

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Heeding the Word of the Lord's Servants

By Elder Hans T. Boom, Netherlands
Area Seventy

On my way to a district conference, I was enjoying the view looking out of the small window of the plane. I saw the world differently than when standing on the ground. This reminds me of the great blessings I have received in my life because of living in a time we have living prophets on the earth.

My vision on where to go is sometimes blurry while standing on the ground, but the Lord has prepared a way to help us and guide us through life since he has a better view.

The time we live in is one of many voices coming from all directions towards us. Never before have we received so much information in a day than now. What are we to do with all this information, and how can we discover what is really of worth to us?

In all this turmoil there is always the steady hand of the Lord speaking through His servants, leading us with love and kindness, for He has said:

“Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants” (3 Nephi 12:1).

That is one of the great blessings of the Restoration. Their words, when studied and applied, will be our Liahona, directing us to where we need to go and what we need to do in order to live happy and safe lives.

One of the messages we have received for our time right now has to do with looking out for others and to **invite a friend** to church. Great joy will come from that!

Another is to **become more self-reliant** and in that way become more like Heavenly Father. The law of the fast and Sabbath observance, joined with prayer, help us in the process of becoming more self-reliant. Rich blessings result, such as:

- The fulness of the earth will be ours.
- When we call, the Lord will answer.
- Increased spiritual strength.
- Temporal well-being.
- A greater compassion for others.
- A stronger desire to serve.¹

With the invitation to **find our ancestors** and do the work for them in the temple come great blessings.

Elder David A. Bednar has promised: “I invite the young people of the Church to learn about and experience

the Spirit of Elijah. . . . I promise you will be protected against the intensifying influence of the adversary. As you participate in and love this holy work,



Elder
Hans T. Boom



President
Thomas S.
Monson

LOCAL NEWS

you will be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your lives.”²

Setting our personal goals in all three areas and working so that we will be able to meet them will result in something beautiful.

Heeding the words of the Lord’s servants always brings blessings of happiness and safety.

Twice a year we celebrate a special time, in April and October, when we receive instructions from the Lord’s servants during general conference. These messages greatly benefit us in our lives and help us to remain strong and faithful.

I have learned in my life to pray for our prophet and his counsellors and for the General Authorities and local leaders in the Church. By praying for them we strengthen them, and we will be more open for their inspired messages.

I testify that when we do these things we will be blessed and able to always keep clapping our hands for joy like the people did who were standing by the Waters of Mormon when they had just learned about the baptismal covenant (see Mosiah 18:11).

That we may always feast upon the words of our prophets, drink from the well of living water, and open our tents towards the tower so we can hear is my desire and humble prayer. ■

NOTES

1. See Doctrine and Covenants 59:9–20; Isaiah 58:6–11; Helaman 3:35.
2. David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 26, 27.

Starlight Ladies Walk Provides Funds for St. Rocco’s Hospice in Memory of Jean Ives

By Clare Peartree

On Friday 17th June, women from Warrington Ward’s Relief Society took part in the 10th annual Starlight Ladies Walk around Warrington town centre in memory of Jean Ives, to raise funds for St. Rocco’s Hospice. St. Rocco’s Hospice provides specialist care and support across Warrington to those who are coping with a terminal or life-limiting illness.

Jean Ives understood the importance of this work better than anyone. She worked very closely with St. Rocco’s and other charitable organisations throughout her service as a public affairs specialist for the Church and as a member of the

Council of Faiths for 12 years, where she worked hard to bring about unity between various faiths and religions represented in Warrington. Despite receiving a cancer diagnosis herself, Jean did not let this stand in her way of being a shining example of a cheerful giver. Even after her illness required her to submit to the care of St. Rocco’s, she was always cheerful by devoting the time that she had to serving others. Jean sadly succumbed to her illness at the end of May. It was a natural step for her friends and sisters in Relief Society to honour Jean’s memory by way of participating in the 2016 Starlight Ladies Walk.



