

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Sabbath Day at Church

Elder Francisco Ruiz de Mendoza, Spain

Area Seventy



Elder Francisco
Ruiz de Mendoza

With President Nelson's talk at the April 2015 general conference, there has been a renewal of emphasis in the Church on making the Sabbath holy. By making the Sabbath holy we can take joy in it and experience many blessings that God is anxious to pour upon us. As President Nelson remarked, the Sabbath was a perpetual covenant between the Lord and the people of Israel and a reminder that God may sanctify his people (see Exodus 31:13, 16). The Savior declared that He was the Lord of the Sabbath (see Luke 6:5), and in these latter days, He has unequivocally reminded us that we are to keep the Sabbath holy (see D&C 68:29).

An essential part of observing this commandment is to go to church on Sundays and partake of the sacrament: "Thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day" (D&C 59:9). Doing so is necessary so that we can keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" (D&C 59:9). Since it hinges on the Atonement, the ordinance of the sacrament is central to our worship, thus making "the sacrament meeting the most sacred and important meeting in the Church" (Dallin H. Oaks, "Sacrament Meeting and the

Sacrament," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 17). To the extent that we prepare for this ordinance and for this meeting, we will be showing to the Lord that we understand the importance of His Atonement and that we are serious about our covenants with Him. The blessings that can come from partaking of the sacrament appropriately are countless and can have an impact on our lives and on the lives of those around us. Cooperating with the ward council and the bishopric to have a spiritual sacrament meeting is part and parcel of our personal endeavors to become more like our Savior and thereby qualify to be a light to others.

How can we make the sacrament into a growth opportunity for us and for those around us? Let us pause for a moment and think of the kind of sacrament meeting that the Lord wants us to have. Isn't it one where the Spirit will be present and we will be spiritually healed as we covenant with God that we are "willing to take upon [ourselves] the name of [his] Son, and always remember him and keep his commandments" so that "[we] may always have his Spirit to be with [us]"? (D&C 20:77). Wouldn't we long for that kind of meeting and prepare for it during the

week? Wouldn't we forgive others of their wrongs against us? Wouldn't we ask for forgiveness and come to the sacrament meeting with a repentant soul? Wouldn't we counsel with the members of our family as to how to make the sacrament meeting into a sacred experience? Wouldn't we love to bring others to such a special meeting? The Lord has declared, "And if any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, that he may be edified in all meekness, that he may become strong also" (D&C 84:106). Isn't an uplifting sacrament experience a great opportunity for us to become strong so that we can help others become strong too? Shouldn't we invite others, especially those that are less active or those that have not accepted the gospel yet, so they may "come unto Christ" with us "and be perfected in him"? (Moroni 10:32).

It is my prayer that we may all participate in the sacrament meeting in such a way that this experience will significantly contribute to making the Sabbath "a delight" (Isaiah 58:13) not only for us but for all those for whom we are responsible as witnesses of the Lord's work (see D&C 88:81–82).

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

Local MP Visits Youth Helping Hands Activity

By Emma Corre

Youth and leaders from the Northampton England Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gathered together on a recent Saturday morning to take part in a Helping Hands day of service at Bradlaugh Fields and Barn. Northampton North MP Michael Ellis came along to support the young men, aged 14–18 years, with their project.

Northampton stake hosted an annual conference for youth aged 14–18 years, who gathered from Northampton and surrounding areas. During the morning session of conference, the youth took part in a service project to help in the Northampton local community, with around 100 youth and leaders working at Bradlaugh Fields and Barn, Northampton. The youth and leaders tidied up garden areas, painted railings in the park, formed a new compost area next to the barn and also did some general clearing.

One of the youth leaders commented, “Our youth always amaze me at how much they accomplish in a short time. They work so hard and find joy in helping each other and making a difference to other people’s lives.” ■



Young men from the Northampton youth conference, with Michael Ellis (pictured centre), MP for Northampton North, at a Helping Hands activity

Grandmother Swims for Charity

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

A 56-year-old grandmother is involved in the challenge of a lifetime as she swims her way from Doncaster to Edinburgh in a bid to raise money for the Hearing Fund UK, a charitable organisation offering musical tuition to deaf children.

A former swimming instructor, Linda Carlo got the idea to swim 250 miles in twelve months after the Hearing Fund UK director, Justin Osmond, ran 250 miles in eight days in May last year.

A convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 1976, after first hearing about it through the famous Mormon singing group the Osmonds, Linda says, “I feel a need to give something back to this lovely family who have meant so much to me over the years.”

Having started her challenge in August last year, Linda plans to



Linda Carlo, who is raising funds by swimming 250 miles for the Hearing Fund UK

complete it on 6th August and is thrilled that two of the Osmond family will be at the poolside to witness her complete her 250th mile. Linda swims on average one mile a day, five days a week, and by the time she finishes her

challenge, she will have spent almost 200 hours in the water and will have swum 16,000 lengths.

The Hearing Fund UK is a charity that relies on fund-raising to help deaf children gain confidence in the hearing world by discovering and developing musical talents.

“My initial aim was to raise £500. Then I increased it to £2,500,

and now I just want to raise as much as possible,” Linda explains. “My dad used to say, ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might!’ I know that if you want something badly enough, and you’re prepared to work extremely hard and not give up when things get tough, then you can accomplish anything at all.” ■

amongst whom were Tiffany Smart and President Jason Spragg, a member of the stake presidency.

The subject for discussion was women’s contribution to religious scholarship and education. Three women presented messages on this theme representing Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Their presentations gave insight into ways in which women had shaped their faith in the world in which we live today.

At the end of the evening there was a question-and-answer session, which highlighted the commonalities between the faiths represented and women’s unique ability to make a real difference in the lives of other people.

This event was a significant attempt by the people of the Dar Ul-Isra Mosque to reach out to the local community and build stronger relationships. They hand delivered invitations to 100 nearby churches and to over 200 members of the local community. This evening was the continuation of the interfaith effort in the Cardiff area. Recently The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosted a number of church organisations for an event where a discussion took place on service in the community and the role played by religious groups. ■

Cardiff stake members and guests participate in an interfaith evening on women’s contribution to religious scholarship and education.

NEWS FROM WALES

Cardiff Interfaith Evening

By Des Waddington

Rachel Barry, stake Relief Society president in the Cardiff Wales Stake, attended the Cardiff Interfaith Evening held at the Dar Ul-Isra

Mosque in Cardiff, a Muslim welfare and education centre serving the local community. Rachel was one of several Church members who attended,



RACHEL BARRY

Merthyr Tydfil Stake Youth Conference

By Ann-Marie Roberts

The Swansea public, who were willing to brave the cold for a walk along the beach Saturday, 5th March, may have noticed an interesting piece of beach on Swansea Bay. A group of twenty-nine youth created in the sand a 35-foot-long 'tree of life' image depicting the love of God. These youth came from as far away as Aberystwyth, Newcastle Emlyn and Merthyr Tydfil to meet for a weekend of activities that included dance, sport and community service.

Some of the youth sang to and chatted with the residents of Glasfryn Nursing Home. Many of the youth

felt a real connection with the elderly residents, and they expressed the desire to return and spend more time there at a later date. Others worked on the gardens of a special-needs school near Swansea city centre, where a few of the members of Swansea Ward work. The young men and women cleared bushes, leaves, and branches; dug out an old tree stump; dug over an area to be reseeded; and cleaned the UPVC around the front of the school.

Everyone gave their best and enjoyed getting stuck into the tasks. Our youth really catch the vision of service. ■

Norwich Youth in Community Service Project

By Steve Butcher

On Saturday, 16th May, just days before the opening of the new Dementia Village, a group of 34 young people aged 14–17, armed with forks and spades, tackled a project at the Community Hub in Bowthorpe, Norwich, intended to support people with dementia, their carers and the wider community.

Despite the forecast downpours and sleet, the youth group from the Norwich England Stake donned their wellies and waterproofs and set about the initial work for creating paths to access raised beds, a sensory garden and living wall, and preparing and seeding wildflower areas.

Organised into 5 teams, each led by two 17-year-olds and supported by one or two adults, these young people demonstrated absolute commitment to the idea of giving themselves to improve life for an older generation. In two and a half hours they transformed the area: digging out and removing heavy soil and turf to create paths in readiness for aggregate to be laid; dismantling existing raised beds, clearing vegetation and then reconstructing them in a new position; turning over the sticky clay soil and sowing a mixture of wildflower



The 'tree of life' created in the sand by the Merthyr Tydfil youth

ANDREW JONES

JAMI GOOD



Norwich youth pictured at the service project with the 'Grow Organisation'

seeds courtesy of Grow Wild and Kew Gardens.

