

# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Receiving Spiritual Guidance from the Lord Jesus Christ

By Elder Paul V. Johnson, United States  
Europe Area President



Elder Paul V. Johnson

Have you ever been in a challenging situation and felt you needed guidance from the Lord? He knows you and makes

guidance available when it will be most helpful. We can increase our chances to sense and understand His guidance.

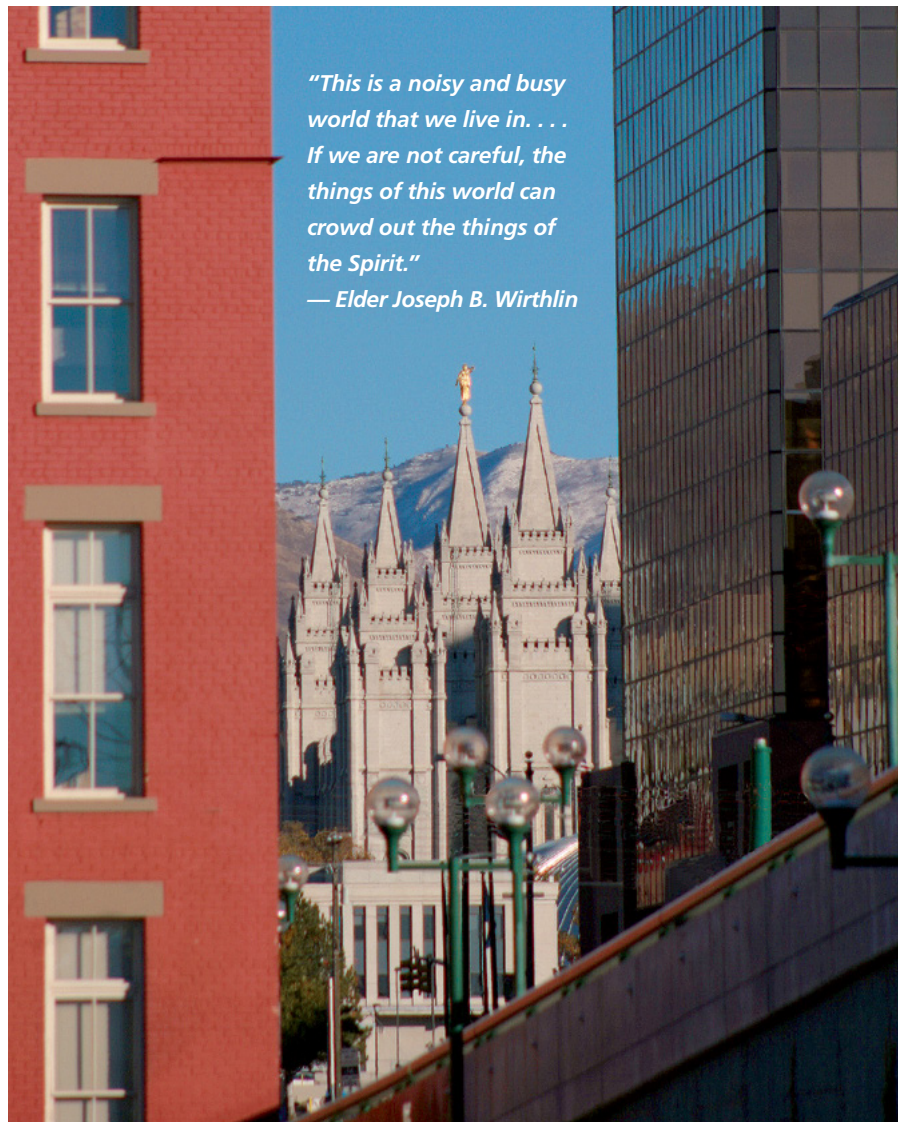
We have guidance available to us through many means. We have access to the holy scriptures and the words of living prophets and apostles. We receive guidance from other leaders and those close to us. Guidance can also come by dreams, visions or visitations, but most of the direct inspiration we receive comes through the still, small voice of the Spirit. The Lord said: “I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost. . . . Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation.”<sup>1</sup> Thoughts come to our minds and feelings to our hearts. The Spirit can communicate to us through thoughts and feelings. If we are not careful, we may miss this type of communication.

President Boyd K. Packer taught:

“The Spirit does not get our attention by shouting or shaking us with a heavy hand. Rather it whispers. It caresses so gently that if we are preoccupied we may not feel it at all. . . .