Mandasue Heller with her mother, Jean Ives

MANDASUE HELLER

There was a tremendous atmosphere throughout the walk as over 1100 women took to the streets of Warrington in memory of all those whose lives have been touched by this wretched disease. Carol Bass (Relief Society president), Clare Peartree (second counsellor), Zenith Brett (Young

Women president), Tammy Johnston (public affairs specialist) and Hannah Woodruff (family history consultant) were able to raise over £800 between them, which will contribute to the estimated total of £128,000 pledged to St. Rocco's Hospice through this year's Starlight Ladies Walk. ■

and a house in Merridale Road, Wolverhampton.

The current site on Tipton Road was originally a house on a large plot of land. The Church purchased the site, and the house was demolished—it was then that the hard work began. In the spring of 1962 the ground was broken, and by the autumn the footings were put in, with members of the congregation clearing the site, digging and ferrying building materials to where they were needed. Young and old strove to move the work along, and in 1965 the chapel was finally finished at a cost of £77,000.

Woodsetton Ward came into being in 1966. Fifty years later, old and new members of the Church travelled from all parts of the British Isles to celebrate the anniversary on a beautiful sunny day. Entertainment was provided by a group who had all attended the youth programme in Woodsetton chapel 20 years ago. They played a selection of Beatles classics and modern pop. The members of the group came from various parts of the UK, including Burnham-on-Sea, Sheffield and Bilston. They all have very busy careers, and so attending rehearsals was a challenge, especially for one who could only attend three, as he is a general practitioner. A local young lady from the current youth programme continued the musical feast by singing whilst playing the guitar.

Woodsetton 50th Anniversary

By Helen Rollason

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the Woodsetton chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Tipton Road in Sedgley. What makes the chapel really special is the fact that the members of the

Church helped to build it all those years ago.

Prior to 1962, the local congregation met in various places to worship, including Queen Victoria Primary School, Dudley Town Hall

Members and friends from the Woodsetton Ward celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building.



BISHOP JOHN CONLON

The little children had a whale of a time on the bouncy castle, and everyone enjoyed the buffet provided by members. The number of people from around the world who sent their good wishes is a testimony to the love that the Church members have for their old chapel in Woodsetton. ■



EVE O'CONNOR

President and Sister Uchtdorf visiting the Belfast Saints

NEWS FROM IRELAND

President Uchtdorf Visits Belfast

By Sister Coulter

On Sunday 22nd May 2016, over a thousand members of the Belfast Northern Ireland Stake took part in a special conference session. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counsellor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, presided over a meeting in the Belfast stake centre. President Uchtdorf was accompanied by his wife, Sister Harriet Uchtdorf. Also in attendance were Elder Patrick Kearon (General Authority Seventy) and Sister Kearon, President and Sister Donaldson of the Scotland/Ireland Mission and President James M. McCrudden, president of the Belfast Northern Ireland Stake.

A choir of Primary children provided prelude music, and President and Sister Uchtdorf were presented

with a book containing drawings and messages from the children.

President Uchtdorf told the members that the Church in Europe is at a point of significant change and that they are living in a historic moment. Because of Northern Ireland's troubled past, members should know from their own history that it is wise to reach out to their fellowman, regardless of race, language etc. He told members that their past experiences can help others in Europe. He talked of the refugee situation and stressed the importance of members moving forward, refocusing and recalibrating themselves to be true followers of Christ, never looking down on others but reaching out to all in need. This would involve stepping over emotional borders, he said, showing kindness, love and generosity. "Happiness is a choice," President Uchtdorf said. "Never underestimate your impact. . . . Now matters; you can make a difference".

President Uchtdorf told the young members of the stake to always choose the right in life because it builds and edifies. He counselled them to live by the standards found in the *For the Strength of Youth* booklet, saying, "It is the path to the temple". He also urged them to get a good education so that they can be a spiritual and temporal strength to the Church and to society.

Adult members were counselled to choose the right by making sure they always have a current temple recommend. President Uchtdorf said, "It is a symbol of your faithfulness, dedication and commitment".

In talking about faith, President Uchtdorf also urged members to suspend suspicion and cynicism and make room for faith. The Prophet Joseph Smith and the First Vision are central to our faith, he taught; we need to know that it is true and then stand up for it.

