

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Saviour's Invitation to Come unto Him

By Elder Hans T. Boom, Netherlands
Area Seventy

After the final Book of Mormon battles took place and Moroni wandered for many years alone in the wilderness, he spoke his final words to us and exhorted us to come unto Christ (see Moroni 10:30–33). When I read his words, I read his testimony and know that he has accepted the invitation himself and that accepting that invitation helped him to overcome the trials of his life.

Life has many uncertainties, but one thing is certain—namely, that we are all invited to come unto Christ no

matter who we are and no matter our circumstances. His arms are stretched out and open for each and every one of God's children. He has the power to heal and to help us accomplish what needs to be accomplished.

We may ask ourselves the following questions: What can He do for me in my life? How can I answer this invitation?

Hymn number 131, “More Holiness Give Me,” answers the question about what Christ can do for us in a wonderful way and sums up all the different

things that Christ is willing to help us with if we just come to Him: more patience, more purity, more joy in service, more meekness in trial, more purpose in prayer and many more gifts to give if we would just come unto Him and trust in Him that He can help us.

Life offers many opportunities, and so many decisions need to be made. I have learned to put the Lord first in any decision I make, not always understanding the outcome of that decision, but receiving the peaceful feeling that comes with making the right decision.

The following quote by President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) has helped me in my process of coming unto Christ and understanding that I need to put my will in His hands.

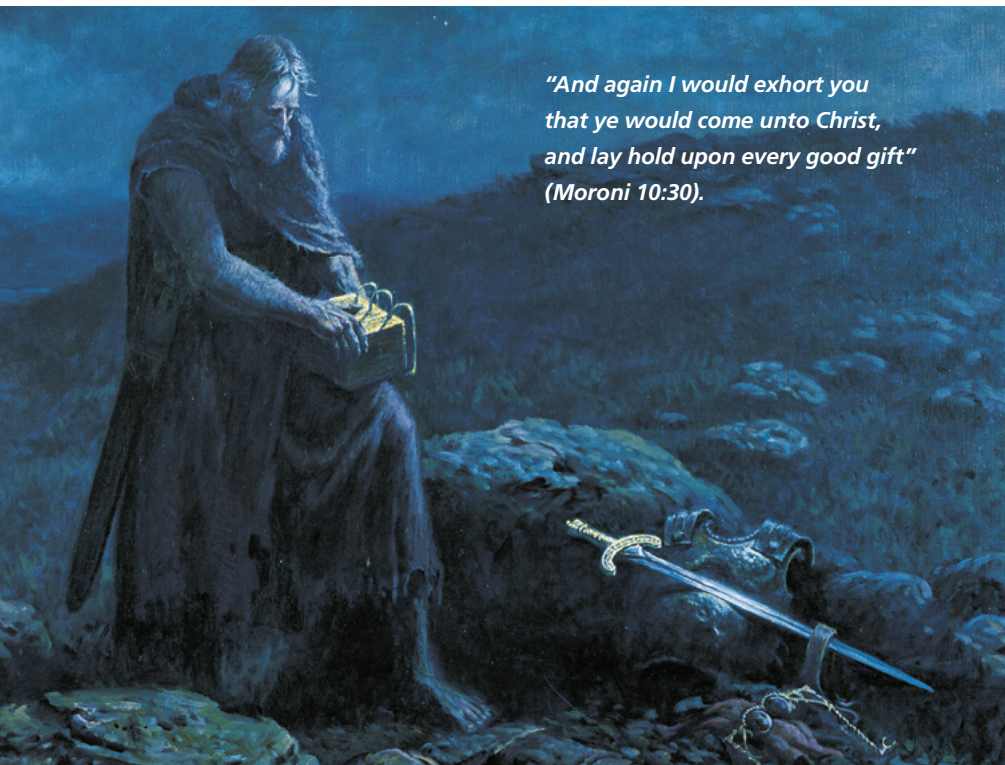
“When obedience ceases to be an irritant and becomes our quest, in that moment God will endow us with power.”¹

As we come to the conclusion that we need His help to overcome our challenges in this life, we will turn to Him in faith and obedience. When we have become as a little child, we will see His power in our lives and know that He lives and that he paid the price for us so that we can return to Heavenly Father and have eternal life, the greatest gift men can receive.



Elder Hans T. Boom

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“And again I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift” (Moroni 10:30).