This work was carried out under the direction of the 'Grow Organisation'—a social enterprise based at the Hub dedicated to providing activities designed to improve physical and mental health and assisting people to live

independent lives. The Bowthorpe Hub hosts a dementia-friendly café on Fridays and can also provide training for those wishing to become dementia friends.

Alex from the 'Grow Organisation' said, "Everyone worked fantastically hard, and it was an absolute pleasure working with the group. Their interaction has been a great help in getting our garden design off the ground with a flying start. Well done to all!" ■

Manchester YSAs Support Interfaith Harmony Week

By Joe Dryden

Members of the Manchester Young Single Adult Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints noticed that the Chinese New Year coincided with the Interfaith Harmony Week and decided to celebrate both at the same time. The evening activity combined socialising and fun with games and food.

Some of the full-time missionaries serving in the area are from China and Taiwan, and they made over 300 dumplings, which were very popular with the guests, many of whom were Chinese students from the nearby university. It was interesting to note that many of the people who attended were from different faiths and countries. Joe Dryden, one of the young single adults, commented, "Overall it

was a wonderful night when many people, from varied walks of life,

were able to come together to enjoy themselves." ■



Manchester YSAs at the Interfaith Harmony Week activity

JOE DRYDEN

Evesham Branch Choir Sings at Mayor's Charity Service

By Des Waddington and Ian Retallick



CARLA RETALICK

Evesham Branch choir rehearsing for their performance in front of the mayor

The Evesham Branch choir was invited to sing at the Mayor's Annual Service event, held at All Saints Church, Evesham, in the Anglican Diocese of Worcester. The choir, made up of about 20 members of the Church, sang "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and their hard work in putting the piece together really paid off, as they received very positive feedback.

The theme for the event was volunteering, something that members of the Evesham Branch are very committed to and a subject that is very close to the heart of Councillor Fred Kaler, Town Mayor of Evesham. Interestingly, Evesham has had a Town Mayor since

the town was awarded its charter in 1604.

Sally Earley, a member of the Evesham Branch and someone who has worked in the volunteer sector of the local community for many years, said, "The choir sang at a Christmas concert, and because that was such a great success, we were invited to sing at the Mayor's Annual Service event. It was a real privilege to be involved in this high-profile local service event."

The service was led by Reverend Mark Binney, who gave good counsel about working together in the community and encouraged the various Mayors in attendance to be unified in their efforts to serve their local parishes.

Speaking about the importance of volunteering in the local community,

President Ian Retallick, a member of the Cheltenham England Stake presidency, remarked, "We are grateful for the willingness of the members of the Church in Evesham to serve in their community, and we know of other members in the area who quietly help those in need with contributions of time and other resources. They have also helped prepare meals for the homeless at the Vale of Evesham Christian Centre, and the choir has helped raise funds for St Richards Hospice at an annual Christmas event at Dumbarton Hall. We are confident that these acts of selfless service will bless the lives of the Evesham Church members and the public at large." ■



From left to right: Ian Retallick (1st councillor, Cheltenham stake presidency); Councillor Fred Kaler (Evesham Town Mayor) and Joel Turvey (2nd councillor, Evesham Branch presidency)

Worth More than Millions

By Jonathan McColgan

If someone offered you millions of dollars on the condition that you didn't live a gospel commandment, what would you say? For most of us, this kind of question will only ever

be hypothetical—it's highly unlikely that we'll ever actually be offered that much money. However, when Terrence Crowe was offered a multi-million-dollar record deal on the condition that



Elder Terrence Crowe

His three fellow Mormon bandmates are also serving missions across the globe. “To think that I almost passed up this opportunity . . . it’s something that, honestly, it chokes me up to even think about,” he said. Terrence and his fellow Latter-day Saints have no regrets. He told us that his mission has changed him for the better. ■

he wouldn’t serve a mission, the decision facing him was very real.

Terrence (21), an Australian-born Latter-day Saint who moved to Utah when he was eleven, has always had a deep love of music. According to his mother, he’d been singing before he even knew how to talk. “She wouldn’t know what I was saying,” Terrence told us. “It was just a bunch of gibberish.” His love for music quickly got him involved in school musicals, where his passion for performing blossomed.

