

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Then Will I Make Weak Things Become Strong unto Them

By Elder Wolfgang Pilz

Area Seventy, England



Elder Wolfgang Pilz

Surrounding the city where I grew up, there were beautiful forests which still correspond today to the image of the romantic German forest. These forests were the origin of mysterious stories and narratives from ancient times. By a lonely water hole known as Siegfried's Spring, an event is supposed to have taken place which is still related in the mythological world of central and northern Europe.

Our hero is called Siegfried, known in northern lands as Sigurd.

This young man is described as courageous, strong and adventurous. His fame increased further when he conquered a dragon with his sword. Subsequently, he bathed in the blood of the slaughtered monster in order to become invulnerable. Unfortunately, at that moment, a linden leaf fell onto his back, so that a certain spot was left uncovered.

This uncovered spot was later to prove his downfall. Siegfried got entangled in an intrigue between two queens and was subsequently to be killed in an ambush. During the hunt, just as he was bending down to drink from the spring, he was killed with a targeted spear thrown by a traitor who knew the vulnerable spot.

Siegfried's daring was based on his feeling of invulnerability, but he had a weak spot which his enemy knew and exploited.

We too often feel secure and invulnerable in our overconfidence. But if

we do not recognize our weaknesses and don't turn them into strengths, we too can be overwhelmed.

I invite you to follow Moroni's counsel when he exhorts us to take our weaknesses to the Lord:

"And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. . . . For if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them."¹

Personal individualism (an unattractive characteristic), our tendency to flare up or be easily moved to anger, thinking and talking badly of others, rejoicing in the misfortune of others, judging unjustly or prejudicially—all of that makes us vulnerable and assailable. We often carry around with us character traits which became ingrained in our youth and have never been worked on. Sometimes they are the consequence of experiences from our childhood or youth for which we ourselves were not responsible. Whatever the reason may be, we would do well to take these weaknesses to the Lord. He can heal us. He expects us to lay a sacrifice on the altar—not a sacrifice as in ancient times but a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

The words of King David show that the people in ancient times already knew that burnt offerings alone were not sufficient: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart."²

The risen Lord repeated this injunction in the New World immediately after He had announced the abolition of burnt offerings: "And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost."³

In these days in which this article will appear there are For the Strength of Youth (FSY, for short) conventions all over Europe. These conferences are not simply fun events but are intended to teach our youth how to prepare for divine guidance. So that the young people can take the things taught home with them, instructors teach our youth to follow a code of conduct during the convention which will be reflected in their behavior and even in their outward appearance. They discover where their personal weak spots are in order to be able to effectively protect themselves from the darts of the adversary. Then they return home with a desire to put on the whole armor of God so that no spot in their spiritual body remains unprotected in the future.

Let us rejoice in the strength of the youth of Zion, who stand unflinching in the midst of the turbulent currents of our time. ■

NOTES

1. Ether 12:27.
2. Psalm 51:17.
3. 3 Nephi 9:20.

New President and His Wife Called to England Birmingham Mission

In July 2018, new mission president David Hughes and his wife, Sister Lisa Hughes, began serving in the England Birmingham Mission.

“We feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity to serve the Lord over the next three years in the England Birmingham Mission and are excited to be with the wonderful missionaries of the Church,” President Hughes said.

President Hughes, born in Ashton-Under-Lyne, and Sister Lisa Hughes, born in Manchester, have three children. Alexa their youngest, will be accompanying them on their mission to Birmingham. Their eldest daughter, Makenzie, lives in Chorley with her husband, Jared. Their son Conor is currently serving in the China Hong Kong Mission.

“It is an even greater honour to know that as we embark on our mission, we’ll be joining our son in this great work and that we will be united as a family on the Lord’s errand,” said President Hughes.

President Hughes has served as a bishop, counsellor in the England Manchester Mission presidency, counsellor in the England Missionary Training Centre presidency and counsellor in the Chorley England Stake presidency. He served as a missionary in the England Bristol Mission.

Sister Hughes has served as stake Young Women president, ward Primary president, and counsellor in the Relief Society.