“Occasionally it will press just firmly enough for us to pay heed. But most of the time, if we do not heed the gentle feeling, the Spirit will withdraw and wait until we come seeking and listening.”<sup>2</sup>

If the inspiration from the Spirit generally comes through quiet



thoughts and gentle feelings, how can we increase our ability to recognize this inspiration? If someone were whispering to us and we were struggling to hear them, we would naturally try to diminish other noise that interfered with the whispering and also try to get closer to the person whispering to us.

There are things in our lives that create spiritual “noise” and can interfere with our ability to understand or even sense inspiration from the Spirit. Much of the media available today is not uplifting and can create spiritual noise in our lives. We can also be so consumed by social media and be so focused on our digital devices that we may miss quiet time away from the noise of the world that helps us sense the inspiration from the Lord. Sin creates spiritual noise in our lives. Repentance, proper Sabbath day worship, and finding quiet time to study the gospel, ponder and pray bring us closer to the Lord and quiet the noise of the world. This heightens our ability to sense and understand thoughts and feelings from the Holy Ghost.

We should be careful not to try to force or insist on guidance from the Lord in everything. Elder Dallin H. Oaks taught that “a desire to be led by the Lord is a strength, but it needs to be accompanied by an understanding that our Heavenly Father leaves many decisions for our personal choices.

Personal decision making is one of the sources of the growth we are meant to experience in mortality. . . .

“We should study things out in our minds, using the reasoning powers our Creator has placed within us. Then we should pray for guidance and act upon it if we receive it. If we do not receive guidance, we should act upon our best judgement. Persons who persist in seeking revelatory guidance on subjects on which the Lord has not chosen to direct us

may concoct an answer out of their own fantasy or bias, or they may even receive an answer through the medium of false revelation.”<sup>3</sup>

As we live our lives according to our covenants and find ways to mute the worldly noise around us, we can more easily receive guidance from the Lord when he offers it. ■

#### NOTES

1. Doctrine and Covenants 8:2–3.
2. Boyd K. Packer, in *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004), 96.
3. Dallin H. Oaks, “Our Strengths Can Become Our Downfall,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1994, 13–14.

#### LOCAL NEWS

## Archbishop Meets Church Members

By Mark David Cosens

Extended conversations about religion and beliefs were discussed with Church representatives and an archbishop from York.

York Anglican archbishop Dr. John Sentamu addressed LDS members within the York Interfaith Group in early March this year.

The archbishop remarked to organizer of the evening Brother Mark Cosens, Leeds, that he remembered an occasion 10 years previously when Mark had shared the Book of Mormon and discussed it with the archbishop on the way to the post

office in his village near York.

President Bill Kimberling of the York England Stake presidency shared Leviticus 19:33–34 with the archbishop and others from the Church, and then the archbishop shared a few words.

During the archbishop’s remarks in York, followed by an open question-and-answer session, he shared his experience of love and acceptance within his own childhood home in Uganda, which he shared with a Muslim foster brother and a Muslim foster sister.



PRESIDENT BILL KIMBERLING

*From left to right are Daryoush Mazloum (Baha'i), chair of York Interfaith Group; the archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu (Anglican), Primate of England and Metropolitan, member of the House of Lords and Privy Councillor; Dr. Reverend Michael Chester (Methodist); and Mark Cosens.*

Expressing respect for the religious freedom of others, the archbishop encouraged Christians not to be afraid to speak boldly about their faith and to learn about other religions. Sadly, he said, “religious illiteracy is widespread,” concluding that better religious education is needed.

Observing that sharing a meal together is “a holy thing to do,” the archbishop spoke positively about coming and standing together.

Otherwise, he said, “we can make false assumptions about each other.”

Taking up a strong inter-religious theme, he shared his belief that all are made in God’s image and likeness and that we ought to be able to look into the faces of others and see them as our brothers and sisters.

The archbishop is known as Primate of England and Metropolitan and is a member of the House of Lords and a Privy Councillor.

From 1997 to 1999, he was adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Inquiry and chaired the Damilola Taylor Murder Review in 2002. He also chaired the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme from 2001 to November 2013, supported and advised workers affected by the closure of the Rover car plant in Birmingham and campaigned against guns, knives, drugs and gangs throughout the Midlands after the killings of Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare. ■



# Interfaith Evening

By Carole Sneddon

The Dalkeith Ward in the Edinburgh Scotland Stake celebrated International Women's Day on March 6th with an interfaith evening at the Dalkeith LDS church.

