

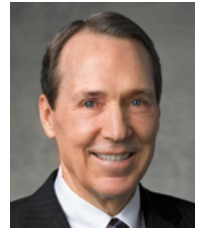
# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### The Blessings of the Law of Tithing

Elder Gary B. Sabin

Europe Area President



Elder  
Gary B. Sabin

Many years ago, as a stake president, President Gordon B. Hinckley interviewed a man for a temple recommend. When President Hinckley asked the man if he was paying an honest tithe, the man candidly replied that he did not because he had too many debts. President Hinckley felt impressed to tell him that he would not be able to pay off his debts until he paid tithing.

He later told President Hinckley that in the few years that followed, no matter how hard he tried, he could not manage to reduce his debt. Finally, he and his wife concluded that they would try the promise of the Lord. The man reported, "Somehow in a way we can't quite understand, the Lord has blessed us. We have not missed that which we have given to him, and for the first time in many years we are reducing our debt." He and his wife were finally able to live within their means but more importantly, they were able to feel the peace from knowing they were worthily keeping their commitment to the Lord.<sup>1</sup>

As a new bishop, I, too, had an experience with counselling a member concerning tithing. A recent convert approached me with a serious dilemma: he did not have enough money to pay his income taxes and his tithing. I simply asked, "Do you believe the gospel is true?" He affirmed that he did and then quickly arrived at the conclusion that his acknowledged testimony was his answer. A few

weeks later he approached me again to report that his accountant had made an error in preparing his taxes by forgetting to take advantage of income averaging. His tax bill was reduced in excess of the tithing he had paid. I believe that this good brother's faith moved heaven to prompt his accountant with this new idea, an illumination which I believe would not have happened otherwise.

We pay tithing with faith more than with money. God is more interested in our obedience and the impact it has on our souls when we declare an honest tithe, than in the amount we pay. It shows that we trust God and His promises. We cannot be like the man who sat in front of the fire and said, "Give me heat and I will give you wood." Moroni taught, "Ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith."<sup>2</sup>

The gospel does not follow the logic of man. Consider: "the last shall be first, and the first last,"<sup>3</sup> "the weak shall confound the wise,"<sup>4</sup> "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it,"<sup>5</sup> and, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."<sup>6</sup> Nowhere is this spiritual irony more evident than in regard to the law of tithing because we truly have more when we give more. This is because man's ways are not God's ways, and God is at the helm.

Tithing is never a burden, but rather a blessing as we are always better with the Lord as our partner versus going it alone. Tithing unlocks spiritual confidence that makes possible a

host of other blessings such as spiritual sensitivity, gratitude, and charity. In summary, obedience to the law of tithing provides temporal protection and spiritual peace as our confidence before God waxes strong.<sup>7</sup>

I would also add that, in my experience, paying a generous fast offering likewise results in wonderful blessings. We would be well served to be generous in our effort to help those less fortunate and the Lord will be generous with us.

God is anxious to help us in all aspects of our lives if we will obey His commandments, exercise faith, and trust in His promised blessings. ■

#### NOTES

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Tithing: An Opportunity to Prove Our Faithfulness," *Ensign*, May 1982, 40-41.
2. Ether 12:6.
3. Matthew 20:16.
4. See Doctrine and Covenants 133:58.
5. Matthew 10:39.
6. Acts 20:35.
7. See Doctrine and Covenants 121:45.



## UK and Ireland Church history

By Arnold Jones

In a recent newsletter from the Europe Area Office the Church historian and recorder, Elder Steven E. Snow was quoted as saying:

“To me, Church history is one of the most exciting aspects of the gospel. I gain strength from what others have done that have gone before me.

While I might not be asked to pull a handcart across the plains, we all figuratively pull our own handcarts in life. We all have trials and challenges to deal with that are unique to us and sometimes very difficult. I love the examples of our forefathers, our pioneers who went before and gave so much to establish the gospel and raise their families in the Church. Their devotion, courage, and sacrifice help me believe I too can do hard things. Their example helps me want to do better.”

Most of the first missionaries sent to Britain, including the early apostles, had been looking for something better even though they believed in God and Jesus Christ. They had not been happy with the Christian churches around them; they felt principles and ordinances were missing that had once existed in the Church in the meridian of time.