“When we were asked to serve a mission, we knew that the Lord had extended the calling to us. We have a strong testimony of the blessings which come in putting the Lord first in our lives and giving our all to His work,” Sister Hughes said.

“As we have seen how our son has drawn closer to the Lord through his service, we are mindful that our missionaries will also be the sons and daughters of parents hoping that their child has an uplifting and enjoyable missionary experience. Over the next three years we hope and pray that we can help the missionaries draw closer to Christ as we give our all in His service,” President and Sister Hughes said. ■



President and Sister Hughes

Buzzing on the Road from Damascus

By Eileen Webb

Huddersfield England Stake

A new Church-sponsored initiative has taken off in the Huddersfield England Stake, bringing hope and happiness to all involved.

The BUZZ project was created by a small steering group of dedicated volunteers who were keen to help refugees and asylum seekers who have settled in the locality from their war-torn countries. This group arose from interfaith meetings where the needs of displaced people were discussed.

Dr Ryad Alsous, an asylum seeker from Damascus, Syria, fled with his family as bombs and missiles destroyed his home area. His life was threatened, but he eventually made it to Britain and was able to join his wife, son, and daughter’s family, who had already escaped and settled in Huddersfield.

Ryad had been a lecturer in food science at Damascus University, where he was also an expert beekeeper with hundreds of hives in his care. Tragically, these were all lost during

the conflict. Huddersfield is a designated Town of Sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers. While Ryad waits for his application for asylum to be heard, he has once again started to keep bees, but this time he is sharing his knowledge and skill with those in the same position as himself, including any unemployed or vulnerable people in the area who would like to join in.

“I would like to give something back to the country that has helped me and my family so much,” says Ryad.

The BUZZ project was kick-started a year ago with a church donation issued from the European Refugee Assistance Fund, which enabled the first hives, colonies of bees, protective suits and essential materials to be bought.

Later a bid was made and a grant issued from the Police Commissioner’s Fund, which has helped the project to develop even further. It will continue to be maintained with another church donation during 2018. The Canals and



EILEEN WEBB

The BUZZ project helps refugees and asylum seekers learn new skills whilst learning about their new locality.

River Trust have allowed the hives to be sited on their land at Tunnel End, just outside Huddersfield, where members of the public, including Church members, can get involved, with supervision, in the project.

Ryad runs lecture sessions at Tunnel End and at the local Quaker meetinghouse, where people learn about bees and beekeeping and are shown how to build and paint hives, create the frames that fit inside them and how to plant wildflowers from seed that bees need for their foraging.

There has been a great deal of local, national and international interest. Newspapers as well as radio and TV stations have all carried stories about the BUZZ project. The latest was done by the television programme *Countryfile*, which covered the project on Easter Sunday 2018.

Much has been made of the main aims of the project, which is to help refugees and asylum seekers learn new skills whilst learning about the locality to which they have been transferred. They also benefit by being able to mix with people in similar circumstances as themselves, develop their use of the English language and learn British customs and way of life as they travel about and interact with local people. Once refugees and asylum seekers get to a place of safety, their next problem is often how to avoid feelings of isolation, fear and depression as they struggle to adjust to a completely new way of life and

an uncertain future. The BUZZ project helps them to address these issues whilst they are supported by caring people around them.

It has been gratifying for local LDS members to know that the Church has been able to help their new neighbours in such a practical way. ■

A Cardiff Fireside with Ron Gunnell, Assistant to the President of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

By Jonathan McColgan

Cardiff Wales Stake

On Sunday, 29th April, Ron Gunnell, assistant to the president of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, visited the Cardiff Wales Stake, where he hosted a fireside celebrating the choir's Welsh roots and its many collaborations with famous British singers.

Ron shared stories of his time working as assistant to the president of the choir, recounting how he fulfilled his assignment from President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) to fill the then recently built Conference Center with people. This was an important undertaking, as the choir's annual Christmas concert would be broadcast to 60 million viewers and no one wanted an empty building. President Hinckley expressed concern that while the previous site for the concert—the Tabernacle building—housed 7,000 people, filling the new Conference Center, which seated

21,000 people, would be a much harder challenge.

