

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Find an Ancestor

By Elder Joaquim J. Moreira, Portugal
Area Seventy



Elder Joaquim J.
Moreira

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”¹

To be born of God is a unique, personal and unforgettable experience that enables us to overcome our lives’ challenges.

The experience of our first meeting with the missionaries is always a moment we will never forget, inasmuch as when we had our first spiritual experience in obtaining our testimony.

At these sublime moments it is as if our “sleeping dust”² gains a new life, and we feel in our “nostrils the breath of life”³ and are born again.

That’s what happened to a 15-year-old named Telma Silva from Seixal Ward, Setúbal Portugal Stake. Although she was not a member of the Church, she attended the morning seminary and developed the desire to be baptized for the love she could feel among the members.

At one point the Setúbal stake challenged the young people to participate on a trip to the temple in Madrid in April 2016.

Telma was sad because she could not make the trip to the temple with her seminary class, since she was not a member of the Church. So she decided to put her faith in Jesus Christ to the test and made the decision

to be baptized. But that was not enough, for, since she was going to the temple, she also became involved in getting to know her ancestors in order to perform the ordinances for them in the baptism’s waters.

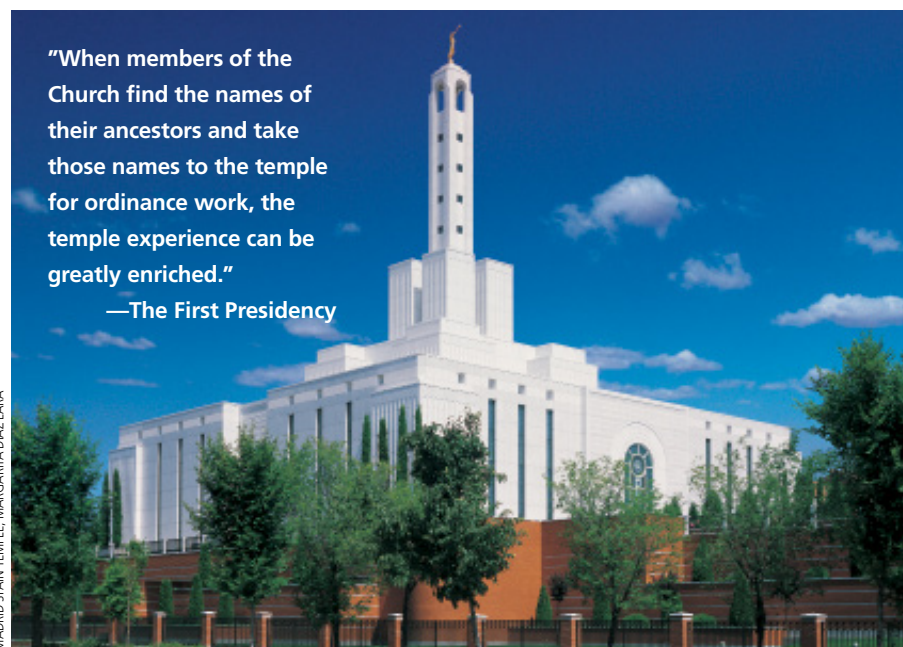
Not only was Telma born again, but also, due to her seminary attendance, she had learned about the difference she could make in her family by taking the name of her ancestors to the temple so they could have the new birth experience, a glorious spiritual experience.

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.”⁴ Our love for God is also shown when we love all of His children, both the ones who are among us, the ones who are still to come and the ones who have already departed.

One of the greatest acts of love demonstration is when we do something for someone who cannot do it for herself or himself.

The most sublime act of love accomplished on this earth was the atoning sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His Atonement allowed us to obtain the remission of our sins, which we could not achieve for ourselves.

Similarly, our ancestors cannot dwell in God’s presence without first receiving the ordinances of salvation.



