poole stake president John Crew, Sister Choon-Hwa Pinzari, Bishop Joe Pinzari with Joshua Pinzari, Mrs Bailhache and Mr William James Bailhache, the Bailiff of Jersey



REBEKAH KEY

Members and visitors all agreed that this commemoration of an important period in the history of the island was both educational and entertaining. From the 1850s onwards, Jersey's sons and daughters left this tiny island as members of a

relatively new Church to live their faith in what was to them a huge and alien environment. Hence families with surnames like Le Feuvre, de la Mare, Coutanches, Langlois and Carterets are scattered throughout the USA. ■

Care4Calais to pack food parcels and winter care packs. Among the items collected were 8400 fruit tea bags, 1680 tins of kidney beans, 840 cartons of fruit juice, and hundreds of hats, scarves and gloves.

Four hundred and fifty-three food boxes were packed within three hours and will provide 5436 much-needed meals for those living in the refugee camp.

The boxes were loaded into four vans and a 7.5-tonne truck and driven, along with 47 volunteers from the Church and their friends, to Calais early the next morning.

The volunteers spent Friday 8 and Saturday 9 January engaged in service in Calais. Some helped sort donations in the Care4Calais warehouse; others helped distribute the food boxes to six different areas of the refugee camp. Volunteers with building skills built shelters; a paediatrician saw patients in a makeshift medical clinic; and the young men and young women assisted in a large-scale cleanup of the camp.

Traci De Marco, women's organisation leader, remarked, "During this project, I have worked with the most amazing, obliging members as we have tried to make a difference in the lives of others who have so very little, when we have so much. The generosity has been staggering—of money, time and effort."

A friend of the Church, who helped pack food boxes and travelled to Calais to volunteer, said afterwards, "As a non-religious person, it warms my heart to know that there are so many good people in the world who will go the extra mile to help others. It is reassuring to know that in the darkness there are good people like yourselves." ■

Northampton Members Provide Help for Refugees, Joined by Local Member of Parliament

By Corinna Kerrou



David Mackintosh, MP for Northampton South, with members and friends from the Northampton stake at the refugee packing evening

Members from Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Huntingdon participated in a Mormon Helping Hands project to bring relief to refugees living in Calais in increasingly desperate conditions. Some 300 members of the Church, along with their friends of other faiths, rallied on Thursday, 7 January, to package the food and winter items. David Mackintosh, Member of Parliament

for Northampton South, who met the volunteers at the packing evening, commented, "I'm very pleased to be able to see this commendable work, which I know is something you do regularly every time you are asked to support other people."

Church members, along with local schools, preschools and businesses, spent three weeks gathering donations requested by partner charity

Canterbury Stake Bring Shelter and Aid to Calais Camps

By Marisa Rickard

On 29th–30th January members and friends of the Canterbury stake, including students studying at the University of Kent, travelled to Calais to help with aid for refugees. For some of the group, this was their 4th or 5th trip to sort donations in the warehouses and distribute aid at the camp. Several small charities are struggling to improve conditions for the 6000-plus displaced people living in the “jungle”. These committed volunteers finance themselves, staying in caravans or hostels for days, weeks or months at a time. The Canterbury Mormons added their contribution.

The bleak January weather miraculously gave way to sunshine as some of the group began to erect a wooden shelter, designed by a member with materials donated by the Church. After four frantic hours and with limited tools and resources, the group—spontaneously joined by some 10 or so refugees—managed to complete a sturdy ‘home’ for a family of 8. Stephen Hunt, local Church leader, said later:

“For me, the enduring image is that of volunteer Danny Shillabeer—who at 6’4” was still not tall enough to reach to work on the roof—standing strong, his arms braced against the outer wall of the shelter, whilst one of the refugee volunteers stood atop his shoulders to work.

“Together, members of the Church and the grateful recipients of the few resources worked to create a new home for people who had been

spending their days and nights inside a leaky tent. This is the gospel in action. This is the sharp end of the self-reliance initiative, the absolute definition of the Lord’s imperative to search out the poor and the needy. We prayed with them, we built with them, we embraced them and we

reluctantly left them in the knowledge that they will be a little warmer, dryer and safer in the future. As for us, we are beginning to see things a little more clearly now.”

Later, the women’s leader from one of the congregations received this message:

“Thanks a lot for building a tent but for us—it is a big massive house and we can’t forget that you came all the way from another country across the border just to help us. Thank you so so much.”—Sahir ■



Building the shelter panels in the UK for Calais refugees—Canterbury stake members

NEWS FROM WALES

Porthmadog Offers Service to Local Community

By President Christopher Jones

Members in Porthmadog are always anxious to serve the community, and they recently were given several opportunities to offer support with a number of service projects.