To meet this responsibility, Ron reached out to famous singers from around the world. Thanks to his actions, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performed with singers (British and otherwise) such as Katherine Jenkins, Bryn Terfel and even the Muppets.

Perhaps the most touching part of the fireside was when Ron shared the celebrities' reactions to singing with the choir. Without fail, they all commented on how friendly and helpful everyone was, how they had been surprised there were no arguments or bad feelings in the intense preparations, and how deeply touched they were when the choir sang to them "God Be with You Till We Meet Again."

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir was founded by Welsh Saints who emigrated to the Salt Lake Valley. ■

JustServe Arrives in the UK

By Catherine Jolliffe

President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) taught us so clearly about our responsibility to serve others:

“We are surrounded by those in need of our attention, our encouragement, our support, our comfort, our kindness—be they family members, friends, acquaintances, or strangers.

We are the Lord’s hands here upon the earth, with the mandate to serve and to lift His children. He is dependent upon each of us.”¹

JustServe.org is a website provided by the Church that allows volunteers to search for places to serve in the community. The website is also available to the community, without cost or obligation, for them to submit volunteer opportunities. It has been introduced in the USA over the past six years and is now being released worldwide. The website is now modified for use in the UK, and stakes throughout the UK will be trained to use it as the year progresses.

Each stake will set up a JustServe committee, where they will identify and approach faith-based, non-profit community and government organizations and invite them to post projects

they have for which they need volunteers. Members and friends will also be invited to register on the site and use it to find projects for themselves, for their families, for auxiliary activities and ministering, and for missionary service projects.

The Brethren do not want JustServe to be a burden or for members to be given assignments; rather, it is a wonderful resource to help all of us to more easily reach out and serve others as the Saviour did.

At general conference in April, President Russell M. Nelson said, “A hallmark of the Lord’s true and living Church will always be an organized, directed effort to minister to individual children of God and their families.”²

Surely, JustServe could be described in no better way. ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “What Have I Done for Someone Today?” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 86.
2. Russell M. Nelson, “Ministering with the Power and Authority of God,” *Ensign*, May 2018, 69.

JUSTSERVE.UK



Connecting volunteers with opportunities to care for others and improve our communities.



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FIND PROJECTS IN YOUR AREA AND GET STARTED TODAY.

“We may not be able to do everything, but we must do something. I believe all can be of service.”
—Thomas S. Monson,
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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JustServe

11 Days of Remembrance

By Nic Read

Chorley England Stake

The 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I falls on the Sabbath at 11 a.m. on the 11th of November this year.

Six million people were mobilised from the British Isles between 1914 and 1918. Of these, over 700,000 never returned home to their families. Casualties from all nations numbered around 37 million. To pay tribute to their courage in this centenary year, the Area Presidency is encouraging members of the Church, their friends and their families to participate in a special commemorative programme.

Stakes and wards may choose to run a Remembrance Day sacrament

meeting on themes appropriate to the day, emphasising the joys of the Resurrection.

Each November when we attend a wreath-laying ceremony in our towns and cities, or watch our leaders on television pay tribute at the Cenotaph Service and Parade in Whitehall, we hear the words “Lest We Forget”. But what is it we are meant to remember?

Like Captain Moroni, who raised a title of liberty to rally the Nephites in their stand against tyranny—“In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children” (Alma 46:12)—Britain’s young soldiers, nurses and civilians

11 DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



11 Days of Remembrance committee



gave their all defending freedom and human rights.

Bishops may plan a Sunday schedule that permits wards and branches to attend their local community's morning memorial.

An inspirational and moving script has been written for the occasion, in the style of *Our Story Goes On*, which toured the UK in 2017.

Focusing on themes of family, love, loss and redemption, this show may be adapted locally by stakes that want to stage it themselves and invite families, friends and local community leaders to join in an evening devotional on the Remembrance weekend in November.