During a summer vacation, my wife and I planned to visit the YSA convention in the Czech Republic and to visit the Görlitz Branch on the way. It was going to be a long journey, getting up early and traveling for many hours on fast Sunday. We decided to not postpone our fast since we were in need of His help and blessings in our lives. We had just bought another home a week earlier and had not sold the old one yet. These unsettled matters were giving me an uneasy feeling. Our plan was to downsize and simplify since the children had left our home. We had discussed our plan many times with Heavenly Father and felt that it was the right thing to do.

When we came home, an appointment was made for people to look at our home. That couple bought our home. They were religious people who also prayed to the Lord for help. We later asked them what helped them make their decision. They told us they saw pictures of Christ in our home and a quote above the door that says, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

When we turn to Him in humble prayer and fasting, to seek for His help in our lives, we receive testimony after testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that He lives and that He has prepared the way home for us. ■

NOTE

1. Ezra Taft Benson, in Donald L. Staheli, “Obedience—Life’s Great Challenge,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 82.



LOCAL NEWS

Women Faith Leaders Meet in Wales to Discuss Faithful Living

By Europe Public Affairs

Newport (Wales) – Local and international women’s leaders from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian communities gathered on February 9, 2018, in the Welsh city of Newport to engage in dialogue about ‘Living faithfully in an increasingly secular world.’ Speakers at the World Women’s Interfaith Conference offered personal experience on how their religious conviction has helped them navigate life in a positive way.

Two female leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Sister Jean B. Bingham and Sister Joy D. Jones, commenced their ten-day trip to Europe by attending the interfaith conference held at the Celtic Manor Resort.

“When we unite together as women of faith, we not only strengthen the

relationship between religions, but individual lives are touched as we reach out to those in need,” said Sister Jean B. Bingham, General President of the Church’s Relief Society, in front of over 300 attendees. The Relief Society is one of the oldest and largest women’s organisations in the world. She was accompanied by Sister Joy D. Jones, General President of the Primary for the Church. The Primary General Presidency oversees the Church’s organisation that teaches children ages 18 months to 11 years.

“At this time of religious misunderstanding, it’s refreshing to meet with like-minded women who focus on sharing our common values and have a desire to benefit communities,” said Amanda Morris, Muslim Council of Wales, about her participation in the conference.

As part of the conference, those in attendance had the opportunity to participate in a service project benefiting Samara’s Aid Appeal. Fifty bags for women and girls were assembled from donations gathered beforehand.

“One hundred percent of everything used for the service project has been donated for the benefit of Samara’s Aid,” commented Julie Jones, member of the Wales Interfaith Council and event coordinator. “Working together for a good cause, side by side, brings women of all faiths together in a special way.”

Samara’s Aid Appeal is an initiative based in the United Kingdom and provides humanitarian aid in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Sister Bingham and Sister Jones will continue their trip by visiting with congregations to lend counsel and encouragement to members in several European countries. ■



The World Women’s Interfaith Conference 2018 had over 300 guests from many faiths, including Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Bahai’s, Latter-day Saints and spiritualists.



Jean B. Bingham and Joy D. Jones have a dialogue with Muslim Council member.

Preston England Temple Presidency

By Sister Kristie Hita

CHARLES BOTTS



The new Preston England Temple presidency (from left to right): President and Sister Baynes, President and Sister Rigby and President and Sister Harmsworth

President Michael Alan Rigby, of Nottingham, has recently been named the new president of the Preston England Temple. Accompanying him is his wife, Carol Linda Rigby, of Mansfield, who serves as temple matron.

In previous capacities, President Rigby has served as second counsellor in the Preston England Temple presidency, stake president, bishop and high councillor, whilst Sister Rigby has served as assistant to the matron at the Preston England Temple, stake Relief Society, Young Women and Primary presidency member, stake public affairs director and ward Relief Society president.

Together they have six children and 20 grandchildren.

Regarding the call, President Rigby says he feels humbled but excited to be able to serve with so many

wonderful people, both patrons and workers, in the house of the Lord. This is indeed a sacred work.

Called to serve alongside President and Sister Rigby are President Graham Peter Baynes, first counsellor; President Christopher John Harmsworth, second counsellor; and Sister Barbara Jean Baynes and Sister Hazel Patricia Harmsworth as assistants to the matron.

President and Sister Baynes, of the Chester Ward, joined the Church as young children with their respective families, and together they have seven children and 11 grandchildren. Both President and Sister Baynes served as full-time ordinance workers at the Preston temple prior to their recent call. In previous callings, President Baynes has served as stake president,

bishop and high councillor, with Sister Baynes serving as stake Relief Society counsellor as well as ward Relief Society, Young Women and Primary presidents. They are both pleased and excited to serve in the house of the Lord and be part of this great work.