MADRID SPAIN TEMPLE, MARGARITA DIAZ LARA

Our ancestors live in very special circumstances. When we die, “our spirits go to the spirit world. Death does not change our personality or our desires for good or evil. . . . In the spirit world the gospel is preached to those who did not obey the gospel or have the opportunity to hear it while on earth.”⁵

The prophet Obadiah has prophesied that there will be “saviours . . . on mount Zion.”⁶ We can fit us in this context of bringing salvation to those who want it but cannot get it by themselves.

One of the merits that we can get by performing the work for our ancestors is charity, for it is an act of sublime love, and “except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father.”⁷

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”⁸

What a blessing it is that we can develop such love for those whom we do not know personally but that are present in us when we need help, for they are like guardian angels who pray for us, worry about us and want us to do our best.

May we love to be loved, serve to be served and bless to be blessed. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

NOTES

1. 1 John 5:1.
2. Doctrine and Covenants 138:17.
3. Genesis 2:7.
4. 1 John 5:2.
5. *Preach My Gospel* (2004), 52.
6. Obadiah 1:21.
7. Ether 12:34.
8. 1 Peter 4:8.

Manchester YSAs Create Sensory Cushions

By Keya Joseph

The young single adults from the Relief Society of the Manchester Young Single Adult Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, held a service activity during which they lovingly created ‘sensory’ cushions for those who suffer from dementia. They plan to take the cushions to a home for dementia patients that

is in close proximity to the ward building. In addition, the Relief Society will dedicate time to visit those patients on a regular basis to provide comfort and much-needed company.

Katie Magee, young single adult women’s leader, stated, “We were excited to find a project where we were able to learn new skills

and also to know that the cushions would be received and enjoyed. We look forward to being further involved and finding opportunities to serve the people that we hope to become closer to.” ■



BETH ARNOLD

Manchester young single adults with one of the hand-made sensory cushions

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Jason Smyth—Preparing for Rio 2016

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

COURTESY OF JASON SMYTH



To look at him, you may not realise there is anything different about him, but 28-year-old Irishman Jason Smyth suffers from Stargardt disease, an inherited genetic condition which has robbed him of 90 percent of his eyesight. Affecting the macula in the centre of the retina, Jason's central and detailed vision has been reduced, and he is unable to discern colours clearly. Despite his disability, Jason has dedicated his life, since discovering in his teens that he could run, to becoming the very best at what he does and currently holds three world records, six gold IPC (International Paralympic Committee) World Championship medals and four gold Paralympic medals in sprinting.

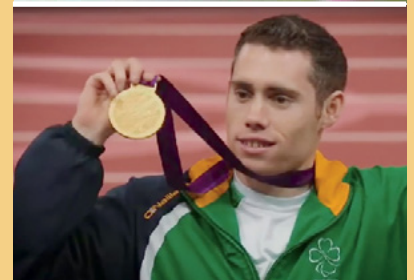
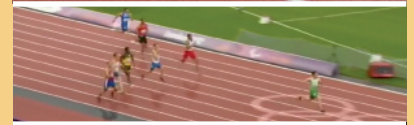
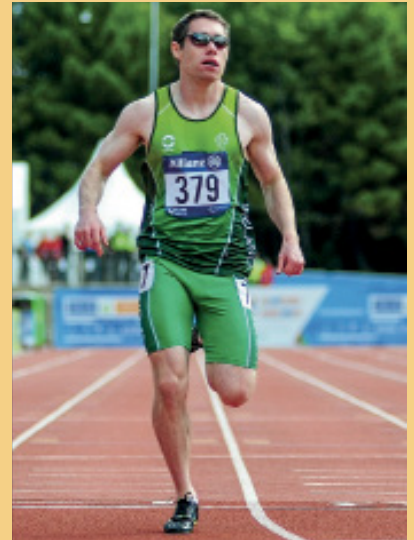
Right now, Jason is preparing to defend his titles at this year's Paralympic Games in Rio in September and is also hopeful he may be selected to participate in the Olympic Games the month before. "Setting my sights high keeps me focused and drives me each day to improve," he says. "I want

to be the very best and show others that there are no limits to what can be achieved."