However, it wasn’t until he was seventeen that his career in music really began. After trying out at an audition his grandma had seen advertised in a local newspaper, Terrence found himself a part of Beyond 5—a musical group dedicated to singing uplifting and morally clean mainstream pop music. By coincidence, Terrence was one of four Latter-day Saints in the five-man band. Terrence loved his time singing and began to wonder whether spreading the gospel through his lyrics was something he should do instead of serving a mission.

After a couple of years touring, Terrence and his bandmates found themselves in Nashville, Tennessee, where they caught the eye of a large record label. To the band’s joy, the label sat them down and offered a multi-million-dollar deal. However, there was one catch. The label knew that some of the band were Latter-day Saints and told them that they would

be signing up for the next five to seven years of their life. Serving a mission was not part of the deal. They were told they would need to get serious and put all thoughts of serving a mission aside.

Terrence described how he reached his decision. “I thought it was going to be the hardest decision that I would ever make.” However, later he and his friends happened to be moving house, “and as we sat in this empty room, the Spirit just hit me so hard. And I just realized in that moment that no—that the record deal wasn’t for me. God needed me to go on a mission, and he needed me to serve.”

After that, he says the decision to go was the easiest he’d ever made. Elder Terrence Crowe now serves as a missionary in the Scotland/Ireland Mission.

Americans Search Local Roots

By Elder and Sister Libutti

“What would have taken your ancestors away from here to go so far away to America?” is the question we hear often as we explore the local countryside. We’ve found many places where our ancestors lived: the Eltons at Croft Cottage, Fromes Hill; Kendricks at Hill House in Bosbury; Philpotts at Starve Crow Cottage; Jenkins at Moorend Cross; Woodcocks

in Kempley Green; Philpotts at Greenhill, Cradley; and more.

What a thrill to walk the paths they walked and breathe the fresh country air! So many kind people let us photograph and even come inside to get a feel for those ancestral hearths and homes. What lovely people!

In February we went to Liverpool, where thirteen direct ancestors left

British shores to sail for America. Most of their families had lived in the same villages for many generations. The story of two ancestors with local ties, Thomas Jenkins and Jane Elton, unravels some of the mystery.

Thomas Jenkins, a skilled thatcher, raised his family in the hamlet of Moorend Cross, Mathon parish. He was a nonconformist Primitive Methodist but broke off and joined a group calling themselves the United Brethren. They licenced their homes as meeting places and built the Gadfield Elm Chapel near Staunton. They sought for the principles and practices of Jesus Christ's original church.

In March of 1840, they were introduced to Wilford Woodruff, a missionary and Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They talked into the night about the restored gospel of Jesus Christ with its modern-day prophets and apostles. This was what Thomas and his friends were looking for! Six days later, he was baptised by Wilford Woodruff at the Hill Farm pond on a cold spring day, followed by almost all of the 600 United Brethren during the next months. Within a year, over 1800 people in surrounding areas joined the Church. Thomas and his family sailed for America in September 1840. He is my 4th great-grandfather through my father's side of our family.

Jane Elton, from my mother's side, grew up in Castle Frome. Her brother



COURTESY OF ELDER AND SISTER LIBUTTI

Elder and Sister Libutti pictured whilst serving a mission in England

John worked for John Benbow at Hill Farm. She, too, listened to Wilford Woodruff and was baptised in June 1840. She married a Samuel Philpotts, but rather than emigrate, Jane stayed behind to take care of her widowed mother.

Her daughter Caroline was widowed young but married a handsome young widower, John Kendrick from Bosbury, with three children of his own. He and Caroline had six more children together, the youngest being my grandfather George Kendrick. As a young boy, he sailed with his family to America to be with fellow members of the Church.

Those two stories illustrate the answer to the first question, but I gave the shorter answer to a kind man at Moorend Cross not long ago when he asked, "What would have taken your ancestors away from here to go so far away to America?" I blurted out, "Because of this wonderful church!"

What a great experience for me and my husband to serve for 18 months in this beautiful area as missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There are around 6,200 senior missionaries like us and 75,000 young missionaries serving around the world. What a privilege to come here! We have even met some wonderful second cousins from the Malvern area.

We will return home to our family with many happy memories and connections to our Herefordshire and Worcestershire roots. ■

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

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