In Great Britain, Queen Victoria reigned; the class system reflected the wide gap between rich and poor;



**Elder Steven E. Snow**

the industrial revolution had changed working conditions. Of the six million men that then lived in Britain, only 850,000 could vote. The poor economic conditions contributed to the emigration of thousands. In 1830, 55,000 people left Britain. By the late 1840s and early 1850s the annual figure was as high as 250,000 at times. This was the setting for introducing the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

The first mission to England, led by the Apostle Heber C. Kimball, began in July 1837. By the time he returned to America in April 1838, 1,500 people had been baptised into the Church. He left a mission presidency of Joseph Fielding, Willard Richards, and William Clayton.

Elder Kimball returned to Britain in 1840 with others. There were nine apostles who served in Britain that year: Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, and Willard Richards. Not only was missionary work established in the four countries that then constituted the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, but the Quorum of the Twelve also learned their duty in the missionary field and became united.

These missions not only changed the lives of those who embraced the gospel in those early days, but their effect also reaches to our present days. This is part of *our* heritage, that encourages us to gain spiritual strength and improve our lives. ■

## Osmond brothers uplift Sunderland fireside

By John Deacon

Jay and Merrill Osmond, accompanied by their wives, Karen and Mary, visited the Sunderland Stake centre during an emotional and sensitive time for them. Eight days prior to the scheduled fireside, Merrill and Mary had learnt that their son Troy had tragically lost his life. This led to an emotional and spiritual evening.

With hundreds in attendance, many of whom were nonmembers, President John Deacon conducted the fireside and introduced the Osmonds.

Jay addressed the congregation with his feelings about the Saviour and his experiences with Walt Disney, Elvis Presley, and his personal journey of faith.

Merrill followed, expressing his appreciation of the plan of salvation and his love for his son Troy. He spoke of an earlier conversation he'd had with Troy, who expressed his desire to come to England to be with his father. He now felt that Troy was present in spirit. Merrill also talked about his meeting with the Queen, and his love for those present.

A question-and-answer session followed. One nonmember declared himself to be “not religious” and had never prayed. He had met Jay and Merrill at their concert the previous night and had told them how a relative of his had passed away that day. They had said they would pray for him and



*Jay and Merrill Osmond*

his family. He tearfully declared his gratitude for the prayers offered on his behalf that he had felt. They confirmed they had been praying for him.

President Deacon concluded the evening by thanking the Osmonds for their faith and devotion, and for attending the fireside. He also talked about the name of the Church and its importance. He added that his welcome at the beginning of the fireside was an open and extended one; in times of questioning, loneliness, doubt or grief, the Church was available to all regardless of the faith, or lack of it, in their lives.

Many lingered after the close of the fireside to discuss further questions with full-time missionaries and to express how much they enjoyed the evening and the good feelings present.

Merrill was also overwhelmed by meeting a missionary companion of his son Troy. Graeme Poulton from the Sunderland Stake had served with Troy in London and shared some loving memories.

One of those attending, Elaine, said: "I'm not sure what I was expecting at the fireside, but it was heart-warming for Jay and Merrill to come and speak the way they did. I'm not a Church-going person but do believe if you want to, you can pray anywhere you want and feel happy to do that. In this busy world in which we live,

it's reassuring that some people are happy to open up their hearts and speak about the way they feel and what they believe in. I'm glad I came along with my sister; the night went well, and I was very happy to see

Merrill and Jay close up and to hear them speak so honestly. I took note of the friendly people we met. It takes nothing to be nice, polite and honest, things that are sadly in demise at the present time." ■

## Elder Gary B. Sabin Addresses Diplomats in London

18 June 2019

Elder Gary B. Sabin of the Europe Area Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stood before ambassadors, high commissioners and senior diplomats gathered from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries to speak on Latter-day Saint Charities. The event featured a brief reception followed by a luncheon at the London BYU Centre. His Excellency Ivan Romero, the ambassador of Honduras, dean of the Latin American countries, and host of the

event, started the meeting by welcoming his peers. "I want everyone in this room to understand that Latter-day Saint Charities is actively engaged in each of our countries to bring relief to the poor and the needy." Then looking to Elder Sabin he said, "Elder Sabin, on behalf of my country and on behalf of all those gathered here today, we want to sincerely thank you for all your Church does." Support for the event was also provided by Dr Kevin Isaac, high commissioner to







*Elder Sabin greets the Ambassador of Cuba, Her Excellency Mrs Teresita De Jesus Vicente. Looking on is His Excellency Ivan Romero, the Ambassador of Honduras.*



the United Kingdom for St. Kitts and Nevis, and chairman of the CARICOM London caucus (CARICOM being an organisation of fifteen Caribbean nations and dependencies).