A lifelong member of the Church, Jason is already the best at what he does. Following his 100-metre, 10.22-second victory at the

London Paralympics in 2012, he was named "the fastest Paralympian on the planet," and he has also been described as "one of the most technically gifted sprinters alive." Excellence at this level does not come without a price. Prior to moving to London from his native Derry, Northern Ireland, Jason's training took place in Florida, and he could be away from family and friends for up to eight months a year. Even now, his training involves much sacrifice. "If I want to socialise with family or friends, I have to constantly ask myself how it will impact on my training," he explains. "The discipline I have to maintain is 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

So what drives this young husband and father, who also serves as Young Men president in his ward, to pursue his dream so relentlessly? "As a member of the Church I understand that we are all sons and daughters of God with huge potential," he says. "I've been given a talent and feel a



PICTURES VIA PARALYMPICS IRELAND

responsibility to achieve the best that I can and to be an inspiration to others. I believe anything is possible if you're willing to work at it."

On his recently launched website—www.jasonsmyth.ie—Jason talks



Jason Smyth with his wife, Elise Smyth

on video about his successes and his hopes for the future and gives an insight into what it is like to be a professional athlete. Unlike other professions, athletes do not get paid for what they do. He relies on government grants and sponsorships to

pay for his coach, treatments, travel, accommodation, training camps and other general living costs.

Despite the hardships and the sacrifices, Jason finds joy and fulfilment in what he does, and his faith has played a key part in how he views his life and career. “Who I am as a person is because of my faith. It gives me a greater perspective of what is important in life, as well as an inner strength that motivates me to do better.”

Jason feels a responsibility to inspire others, and this he certainly does. ■

the many customs that illustrate what makes the Irish, Irish.

More than 150 people attended the event, including some national politicians, local councillors and the local Catholic priest, Fr. Murphy. Fr. Murphy was so pleased with the evening that one of his parishioners visited the home of Patrick Kearney, first councillor in the Limerick district presidency, and related that during his homily at mass the following morning, he (Fr. Murphy) spoke about how much he had enjoyed attending the Irish Night staged by the Church.

The event was organised by Tom Cassidy and John Kelly, and they acknowledge the significant contribution made by so many people to ensure the success of the evening.

The Irish Night appealed to all age-groups and featured ten acts, including the Limerick Unity Gospel Choir, who performed both gospel and Irish numbers. The Declan Bromell Dancers performed traditional Irish soft- and hard-shoe dances. Irene Kearney sang the nostalgic Irish ballad “She Is Far from the Land”. This lovely song is a lament telling the story of Sarah Curran’s sadness that she is no longer living in the land where her

An Irish Night to Remember

By Des Waddington

Members of the Limerick Branch of the Limerick Ireland District, Scotland/Ireland Mission, staged an Irish Night—or, as they put it in their native language, an “Oiche

Gaeilge”—as a prelude to National Irish Week, or “Seachtain Gaeilge”. Irish Week is held each year during the week incorporating St Patrick’s Day, and it’s a celebration highlighting



Left to right: President David Roy, Limerick district president; Daniel Butler, Limerick city councillor (representing the city mayor), wearing the mayoral chain of office; Maurice Quinlivan, Member of Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament); and Shaun Faloon, Limerick branch president

PAULINE KEARNEY

departed fiancé lies buried. Emilie Kearney performed her own classical flute arrangement of the famous Irish tune “The Lonesome Boatman”—a truly haunting interpretation of the piece. Marie Toomey and Helen Maloney played some traditional Irish songs, and the audience enthusiastically sang along.

Poetry by Paul McNamara really lit up the stage as he delivered his own up-to-date compositions, which the audience really enjoyed. Christy Sparling and Henry Bedford played accordion and guitar renditions of well-known Irish tunes, followed by audience participation in the ballad “The Fields of Athenry,” a famous Irish rugby anthem. The second poet was Tom McCarthy, who also wrote his own poems, one of which, “The Smoker”, was a huge hit with the audience. It may have been an ironic title for a poem delivered in a Latter-day Saint chapel, but it concerned the “chains of habit” caused by tobacco usage. Robert Kearney recounted the sad story behind the Irish song “Grace”, which tells of the last meeting of an Irish rebel with his new bride prior to his execution hours later.