Opening the evening, Marianne Neilson, stake Relief Society president, welcomed everyone warmly, and the event began with a feeling of unity as all were invited to sing "As Sisters in Zion," which refers to the work of comforting and nurturing that so many women find fulfilment in.

The topic for the evening being "Mothering, Nurturing," Sister Catherine, Mother Superior at Bonnyrigg's Nazareth House, spoke first about the nurturing work that the Sisters of Nazareth House perform and the history of the organisation.

Nichola Duffy, a mother of four and a member of The Church of Jesus



CAROLE SNEDDON

*Back, left to right: Farhana Alvi, Sister Catherine Walsh, Lynne Barty, Elizabeth Macaulay, Nichola Duffy. Front, left to right: Rebekah Sneddon, Millie and Emelia Duffy, Lydia Sneddon.*

Christ of Latter-day Saints, spoke next, referring to her own mother and how she was taught to turn to God with her questions. She mentioned the complexity of mothering multiple children, as each one requires a unique approach.

Readings from Pagan, Sikh and LDS authors were then given by Rebekah and Lydia Sneddon and by Millie and Emelia Duffy, LDS young women. One of the readings was from Sheri L. Dew: "Few of us will reach our potential without the nurturing of both the mother who bore us and the mothers who bear with us."<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Macaulay, head of the Women's Guild at the Church of Scotland Newbattle Parish, then spoke about the importance of teaching children proper boundaries and respect. She also discussed the significance of nurturing every relationship and every person, sharing some inspiring personal experiences which illustrated the impact that a nurturing approach can have.

Lynne Barty, a Quaker, then spoke about the demands that parenting places on us and the need for nurturing ourselves with quiet time as well as nurturing others. She finished by reading Emily Dickinson's poem "If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking."

The final speaker was Farhana Alvi, a Shia Muslim with three children, who spoke with warmth and humour about mothering and explained the

deep respect for mothers that is taught in the Muslim faith.

The evening ended with an opportunity to mingle and share refreshments. The whole evening was distinguished by an atmosphere of warmth and inclusion, and this was increased as people who had come as strangers spent time connecting with each other and chatting further about the topic. Local Councillors Colin Cassidy and Kenneth Baird also attended and remarked that

it was inspiring to attend events such as this. Carole Sneddon, who coordinated the event, reflected, "It was a very worthwhile evening, and the effort the speakers put in to share a meaningful message with us ensured that we all left feeling uplifted and inspired and knowing more about the common themes of love within each of our faiths." ■

#### NOTE

1. Sheri L. Dew, "Are We Not All Mothers?" *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 97.

## Church Members Honoured at Royal British Legion Awards Night

By Frank Blease

An award ceremony for the Royal British Legion was held on Jan 26, 2018, where the Church as well as some of its members were thanked.

Preston Ward members Roger Kendle and Margaret Robey attended the awards night. They said, "We were able to accept a certificate in recognition of the tremendous support given to the Leyland Branch of the Royal British Legion by the South Ribble and Preston Wards both in terms of cash raised and volunteer time given. Church volunteers were praised throughout the night for their very significant contributions."

The evening recorded the contributions made by the Church over the

past five years. The contributions were given under the leadership of Bishop Richard Cooper, who was thanked throughout the evening.

In his previous calling as bishop, Brother Cooper organised the 2013/2014 Leyland Poppy Appeal at short notice, and it led to almost doubling the previous year's total. He further increased the total in the 2014/2015 campaign and left a legacy which has helped greatly in generating £120,500.00 in the five-year period for the Leyland Poppy Appeal.

This tradition established by Brother Cooper continues today, with many members enthusiastically

supporting the annual campaign during the Poppy Appeal.

Due to being unwell, Brother Richard Cooper was unable to attend the award night, but his wife, Sylvia, commented, “Richard would have loved to have been there, I know, but his frail and debilitating health renders him housebound. Whilst it was a lot of work, I know he loved doing it and was at times quite overwhelmed at the level of support from South Ribble and Preston Ward.” ■



*Richard Cooper holding the Royal British Legion award certificate.*

## Future Brazilian Church Leader Finds the Gospel and Meets His Wife in Ireland

By John Connolly

**B**runo Da Silva and Bruna Kayser met and became eternal companions after each travelled over 6,000 miles to Ireland from the same city in Brazil.

Back in the summer of 2010, 23-year-old Bruno Da Silva arrived for a one-year stay in Dublin to study, work and improve his English language skills. He was from the city of Novo Hamburgo, well known locally as the capital of footwear and shoes in Brazil and with a population of around a quarter of a million.