Elder Sabin helped the audience understand that handouts are not sustainable, and that when humanitarian aid is administered properly, it can promote dignity and self-reliance. He gave personal examples of his and Sister Sabin's work in India in the leper colonies, where lepers who had received treatment, in turn provided assistance to other lepers. He talked about how micro loans help unemployed people create incomes.

Elder Sabin quoted several scriptures, including Psalm 82:3-4, "Defend the poor and the fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked." He then continued to explain that "We are all the children of Heavenly parents. We are all brothers and sisters."

In his remarks, Elder Sabin also quoted government and ecclesiastical leader Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), "The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then

change their environment. The world would shape human behaviour, but Christ can change human nature."<sup>1</sup>

Elder Sabin concluded by saying, "This improves society's productivity, raises the standard of living and the quality of life, lowers the crime rate, increases education and makes better and more prosperous citizens."

The luncheon and similar diplomatic receptions are hosted by Elder and Sister Dransfield from the

Church Communication Department in London as part of the Church's Ambassador Outreach Programme. By building friendships with ambassadors and high commissioners, the Church has been able to create important relationships with the nations of the world. This is the case with the Latin American and Caribbean nations. ■

**NOTE**

1. *Teachings of President of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson* [2014], 77–78.

## Teen Discovers Joy in Family History and Temple Work

By Teresa Tebbs Dewey

Jacob Poxon's experience with family history work started a few years ago when he was fifteen, working on his Duke of Edinburgh award. Some of the award requirements include participating in a physical activity, a skill-learning activity, and a volunteering activity at least once a week for three months.

Jacob wanted his skill-learning activity to be one that he could use to bless others, and his mother suggested family history.

"Genealogical research was perfect because I could learn to do something vital for others who have gone

before, and I could use it later in life," Jacob said.

Jacob was able to do his research at the family history centre in his Wylde Green Ward meetinghouse in the Lichfield England Stake.

"I aimed to spend two hours searching for my ancestors each Saturday, and after learning how to do the research, it blessed my life greatly. I felt the pull of family history only getting stronger as I invested time in uncovering more about my ancestors' lives," he explained.

He got help along the way. Sister Keri Rubery, the centre director,

helped him link his FamilySearch account to records of his deceased ancestors. Brother David and Sister Celia Hayes helped him learn how to use other genealogy websites to research his ancestry.

“It was surprisingly easy to learn how to use the multiple websites; most of my learning was in developing the skills to build on my family tree accurately using reliable sources,” Jacob said.

He especially likes to use the findmypast.co.uk website because it makes the actual scanned records very easy to see. Also, a website called freebmd.org.uk (for registered births, marriages and deaths), often provided names which can't be found elsewhere.

“I love FamilySearch.org (the Church's genealogy website). Because

it is so well integrated with the temple, it makes it easy to find out which ancestors need to have their ordinances done,” Jacob said. “For me, temple work was probably the biggest motivation for doing family history. By showing me the status of their ordinances, FamilySearch.org always reminded me why I was working to find my ancestors.”

“One of the most rewarding experiences of my life was being able to witness proxy baptisms of people whose names I had found during those Saturday mornings spent in the family history centre. I have found through personal experience that genealogy is something special that connects us to our family roots in the temple,” said Jacob.

Elder Jacob Poxon is currently serving as a missionary in the Australia Perth Mission. “As a missionary, I now advocate it as a great way to spend time, and I know that it is a special work to be involved with,” he said. “And yes! I definitely see myself doing family history work again after my mission. It's the same work as missionary work anyway, except the people my companion and I focus on right now are still alive!”

Discovering one's ancestors can be rewarding at any age.

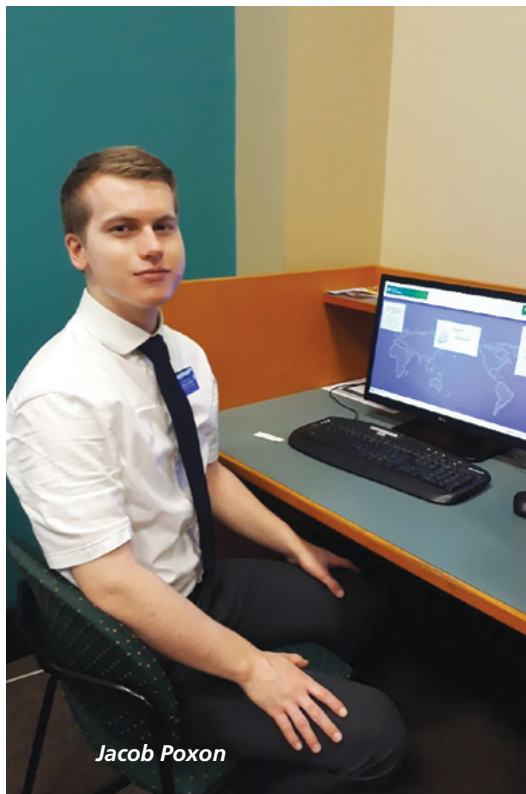
“To youth getting started with family history, I would say learn to love your dead,” Jacob said. “They were real people and for the most part, they lived and died without much comfort or rest. Their blood is your blood, and it can be really exciting to learn about them, because in a way you learn about yourself in the process.” ■