Members joined with the Royal British Legion in the Pwllheli area for the third year running to sell poppies for the annual Poppy Appeal, and it seemed to make a difference: the

RACHAEL PRATT



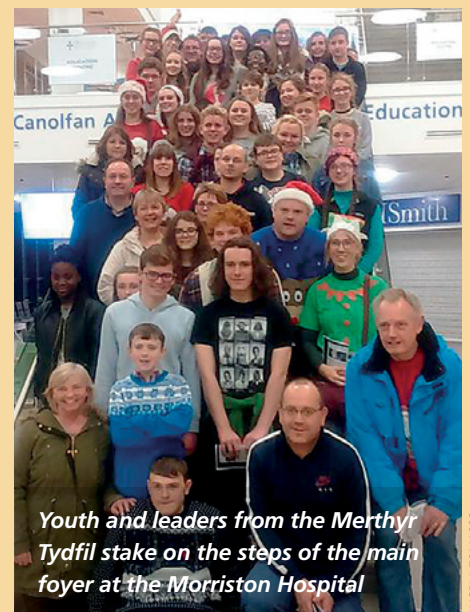
President Christopher Jones with his sons at the refugee packing event

Merthyr Tydfil Youth Sing at Local Hospital

By Ian Govier

Youth from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Merthyr Tydfil stake gave up their annual Christmas party to offer service, which involved singing to patients, relatives and staff at Morriston Hospital, Swansea. The youth, aged between 12 and 18 years, also brought a wide variety of items and goods to be donated to the Welsh Refugee Council that will assist people arriving in the UK who are fleeing war and terror in places such as Africa and the Middle East.

After visiting and singing a selection of carols and songs on several hospital wards, the youth and leaders concluded the evening by singing a delightful rendition of 'Angels We Have Heard On High' in the main hospital foyer. One of the nurses stated that the sound and harmonies travelling down the corridor as she was going off duty were absolutely beautiful and created the true spirit of Christmas. ■



Youth and leaders from the Merthyr Tydfil stake on the steps of the main foyer at the Morriston Hospital

ANGELA TOMASSO

amount donated by generous local residents in Pwllheli town and the surrounding villages exceeded all previous totals, largely because there were so many more collectors. Many local people commented at their front doors, as the collectors called, that it was a pleasure to see them after so long without collections. Myfanwy Hughes, RBL Appeals Coordinator in Pwllheli, said, "We are so grateful to the Mormons for helping out in this worthy cause."

Porthmadog Branch president Christopher Jones led a party of young men to the services at Porthmadog's St John's Church and then on the march to the Cenotaph, where he laid a wreath on behalf of the members.

The next opportunity to help out involved redecorating the Café Cymunedol in Dyffryn Ardudwy. After years of use the café needed a good clean-down and repainting. Newly appointed manager Denise Stone asked the Porthmadog Latter-day Saints for help. The result was a clean-and-paint assault by a team of youth with some adults, and a sparkling new café and kitchen. "Brilliant!" commented Denise.

Later, the organisers of the North Wales Refugee Support clothing aid project in Blaenau Ffestiniog needed

extra hands to help in sorting and packing the mountains of clothing donated and collected in the Orthodox Church in Manod. Social media sites have described what followed as the "Miracle of Manod." A good number of people turned up to place clothes into sizes and types, including over twenty Porthmadog congregation members—ranging in age from four to eighty-eight—and the clothes were then duly sorted and sent to Greece for the refugees.

Organiser Caron Dukes stated, "After so many months with so few of us slogging on relentlessly, we were agog to see one after another of a long row of very welcome helpers." One young volunteer commented, "This felt so good, to do something just out of love, to help some people just because they are God's children and need help and to be with so many other people who were giving of themselves. It made me feel Christlike and reminded me that fear and hate can never be more powerful than love."

Throughout this time, members continue to contribute to food bank collections, taking their donations to the main centre in Pwllheli for use by local residents in need. ■

Caerphilly Ward Poppy Appeal 2015

By Pam Wilkinson



PHOTOS BY JARED BARRY/LEE PRICE

Members of the Caerphilly Ward with the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service

For the first time, Caerphilly Ward offered to help the Royal British Legion with its annual Poppy Appeal. Volunteers were organised with only three days to try and fill 49 time slots! However, members were enthusiastic, and the first week of time slots filled up fairly easily.

At the end of the two-week campaign, Caerphilly members donated around 100 hours of service. Thirty-two families and a couple of non-members helped and managed to raise an amazing £4,997.08. Everyone was really chuffed at the success of the project, and somehow we think we may be asked to do it again next year! Everyone enjoyed the experience, and we were all impressed with the generosity of the Caerphilly local people. ■

Chester Stake Donate to Europe Refugees

By Simon Shaw

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from across the Chester stake turned out in numbers to respond to a call from the Flintshire-based charity SHARE to lend a helping hand. Following a hugely successful public appeal for food, clothing and toiletries for refugees in Syria, the charity had a warehouse full of much-needed donations, but they had only one week to sort, pack and load it into a container ready to be shipped overseas. It was at this time that Lisa Robertson, co-founder of SHARE, appealed for volunteers to assist with what seemed an impossible challenge.