A downloadable video of this performance will be pre-recorded by a cast that is already busy rehearsing to give stakes a plug-and-play option.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this programme is that between now and November, our youth and young single adults are encouraged to seek out WW1 ancestors from their family tree.

Learning of these brave ancestors and performing their saving ordinances in the temple before November 11 can add a deeply spiritual and personal significance to this Remembrance Day.

In addition, it is suggested that the first 11 days of November be reserved for "11 Days of

Service"—an opportunity to perform acts of kindness and do good to friends, families and strangers.

Daily themes, scriptures and service opportunities will be suggested for each day, drawing inspiration from themes of love, hope and courage found in letters sent home from the front.

Samples of these letters, videos and other resources will be part of a coordinated social media campaign designed to engage, educate and inspire throughout the rest of the year.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram @ldsuk or email UKIEnsign@gmail.com for updates. ■

Historic Reunion of Building Missionaries

By Arnold Jones

The chapel in Handsworth, Birmingham, is an exception, not the rule; it was purpose-built and dedicated in 1912. During the 1950s, in the aftermath of World War II, the Church gave approval for the purchase of a number of buildings in Great Britain. Throughout that period the Church purchased large homes and chapels and converted them into LDS chapels. Elder Derek Cuthbert refers to these chapels in his book *The Second Century* and shows photographs of those in Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff, Plymouth, Belfast, Middlesbrough, Lowestoft, Norwich, Bristol and Loughborough.

Then came the 1960s and 70s, a unique period in the history of the Church in Great Britain. Churches and churchgoers reported that in 1960,

the membership of the LDS Church in Great Britain was 17,332. Only two years later the membership had nearly tripled, reaching 45,206. There was a need to accommodate the current and anticipated growth in membership and a new building programme was born. By 1967, an additional 73 buildings had been erected. This mammoth task had been accomplished with the use of building supervisors who were called from around the world to manage each chapel project. To support them, building missionaries were called to serve on each site, and the local members contributed thousands of hours of labour.

A missionary meeting was held in Great Britain on the 27th November 1960. Brother Wendell B. Mendenhall, chairman of the Church Building



These young men from West Hartlepool were all called as Church building missionaries at the same time.

Committee, speaking of the building programme that had been initiated, made the following remarks:

“There is not anything marvelous about this program at all. It is the one which the Lord used when we first started to build the kingdom in the valleys of the Rockies. Now with this program returning to build Zion here, it simply means that we call together all of the forces of our missionaries. Whether they be proselyting missionaries, whether they be missionaries called to do labor, to build chapels, there is no differentiation as far as service is concerned.

“Labor missionaries will be called to build the buildings; proselyting missionaries are called, as you are here represented, to bring the people into the church. The combination of these two great forces will accelerate the work, and it will accelerate the work to the point that you cannot begin to imagine.”¹

Many young men from the age of 16 were called to be Church building missionaries. They worked long hours on these building sites, supporting the members who mainly came in the evenings and on Saturdays. The work done by the members was accredited against the construction costs. These purpose-built chapels enhanced the worship of the Saints and provided a place where the full programme of the Church

could finally be undertaken. Hats off to all these young and older men and women who responded to the call.

In 2010, the Church History Department instituted a new global approach to Church history, encouraging annual histories, oral histories, records and artefact preservation, identifying historic places and sharing activities.

In the spirit of that encouragement, a reunion of building missionaries is to be held on the 18th of August 2018 at the Chorley England Stake centre on the Preston England Temple site. A committee, under the direction of Brother Frank Blease, has been organised to promote and plan the day.

During the day, apart from the social interaction, historic exhibits linked to the building programme will be on display, presentations will be made, oral histories will be taken, and memorabilia will be shared and scanned.

Many of these former church builders are now spread across the globe, and some of them are travelling from the USA and Canada to be at the reunion. Frank Blease and Sylvia Brown, members of the committee, have taken on the monumental task of tracking these missionaries down, and as you would expect, a number have passed away. The building missionaries’ service to the Church after their missions is a testament to their continued commitment to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. We need their memories in order that many details of the history of this great building programme can be recorded and passed on to those that follow.