Donny Osmond is to speak at RootsTech London. RootsTech, the world's largest genealogy conference, is coming to London and is pleased to announce Donny Osmond as a featured speaker. The 2019 conference will be held at ExCeL London from 24 to 26 October. He will address RootsTech attendees on Saturday, 26 October at 11 am.

“I'm already looking forward to RootsTech London,” said Donny. “The United Kingdom is like a second home to me. Much of my own ancestry is British, so I feel a particular affinity to this country and its people. I've enjoyed performing in the UK throughout my career. Family and family stories are also very important to me. I'm excited to speak about my heritage at this exciting event.” ■

Register today at [RootsTech.org/london](https://RootsTech.org/london).



Jacob Poxon



## Tendring Youth Cleaning up

By Jason Watling

For their annual service project the youth of the Tendring Branch in Ipswich decided they'd work in collaboration with the local Weeley residents' association.

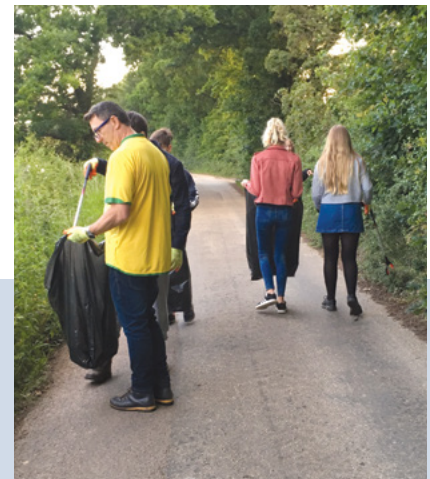
This meant they would assist in keeping the area clean and clear of rubbish in and around the community where their chapel is situated. They wanted to help clean the area once a month throughout summer on a Tuesday evening with the

help of the branch and its youth leaders, as part of a Helping Hands initiative.

They started in June 2019 by scouring the walkways alongside the local railway station. Morale was high and fun was had by all; some of the youth got so caught up in the work that the leaders couldn't keep up. In just one evening, they managed to produce five bags full of rubbish, which people had previously

dropped along the footpath.

Branch President Michele Bortoli said that he wanted the youth to get connected to their Heavenly Father's creation, to appreciate the beauty of the area around them, to serve in the community, and hopefully teach them some life skills along the way. ■



## Institute Helped Me Feel the Spirit

Shu Ting-Wei

Can you remember the feelings when someone sincerely shares their thoughts and experiences in institute? Have you been touched by such stories?

I wasn't yet baptised, and I wanted to know whether the Holy Ghost existed.

Institute was taking place at a member's home, and everyone was

sitting together and sharing their stories about Heavenly Father. I felt warm, and part of a big, sweet family.

I cannot forget how my heart was touched by an institute teacher's story. Although my English was not good enough to understand all the details, my feelings were very strong. Afterwards, I went up to him and

said, "I don't know why, but I feel as though there is a flame in my heart." I was crying but smiling while talking to him. He said, "This is how you can feel the Holy Ghost." I felt warmth, love and safety.

I was usually so rational, so it was hard for me to believe in something that I couldn't see. But studying in institute has been a good way for me to strengthen my faith. Alma 32 compares faith to a seed. It must be planted and nourished. The more I

learn, the more I believe in Heavenly Father.

In institute I have also learned about, and believe in, repentance. Like all humans, I have made many mistakes. Fortunately, each person who turns to God with genuine repentance and faith will be saved, and He will help take away the pain. The Book of Mormon is true. Faith is a hope in something that is not seen but is true. My feelings and thoughts turn to the lyrics of a song I know:

*Step into the dark  
And don't be afraid.  
Every star in the heavens  
Is lighting your way.*

*If you feel like you're lost  
You're not alone.*

*Just follow his footsteps  
And He'll lead you home.<sup>1</sup> ■*

**NOTE**

1. Nik Day, "Footsteps," 2019 Mutual theme album, youth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

## Chorley Stake Donates Its 'Sunday Best'

Marie Hunt

A routine conversation between recently returned missionary Elder Ronnie Kyambadde and a member of a ward in which he had served led to a remarkable opportunity for service and ministering across the miles.