President and Sister Harmsworth, of the Congleton Ward, joined the Church in 1975 and have five children and 11 grandchildren. They are both delighted to be serving in the temple and look forward to meeting many more of the members from the district as they visit the temple.

Prior to being asked to serve, President Harmsworth served as a sealer and ordinance worker in the Preston temple and in previous callings as stake patriarch, stake president and bishop. Sister Harmsworth has served as an ordinance worker as well as a ward Relief Society president, Primary president and counsellor in Young Women.

President Rigby would like to extend a warm invitation for all to come to the temple and in doing so to be recipients of the blessings promised by President Russell M. Nelson when he said, "Your worship in the temple and your service there for your ancestors will bless you with increased personal revelation and peace and will fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path."¹ ■

NOTE

1. Russell M. Nelson, "As We Go Forward Together," *Ensign*, April 2018, 7.

Loughborough Priest Officiates in London Temple Baptistry

By Russell Ford

Following the general announcement to Church members that ‘priests in the Aaronic Priesthood with a limited-use temple recommend may officiate in baptisms for the dead, including serving as the baptiser and as a witness’ (First Presidency letter, Dec. 14, 2017), Joseph Ford of the Loughborough Ward, Leicester England Stake, became the first priest in the UK to perform baptisms for the dead in the London England Temple.

Joseph was ordained a priest in October 2017, and when he heard about the change in policy, he knew immediately he wanted to take the opportunity: “Like most priests, I knew I had the priesthood authority to baptise, but I didn’t expect to actually baptise anyone until I went on my mission. When I heard the First Presidency changed the rules for baptisms in the temple, I knew I wanted to do it as soon as I could.”

On 3rd January 2018, Joseph went to the London temple with his sister Anna (13), brother Tom (12) and cousins Georgia (17) and Joe (14). “I’d been baptised in the temple before,” said Joseph, “but when we arrived I felt so excited and nervous. After they welcomed us into the temple, we sang a hymn and said a prayer. I really felt the Spirit. As I walked into the font, I

didn’t even know where to stand or what to do, but my dad showed me—and I baptised my brother and cousin

ten times each. It was amazing. After I’d finished baptising, I then sat as a witness as my dad baptised my sister.”

Thinking back on the experience, Joseph said, “I’d invite all priests to find a way to do baptisms in the temple as soon as you can. I definitely feel one step closer to being a missionary.” ■



Joseph (left) with sister Anna and brother Tom

SISTER FORD

Member of the Carlisle Branch Receives the Brave Hearts Award

By Frank Blease

The last year was challenging for President Martyn Race and his family. He is the president of the Carlisle Branch in the Preston England Stake, and along with his wife, Gillian, and their two boys, he has faced enormous challenges that have taxed the family's spiritual and emotional reserves during this year.

Previously, their son Joseph Race had been diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum, which has implications for schooling and home. Then, in November 2016, when Joseph was aged 10, an additional and even greater life-changing condition came along, that of leukaemia. Joseph was rushed more than 50 miles away to Newcastle's Royal Victoria Children's Hospital, where treatment began immediately. Joseph was doing poorly, and the treatment often has severe side effects. Martyn and Gillian take it in turns to be with, comfort and support Joseph throughout all of his many sessions of treatment.

It was with great pleasure, therefore, that a letter from an organisation called Brave Hearts of the North was received confirming that Joseph had



MARTYN RACE/FRANK BLEASE

The award presenters—Carol Malia, a BBC television presenter, and Josef Craig, a former recipient of the Brave Hearts Award and a Paralympic medalist in swimming—present Joseph Race with his award.

successfully been nominated a Brave Heart Award at the 2017 awards. There were 27 other children with various life-threatening conditions who had shown enormous courage, fortitude, resilience, and optimism in facing their condition and the frequent, severe treatments and operations which they are undergoing.

The children and their families were treated to a wonderful afternoon in one of the large lounges at St James's Park, the home of Newcastle United Football Club, during the afternoon of the 27th November 2017. There was acknowledgement that these children and their parents were facing enormous difficulties. Yet despite this, they are moving forward with great courage and hope for the future. Presenting the awards were Carol Malia, a television presenter on BBC's *Look North* programme, and Josef Craig, a Paralympic swimming gold medallist and former awardee in 2013.

Each awardee was invited to the podium one by one. As the recipients approached the podium, their condition was outlined as they received a Brave Heart crystal plaque award from Carol and Josef, which was accompanied by a photo shoot and much applause and appreciation by the audience. After being presented with their awards, they were then presented with a gift from the Brave Hearts foundation by Newcastle United legend and former captain Bob Moncur. There were some great presents, such as Xboxes and iPads. Joseph was presented with three enormous boxes of Legos, including Nexo Knights and Simpsons, with which he was thrilled and delighted.