The final act was the trumpet playing of the “Last Post” by Don Phelan of the local brass and reed band the Boherbuoy Band. Boherbuoy is Gaelic, meaning “the yellow road”. The event concluded with everyone standing and singing the Irish national anthem, accompanied by Christy Sparling and Henry Bedford.

The entertainment was followed by some traditional potato-and-leek soup with soda bread. Then came dessert, which was coloured green, white and orange, the three colours of the Irish national flag, so designated to signify green and orange of the two traditions on the island,

with white, the colour of peace, between them.

It is hoped that the Irish Night will become an annual event to commemorate a wonderful heritage, foster local talent and allow visitors to familiarise themselves with the customs and beliefs of the Church. ■

Foyle Ward—Serving the Community

By Linda Coulter and Tom McElhinney

Around 10 years ago, members of the former Londonderry Branch, now the Foyle Ward, hosted a fun day for their neighbours, Belmont House Special School, as part of Helping Hands Day. It was such a success that it has now become an annual event. Belmont House Special School is now Ardnashee School and College, and following the close relationship built up between the school and the local

members of the Church, this year school officials asked if they could hold their annual carol service in the Foyle Ward building. The Ardnashee school community, teachers, pupils and parents gathered with Foyle Ward members to celebrate Christmas. Who would have thought that a Helping Hands project would have led to this?

Foyle Ward also hosts the Families and Schools Together (FAST)



*Left to right:
Mr Hasson,
music teacher;
Jared McKenna,
Ardnashee pupil
and Foyle youth;
and Bishop Tom
McElhinney*

TERRY MCKENNA

programme. FAST is an award-winning early-intervention programme designed to support children's learning at home and help them achieve their potential at school. Families attend eight weekly sessions where children and parents take part in structured activities together. The programme has produced great results, with FAST reporting across the board success for children, their families and the wider community.

Additionally, because of the Foyle members' efforts to build relationships in their community, the Derry and Strabane District Council has recognised Mormon Pioneer Day in its 2016 calendar, and this day will feature in the council's calendar for years to come.

In the run up to the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Foyle building (6th November 2016), a Facebook page has been set up with

a picture of the building and a caption asking for anyone with memories of it to share them. Ward leaders report that people from all over the world have contributed to the page. Local leaders intend to gather as much information as possible about the building and the ward, and they hope that the work can be published and add to the knowledge of the history of the Church in Londonderry. ■

Positive Response to Invitations

By Jenna Roy

In the majority of primary schools in Ireland, children spend a good portion of time in second class preparing to celebrate their first Holy Communion. My children are the only Latter-day Saints in the Catholic schools they attend, and this can bring

wonderful opportunities as the mothers at the school gates start discussing pretty white dresses for the girls, suits for the boys and their own outfits, of course, to celebrate the upcoming special day. My excitement and delight for them is always accompanied with an explanation that we are not Catholic but that we are nevertheless looking forward to celebrating with them.

Second class also holds special celebrations for our family, as our oldest two children, Robert and Evelyn, both turned eight while in second class. What a wonderful opportunity that was to extend invitations to friends, teachers and classmates to their baptisms. It's quite natural that

friends want to celebrate together, and so I nervously sent out invitations by text message, again expressing my excitement to celebrate together and extending the invitation for the whole family to attend the baptisms.

When the responses started rolling in, I was overwhelmed by how positive and respectful the replies were. Each and every single parent expressed how honoured they felt to be invited to share such a special day with our family. With the invitation, I promised birthday cake as a sweetener to the deal. Not only were people willing to come, but again I was overwhelmed by the amount of help that was offered in putting up a few birthday decorations in the cultural hall and so much help offered with baking and sharing a few treats.