A website linked with the reunion has been developed by James Perry, one of the committee members, and can be found at ldschurchbuilders.org. ■

NOTE

1. Wendell B. Mendenall, “Remarks Made at Missionary Meeting,” *The Builder*, Aug. 1961, n.p.

50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Colchester Chapel

By Sheena Rowe

On the 12th of May, 2018, Colchester Ward members, present and past, gathered together for a 60s dance to celebrate and commemorate the dedication of their beautiful chapel.

In 1962, the requirement of 50 active members was reached and a meeting was held at which President Marion D. Hanks, the mission

president, informed the Saints that they could build a chapel.

In those days, there were no building contractors that came in and built the chapel. Instead, it was a joint effort between the members and building missionaries assigned to the project. The members were also required to raise a certain amount of money

toward the cost of the building, which could not be dedicated until the debt had been paid.

Once the land was purchased, the site was dedicated and the ground-breaking ceremony was carried out. Since the site was a heavily wooded area, the members met to work out a clearance project and a work plan. The first time they met it seemed as if the whole branch was there—men, women and children, all eager and ready to go.

The members employed their talents and trade, completing the electrics, the plumbing and the plastering. In fact, the only paid tradesman was the bricklayer.

Every Saturday and every evening, you would find the members there, clearing, painting, labouring to build the chapel with great love and dedication.

Completion came in 1967, but it was 1968 before it could be dedicated. One Sunday, the branch president sent out a plea to all the members that

they dig deep and find the money needed to have the chapel dedicated. The members had already given so much in time and labour and love, but they rallied again and gave all that they had. One elderly gentlemen who lived about 16 miles away gave his bus fare and walked home.

On May 28, 1968, their sacrifices were rewarded and the chapel was dedicated by the Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with the Mayor of Colchester in attendance.

The celebrations concluded with a special ward conference attended by the current Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester.

The past pioneers were remembered as the ward gave thanks for all that they sacrificed to enable them to have a very beautiful chapel to worship in. They built the foundations not only of the building but also of faith, sacrifice and commitment from which has grown a wonderful ward. ■

FSY 2018

By Chelsea Craven

For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference is always an exciting time. This year, stakes in London and Birmingham have the privilege of learning from the theme found in Doctrine and Covenants 19:23, which says, “Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.”

Adrian and Jennifer Bettridge, the session directors for the London area, which covers eight stakes, said this: “FSY is here for you. It is your time away from home to explore and find answers to questions that will deepen your personal faith. If approached with an open and honest heart, we are confident you will have an amazing experience and it will bless your life for years to come.”

We are lucky to have two sessions in the UK this year. The Birmingham session will be August 6–11th. The London session will be from August 13–18th. There is nothing quite like FSY. Many youth have grown in the gospel as a result of attending an inspired week-long FSY session.

“During this time together we hope to be able to help you find peace both in your hearts and minds,” said James and Andrea McCrudden, session directors for Birmingham FSY. “Please invite your less-active and nonmember friends along for this week. The answers and peace we discover together will help us face any challenges that come our way during 2018 and onwards.” ■



**Colchester
Ward
chapel 50th
anniversary**



Church Standards—a Photography Project

By **Becky Keogh**

Photography is something that I love and study at Dundee and Angus College. For a recent project, I decided to capture a series of images showing some of the standards and choices I live by as a member of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These were then showcased to my classmates. Through doing this, I was able to help them better understand why I live my life the way I do. The reason why I make these choices is because of my love for the Saviour, Jesus Christ. I was humbled by their response as they shared with me how their understanding had grown and, more important to me, how their respect

for me and my beliefs had grown.

Through this project, I have learned that as we use and develop the talents we have been blessed with, the Lord will in turn use them as a tool to help His work move forward. Both my love for photography and my testimony have grown through this process, and I am grateful for the opportunity I had to find a new way to share my testimony and my love for the Saviour. ■



Becky's project

Editor's Note

The editor, **Chelsea Craven**, invites 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 and the names of both the photographer and the author are required for the Church to use the article.

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