Members of the Chester stake heard the call, and over the next seven days they provided hundreds of hours of assistance to sort and

pack the items. During the week, stake youth activities were held on Wednesday and Friday evening when over 50 young people responded to the invitation from the stake president, Jared Ireland, to “get involved and offer service to those in dire need.” All the youth taking part found the experience extremely rewarding, with Annabel Shaw (17 years) of Chester Ward summing up

RACHAEL PRATT/SIMON SHAW



Members from the Chester stake offer Helping Hands service to Europe refugees

the feelings of many when she said, "It was great to work alongside others from across the stake, knowing that in just three weeks the aid we were packing would be in the hands of those who needed it most".

On Saturday the 23rd January over 30 members, proudly wearing their Helping Hands tabards, joined other local volunteers to form a human

chain to load over 1,600 sacks of aid into the shipping container.

Reflecting on the successful operation, Lisa Robertson said, "We honestly could not have achieved our goal without the help offered and gratefully received from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They truly are an amazing and inspiring group of compassionate human beings". ■

Wilford Woodruff's Time in the Alfrick Area of Worcestershire in 1840

By Bernard Haw, service missionary for the Gadfeld Elm

Around ten miles west of the city of Worcester lies an unspoilt rural area known as Alfrick, consisting of small hamlets and a sprinkling of houses along its narrow roads. The Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve is located here, through which the Leigh Brook meanders as it charts its course from the Malvern Hills into the River Teme at Leigh.

Wilford Woodruff visited this area for six days in 1840, preaching the gospel and baptising twenty-three converts during his stay. From Elder Woodruff's journals and baptismal records, we are able to piece together an idea of how he and his companions spent their missions.

Elder Woodruff concentrated his efforts in three main places: Dunns Close, Tapperdine and Ashfield. All are within a few miles of one another and are located close to the Leigh Brook, which is where the baptisms were most likely performed.

Wilford spent his days walking from place to place and his evenings preaching, staying the night at members' homes. He and his companions would have travelled many of the same footpaths as still exist in the area today.

In his journal entry for May 3rd, Elder Woodruff writes: "Sunday I

"To Turn the Hearts: Find, Take and Teach" Family History Conference, 14 May 2016

By Elder and Sister Andrews

We are the area family history advisers for the London England Temple District, which covers 22 stakes and 1 district across the southern half of the British Isles, and our assignment is to help and encourage members with family history work and, in particular, the third part of the Area Presidency's goals, "Find a Name."

We have organised a multi-stake family history conference aimed at all members in this area with family history related callings at ward or stake level. Area Seventy Elder Clifford T. Herbertson

will preside and speak, and there will be other speakers from FamilySearch, workshops and a panel forum. The conference will be held at the Crawley stake centre on Saturday, 14 May 2016, from 10am to 1pm, followed by a light lunch and an optional afternoon session at the London temple.

We request that all members who wish to attend email us at [andy.andrews47@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrews47@hotmail.co.uk). Please tell us your name, ward, calling and whether you will be attending the optional temple session. ■



The London England Temple

walked to Ridgeway cross & preached to Rough Leasowe & preached to Dunns Close & preached to a large congregation & had the sprit [sic] of God. I spent the night at James Williams. 11m.”

Over the next couple of days Wilford visited the nearby hamlets of Ashfield and Crowcutt and on 5th May enjoyed his first baptisms:

“I preached at Crowcutt & walked to the Bower & baptized 5. One was a preacher. I also confirmed them and spent the night with Edmund Waters [Wattis]. The devil was come. 4 Miles.”

Over the next two days, Elder Woodruff baptised nine more individuals, and from his journal entry it is obvious that his delight was not just in his new converts but in the beautiful countryside in which he found himself:

“This is the dryest spring that has been known in England for many years. The ground is parched yet all nature is covered with verdant green, while the fruit trees send forth their perfumes from the smiling blossoms with which they are clothed.”

Nine further baptisms followed, after which Wilford left the area to serve in London. He returned seven months later to bid farewell to the Saints prior to his return to Nauvoo. It appears that during his absence, ill feeling had developed in the area towards the Church and its new converts. Elder Woodruff records in his entry for March 19th 1841:

“I walked to Dunns close visiting many Saints by the way laying hands upon the sick. All appeared happy to see me, as I had baptized most of them about a year since. I preached at Dunns close at the home of Edward J. Jenkins to a crowded congregation. A wicked

rabble disturbed the meeting much. I felt constrained to sharply reprove them in the power of God.”¹

Wilford returned to Nauvoo in October 1841 and was eventually sustained as President of the Church in April 1889, but we will always be grateful for the time he spent as a missionary in the British Isles. ■

NOTE

1. *Wilford Woodruff's Journal, 1833–1898*, typescript, ed. Scott G. Kenney, 9 vols. (1983–85), entries for May 3rd to 6th 1840, May 24th and 25th 1840 and March 19th 1841.

Map of the area



OS OPEN DATA MAPS



BERNARD HAW

Correction: The photo published in the January 2016 issue with regard to the 50th anniversary of the Southampton Chapel was taken by Michael Read. We apologise for the error. ■

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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