He spent his first fortnight in Ireland with a host family, and sometime later, after he had moved into his own apartment, he followed up on accepting a previous invitation from the family to attend their church. When he was there, they introduced him to, in his own words, a “gorgeous young woman” who turned out to be Bruna Kayser (“Bruna” is the feminine form of “Bruno”). By coincidence and also to his astonishment, she too was from Novo Hamburgo.

Bruna told him that she had only arrived the previous Wednesday and that she had likewise accepted an invitation to attend church with her host family. However, she also informed Bruno that at home in Brazil, she went

to what she described as the restored Church of Christ and was planning to find out where they met in Dublin.

So it was that in early October, Bruno found himself watching general conference with Bruna. However, it did not particularly stir him. In retrospect, he feels that he was perhaps not as humble as he might have been.

But Bruna persisted, and on November 21 of that year, she presented him with the Book of Mormon. She advised him that before he started reading, he should pray to the Lord to discover if it was true. She particularly emphasised the promise made in Moroni 10:4–7. In order to please her, he took the book, but just put it in a cupboard.

But then on the following day, working as a door-to-door salesman, Bruno spoke with a lady named Heather who told him she was unable to buy his product but that instead she had a gift for him. He stood for two long minutes on the doorstep—the early winter of 2010 was very severe—before she returned with a tiny copy of the Book of Mormon, which she gave to him with the words, “Son, when you read it, pray and ponder it in your heart. Your life will change forever.”



He was totally surprised and called Bruna instantly. And then she replied, "It's the same book I gave you yesterday. I think you're supposed to read it, then! The Lord always prepares a way to realise things."

Bruno found himself unable to work further that day because he felt an overwhelming desire to start reading the Book of Mormon.

Bruno started meeting with the missionaries shortly afterward and was baptised on 12 March 2011. He returned home to Brazil not long afterward, but not before helping the same missionaries, Sisters Steele and Melanie Patterson, teach two other people who were subsequently baptised themselves. Furthermore, exactly two weeks before his departure from Ireland, he received the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Bruno and Bruna were married on 15 December 2012, and in 2016, they were blessed with their first child, Lisa.

Today Bruno serves as a counsellor in the presidency of the 3,000-strong Novo Hamburgo Brazil Stake.

He has a firm testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. From his own experience, he realises the importance of opening our hearts to the voice of the Lord. He is grateful to the members in Dublin (particularly Heather), the sister missionaries, three special senior couples (the Cards, Hancocks and Geilmanns), and also Pdraig Brophy, who performed his baptism.

He quotes our late, beloved President Thomas S. Monson that we must see others "as they can become."<sup>1</sup> In his own case, he feels fortunate that his now loving wife saw this in him

several years ago and that, as a result, they are now an eternal family. ■

**NOTE**

1. Thomas S. Monson, "See Others as They May Become," *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 70.

## Eight-Year-Old Banbury Girl Takes First Steps Towards Becoming a Teacher

By Des Waddington

**K**ayla H., an eight-year-old girl who lives in Banbury, Oxfordshire, has the ambition of becoming a teacher when she is older. Kayla took the

opportunity to develop some of the skills that she will need by organising a special family home evening with the theme "Love at Home."



*Kayla H. holding some of her teaching aids*

DES WADDINGTON

This family home evening was special for her family, as Kayla organised and delivered the entire event, including assigning prayers and a spiritual thought. The planning was done over a period of about two weeks. Kayla said, "I really enjoyed doing this. I went to see my grandma, and she told me lots of interesting stories about family members, and I made a lot of notes to share with my family. Some of my ancestors were steam train drivers, and others were farmers. The thing that I liked the best of all was finding out about my dad when he was younger."

The evening included the singing of a special song called "Families Can Be Together Forever," and Kayla taught a brief lesson about the importance of keeping family records. She also showed her family how to enter names into a family tree that she had set up on FamilySearch.org.

For Kayla's younger siblings, one of the highlights of the evening was playing Deal or No Deal. In the game that they played they "won" \$121,149.

Kayla used her baking skills to prepare a snack for the family. She made chocolate brownies, which all the family loved. She used a recipe given by her mother, which was in keeping with the theme of the evening.

Kayla's family is convinced that she is already developing many of the skills that she will need to become an excellent teacher. ■

## Editors' Note

The editors, **Jason Watling** and **Chelsea Craven**, invite all news stories, articles and photographs to be sent to [ukiensign@ldschurch.org](mailto: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 author, is required for the Church to use the article.

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