President Uchtdorf likened the Holy Ghost to the central propeller on a ship. It is directly in front of the rudder and provides a constant stream of moving water to allow the rudder to do its job. If the propeller isn't working, then the rudder can't do anything. The Holy Ghost (like the propeller) provides what is necessary for us to make correct decisions. President Uchtdorf taught that we need never make mistakes if we follow the Holy Ghost. ■

Proud Moment as Mum Receives Erskine 100 Medals Award

By Libby Harris

My mother's name is Isobel Green, and she was born in 1937 in Glasgow, Scotland. When she was performing in the Palace Theatre Dundee, Dennis Clancy brought missionaries from the Church backstage. She was introduced to them, and was baptised when she was 20 years old.

When Elder David B. Haight was mission president in Scotland, he decided we should put on a musical play called *Promised Valley*. Dennis Clancy played Jed, the male lead, and my mother played his wife, Celia, the female lead. They performed two shows in Glasgow and two in Edinburgh.

When the Glasgow Stake was formed, President David O. McKay came to St Andrew's Halls in Charing Cross, Glasgow, to organize this great event, and my mother sang a solo, "The Lord's Prayer". She felt honoured to be chosen to sing at this momentous event.

Paul Clancy asked my mother, Anna, her piano player, and Terry Daly to sing after a meal for visiting Church dignitaries. Present

at this meal was Gordon B. Hinckley, who was an Apostle at the time. He had asked if any of the singers knew "Danny Boy". My mother said she did and she included it in her program. When she had finished singing "Danny Boy," he gave her a standing ovation and shook her hand. She also sang in Johnstone Ward when President Howard W. Hunter was visiting. She has found it a privilege to be asked to sing on these different occasions over the years.

For the past 35 years she has been involved with a charity called the "Not Forgotten Association". A woman called Marta Cunningham, who had been visiting wounded soldiers in hospital in London and saw a need to bring something into their lives that would uplift them, set it up in 1920. They now have a group of performers, including my brother Stuart, my sister Eleanor (both professional singers), and Andrew Proctor, our piano accompanist. They perform in ex-servicemen's homes in Scotland. There are about 24 homes who receive two free shows per year. Recently, while performing in Erskine, my mother was presented with an Erskine 100 Medals for 100 Heroes award. These awards are being presented to commemorate Erskine's 100th anniversary.

Speaking of her award, her son Stuart said, "I'm so proud of my wee mum, who was presented with an Erskine 100 Medals for 100 Heroes. She's been singing for over 30 years. Well done, Mum! You deserve it."

My mother always says how much of a pleasure it is to sing and how grateful she is for being blessed with a voice that brings joy to others. We are all very proud of her and her achievements. ■



STUART GREEN

Sister Isobel Green, proudly performing for 30 years, was given an Erskine 100 Medals for 100 Heroes award.

No More Strangers

By Moira Head

'No More Strangers' was the theme chosen for the recent single adult conference held in the Poole England Stake. Once the theme was decided upon, planning could start, and the first decision to be made was all about the service project for Saturday morning. Which of all the worthy causes they might choose most fitted the theme? The answer of course was obvious—all of those poor refugees stranded in Calais and Dunkirk, far away from their homes and strangers indeed.

After linking up with the Canterbury stake, whose members had experience donating and taking items to Calais, and with help and direction from Elder and Sister Stay from the area welfare office

in Frankfurt, the goal was to pack as many emergency food packs and welcome packs as could be delivered.

With less than two days to go, President and Sister Furbank of the Poole stake set out to buy 500 tins of fish (with ring pulls!), 500 bottles of water, 1000 cereal bars, and 500 packets of peanuts for the food packs. Then they had to find 500 flannels, razors, bars of soap, tubes of toothpaste, toothbrushes and finally 500 toilet rolls for the welcome packs. So close to the wire did they go that the ziplock bags to hold these items were delivered during the devotional on Saturday morning!

But what a success! A total of 968 packs were made and delivered to Canterbury for onward transmission. Four of the singles who attended the conference—Debbie Crossland and

Felicity Furbank from the Poole stake, Matt West from the Bristol stake, and Rachel Norris from the Reading stake—travelled to France with other members from across the country, along with organisers from the Canterbury stake, to deliver the packs and offer service to the refugees.