The Race family has handled this difficult situation with great fortitude, and along with the members of the Carlisle Branch and the Preston England Stake, who continue to fast and pray for Joseph and the family, they are looking forward to the day when Joseph gets the 'all clear.' ■

Seminary at the Chapel on the Bridge, St Ives

By Shane Cryer

Within the boundaries of the Ramsey Ward, Cambridgeshire, lies the town of St Ives and one of the finest examples of a toll chapel in the world. The Chapel of St Ledger, also known as the Chapel on the Bridge, was developed by the monks of Ramsey Abbey, who had built the town's first bridge, a wooden structure, in 1107. In 1414, it was decided to replace this timber bridge with a stone construction and add a toll chapel dedicated to St Leger. Monks from the nearby Ramsey Abbey would stay for several days, in shifts, and host travellers and worshippers, as well as collect their tolls.

This unusual 15th-century chapel, sitting squarely in the middle of the River Ouse, is now managed by the Norris Museum in St Ives, who kindly gave

permission for the Ramsey Ward to hold a seminary lesson in the chapel itself.

Sister Ann Chambers, seminary teacher, shared her special teaching experience: "I love teaching the youth in the Ramsey Ward every day, but it was especially fun to teach them in this historic little chapel on the bridge. I learned that hundreds of years ago, travellers would stop off at the church to receive a blessing before embarking on their long journeys. I hope that the students felt the blessings of seminary as we discussed the importance of good friends, and how to acquire spiritual knowledge, as they embark on their journey through life.

"It was especially meaningful to me that one of my good friends, who lives in St Ives, and her daughter wanted to come and hear me teach

here. I believe they felt the Spirit, and they graciously accepted a copy of the Book of Mormon that day.

"I also loved that the sun went down during the class and we could really feel how it was to be in church in the Middle Ages, when there was no heat and only candlelight in the chapel. I am full of admiration for the people who lived hundreds of years ago and who did all that they could to be faithful to the knowledge that they had of Jesus Christ. I hope that we can be as faithful to the knowledge that we have of the restored Church of Jesus Christ on the earth today. I love the gospel and the blessings that we receive as seminary teachers."

This will be a memorable seminary lesson that the students will remember fondly.

"It was so great to hear the gospel taught in such an amazing chapel," said Kirsten Cryer of the Ramsey Ward, aged 17. "I've walked over the bridge several times, passing the little entrance door, but didn't realise the significance of this small but beautiful place of worship. We all felt the Spirit as Sister Chambers taught us in this special little church."

Following the seminary meeting, the youth of both the Ramsey and Huntingdon Wards (Northampton England Stake) were invited to attend an education evening in the newly



Seminary students inside the medieval chapel on the bridge

SHANE CRYER

refurbished Norris Museum near the bridge. Here they were given a lecture on the abundance of local fossils found in the East Anglian fens and a chance to explore the new historical exhibits explaining the history of St Ives and surrounding towns, including Ramsey and Huntingdon.

“It was wonderful to see how engaged the youth group from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were with the gallery activities,” said Hannah Vandridge, learning and outreach officer for the museum. “After handling some Jurassic fossils, they also had a go at making their

own fossils out of clay. Their attention to detail was fantastic—the result was some beautiful creations! I’m glad they all enjoyed their evening!” ■

Huddersfield Stake Artwork for Calderdale Royal Hospital

By Kuldip Flynn

At the Huddersfield Stake Primary Fun Day, children made a collage to display at Calderdale Royal Hospital in Halifax entitled ‘Rainbow Hands.’ The children traced their hands onto coloured paper, cut out the paper hands and assembled them in the form of a rainbow, which was then presented to Becki Taylor, play specialist, at the hospital.

Calderdale Royal Hospital provides elective and emergency treatment for children from birth to 18 years old.

Stake Primary president Emma Stephenson commented, “Huddersfield stake has been blessed by taking part in a community project for one of our local hospitals. Our wonderful Primary children have been fully involved right from taking part in the fun day to two children presenting the collage to the children’s ward. We hope the sick children in the community attending



Huddersfield Primary children and leaders with the rainbow hands collage

Calderdale Royal Hospital would be uplifted by seeing our eye-catching picture, taking their minds off a little of why they were attending.”

Becki informed everyone that toys and other equipment which the children at the hospital play with are all donated by parents. The Primary decided to help further and members of the Huddersfield stake donated approved equipment, such as wooden and plastic toys, books and art material for future use. ■

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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