The children and I planned the baptismal programs around our family members who were able to attend. I felt it important that our friends witnessed how family central we really



Rear, left to right: Jessica, Jenna and David Roy. Front, left to right: Robert, Evelyn and Rachael.

are. Everyone was so impressed that the children were baptised by their dad. Again this created the perfect opportunity to explain the priesthood and how all members of the Church are encouraged to serve in some capacity, whether priesthood holders or not.

From the chitchat at the school gate to the simple invitations I sent out by text message, I feel I have been able

to plant seeds of friendship, trust and respect as we celebrated the important markers in our children's lives together. As a family, between the baptisms of Robert and Evelyn, 18 months apart, we have been privileged to invite and welcome over 50 non-member friends and work colleagues into our church building to witness the saving ordinance of baptism.

Most of the people who came along commented on what an uplifting and special feeling they had while with us. With the help of wonderful missionaries, we have been able to explain many principles of the gospel to those friends. We are determined to continue planting and nourishing seeds through our association with our friends and through continued invitations. ■

Young Ruby Is a Super Missionary

By Liz Shearer

Ruby Benson, from the Redcar Branch, Billingham England Stake, is 5 years old and has really taken to heart the Area Presidency assignment to "invite a friend" to church. In fact, she invited 80 school children and 10 adults who all came to Redcar chapel to learn about Jesus and to see what Ruby is so enthusiastic about!

Six missionaries and a senior couple, Elder and Sister Sheffield, shared a brief message about the true meaning of Easter and taught the Primary song "Popcorn Popping," which the children loved. This was followed by light refreshments

and an opportunity for the children and teachers to mingle and ask questions, which they did. The guests enjoyed the event so much that they want to keep in touch with

the Church and arrange future trips for the whole school.

Ruby's parents said that her efforts in missionary work have really inspired them, as well as other Redcar members, to follow her inspiring example. She certainly is a shining example to all and a "super missionary"! ■



Ruby Benson, pictured centre, with full-time serving missionaries

COURTESY OF THE BENSON FAMILY

Arthur Newbury—Active Leader in His Community

By Moira Dodkins

It all started with a car park, when in 2011 the local council put forward plans for a new car park for 19 cars at a school adjacent to where Arthur Newbury lives in his hometown of Northampton. Arthur could see that a minor change in the plans would allow parking for 38 cars, thus easing the congestion for local residents. He raised a petition with his neighbours and was voted as spokesperson to take the case to the next meeting, his first of many public speaking engagements. It was too late to change these plans, but his care for the local community was noticed by Borough leaders, and he was invited to play a part in other local issues. A local residents association was formed, and over the following two years Arthur helped start a community café, where young mums can meet and support each other, set up an indoor bowling place which is also accessible to people in wheelchairs, and promoted many other events encouraging the community to work together to relieve social pressures and problems.

Arthur's scope widened to include working with other resident associations, politicians, and civic leaders in solving community issues across the whole town. In recognition of his work, he has met many prominent people, including being invited to the inauguration of the new Mayor.

Arthur has never hidden his membership in the Church. His beliefs and standards are respected by all he comes in contact with. He firmly believes that his understanding of Church principles has helped him, such as the value of counselling together, helping people to become self-reliant, and following the Saviour's teachings of loving our neighbour.

Arthur has been an important link in raising the profile of the Church in Northampton too. Several MP's and other civic leaders have been to the chapel to visit events held there, including the family history centre and the packaging of relief supplies for the Calais refugees. They have seen the youth and other members in action with Helping Hands projects and praised the work they have done.

Bro Newbury keeps a daily blog sharing not only project information but also gospel teachings. "Your inspirational thoughts brighten my day," said one follower.

What started with a concern over a planned car park has led Arthur to develop talents he never realised he had and to grow in confidence. He has felt the Lord's direction in his activities and has developed a greater love for his fellowman.

"I encourage anyone to take that first step in helping out in their local

COURTESY OF ARTHUR NEWBURY



Arthur Newbury pictured with Andrea Leadsom MP (L), Michael Ellis MP (R) and other supporters

area. You will make lasting friends and find great joy in serving."

Arthur is a member of the Duston Ward, Northampton England Stake. ■

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 submitted 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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