This project started out with the goal to give those attending the conference a service project, just one part of the weekend's activities. But a beautiful miracle occurred. As this work was under way, the focus shifted. As hands worked, hearts were touched. Those receiving the packs became the new focus. These poor, homeless people are our brothers and sisters. All of us are God's children. All agreed it was a joy and a privilege to do this work—their gift to them and to our Saviour. ■

MARISA RICKARD



Members unloading 968 boxes of donations at Dunkirk

Sharon Fountain—Linking Back to Brigham Young

By Pat Wilkinson

Sharon Fountain has been a member of the Church for just over a year, but you would think it was much longer than that. She learnt about the Church whilst at secondary school and was an enthusiastic fan of the Osmonds. But it was doing family history that led directly to her conversion.

Her cousin Ray encouraged her to trace her family history, and before long Sharon was very enthusiastic about it. She later found that she was a descendant of Brigham Young through her great-great-grandmother!

Three years later when Sharon heard that the “Who Do You Think You Are?” family history show was going to be at the NEC not far from where she lives, Sharon went along with her friend Janet. When they saw the FamilySearch stand, Sharon went over to find out if they had any tips to further her research. Janet told them that Sharon was related to Brigham Young, which caused great excitement. She was asked if she would take the missionary discussions, which she did, and when she went to church for the first time, she was overwhelmed by the warm welcome she received. She was baptised a few weeks later, and was called to be the Relief Society secretary. Sharon now

teaches family history classes each week to members and nonmembers at Solihull chapel. As a very enthusiastic new member, Sharon said: “I love the Church very much. I love the family togetherness and the way it makes me feel. I enjoy talking about my new faith to anyone who wants to know. I feel like I’ve had this inside for years. Maybe I have, and I finally found true happiness.” ■

PAT WILKINSON



*Sharon Fountain—
a descendant of Brigham Young*

Joseph Mahy, a Young Man with a Mission

By Yvonne Aston

“Guernsey? Where’s that?” A pretty well everyday enquiry that Elder Joseph Mahy answers whilst serving his mission in Dallas, Texas. Guernsey is a small island just nine miles long by five miles wide, roughly in the shape of a triangle. It’s the second largest of the Channel Islands and is famous for its quaintness, its beauty and the sagacity of its inhabitants. Wise or not, there were only seven active members in the Guernsey Branch and three children when Joseph was growing up. He was the

sole active Latter-day Saint young man on the island prior to serving his mission, which made Young Men meetings pretty difficult! In spite of this isolation, from an early age he served faithfully, going out with the missionaries, attending Sunday services and participating in organised activities. His mother, Fiona, was an outstanding example to him as she did her visiting teaching, served in Primary and Relief Society and organised get-togethers and outings in spite of suffering chronic ill health.

He thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the British pageant, held for the first time in 2013 in the grounds of the Preston England Temple. Mostly, though, his stage appearances were as a scene shifter and a crowd member!

From the time he was a small boy, it was always Joseph's intention to serve a mission, just as his sister Alexandra Mackenzie had done before him. Joseph's mother died in June 2014, but far from letting this lessen his desire to serve, he continued with his plans, although his call was deferred for a few months. When his call came through, his entire extended family was stunned to discover that he was to serve in Dallas, Texas. They had all decided that he would probably go to the North of England, where his sister had served.

Joseph has continued to be an outstanding example whilst on his mission and has frequently said that serving his mission is the best thing that has ever happened to him. He recently wrote to his family:

'I want you to know that I have a testimony of this restored gospel, that God still speaks through a living prophet and He has restored to the earth all the ordinances of the gospel, some of which had been hid since the beginning of the world.



Joseph Mahy

'Faith in Christ is the only intelligent option, and His forgiveness is so, so real. Our opportunity to forgive others is also one of the most special privileges

we have been given. As we repent and forgive always, then we may be granted the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost. Oh, what joy and warmth that brings to our lives! I'm so thankful for all I've been blessed with. I'm thankful for you in my life, I'm ever grateful for the example of Mum, and I'm just overjoyed to give her a high five up in heaven and thank her for all the guidance and support she has offered me as I've served out here'.

It is true that you don't have to have a mission call in order to further the work of the Lord. As

Joseph says, 'All of our life is a mission, to get back to be with Heavenly Father and to take others on that journey with us, if we can'. ■

Editors' Note

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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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