Brother Paul Simcock, of the Burnley Ward in the Chorley Stake, and Ronnie kept in touch after Ronnie returned home to Uganda. During one of their conversations Paul felt impressed to ask Ronnie about his home ward and soon learned that some members were not attending church because they felt that they didn't have "respectable clothing".

With the approval of the Chorley Stake presidency, Brother and Sister Simcock along with Brother Haddock, launched a stakewide appeal for new or 'as new' Sunday best clothing for all ages. The response from across the stake was immediate and enthusiastic.

The Burnley Ward took the lead collecting, sorting and packing the donated clothing. The Rossendale Valley Relief Society joined sisters in Burnley sewing feminine hygiene

products to send with the clothing. One sister made dresses for younger girls and knitted small teddy bears to put in the pocket of each dress she made. "When I found out I was really moved" said Brother Simcock.

Over 1,000 items were packed and shipped with the support of Bishop Stewart Butler, the owner of a local shipping company.

Additional funds were raised by local members to cover import duty imposed at the last-minute, only to find that the duty had been covered by the shipping company. Rather than return the additional funds, Brother



**Shu Ting-Wei with Sister and Elder McFadden at Chorley institute**



Simcock felt prompted to ask Ronnie to buy food and give it to the bishop to distribute to those in need.

Brother Simcock said, “Unknown to us there were people who had been praying hard because they had nothing to eat that day. When Bishop Maraka of the Mukono Ward gave the food to the needy, many shed tears and thanked Brother Simcock for answering their prayers”. ■

## Just Love Her

Cassandra Read

Words can't describe the joy and gratitude I feel from the gift that was my mission. I was called to serve as a sister missionary in the Alpine German-Speaking Mission. I was assigned to Switzerland. I remember opening my mission call and being so excited for the day when I'd start.

When you're serving voluntarily as a missionary, you learn so many things. I want to share my greatest lesson.

Early on my mission, I was called to train a new missionary, which both excited and daunted me; but excitement won out. My new companion, whom I refer to as Sister Green, was fantastic. She was full of life and energy and couldn't wait to get on with the work. As we started serving together, this excitement began to dim as she battled homesickness. Very quickly this wonderful sister missionary wanted to go home.

After trying for a few weeks, she told me her mind was made up. Her bags were packed, and she planned to call

the mission president in the morning.

At first, I panicked. I reflected on the joy I felt when we spoke to someone about the gospel. I yearned for her to have this experience. I knew in my heart she was going to make a difference, but I didn't know how to help her. I turned to the Lord in prayer and asked for guidance. These words came soft but clear, “Just love her.”

At the time, I was hoping for more than three words. But the Lord's counsel brought me back to my purpose as a companion. It was to love her, to support her, to work with her, and to testify with her. No matter what her decision, I would be there for her. I told Sister Green that I loved her and knew she had a purpose in Switzerland. She agreed to give it one more day.

We went out street-contacting in the morning and found people who wanted to hear our message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. In the afternoon, we visited friends and taught lessons. Sister Green made

a big difference as the Holy Ghost worked through her.

That night, my companion kept her bags unpacked, but only for one more day. We continued to serve and day by day her bags stayed empty as our hearts filled with the joy of service.

I soon realised that just as Sister Green's heart was changing, so was mine. I was learning to give myself to the work as the Saviour did, finding qualities of selflessness, and the understanding that while I couldn't control every situation or the attitudes of other people, I could choose how I reacted to them. Love was always the key.

The scriptures tell us, “Charity is the pure love of Christ” (Moroni 7:47) and “Perfect love casteth out fear” (1 John 4:18). The more that Sister Green and I worked together, the more I learned how Christ's unending and unfathomable love changes our hearts, heals our wounds, turns fear to peace, and even transforms homesickness to belonging. ■

## New *Ensign* Article Submission Website

By Chelsea Craven

We are introducing a new way to submit stories to be published in the *Ensign* United Kingdom inserts. This will make sharing your stories more fun and simple.

The website was created by Jason Watling after requests to make it easier to submit stories. On the home page, towards the bottom, are all the required forms that you need to download and then upload with your submission. This keeps everything in one place, and with one click, you can send all attachments to the editing team.

The *Ensign* UK inserts are for your stories shared in your own voice. Please use this tool to uplift each of our brothers and sisters in our faith within the UK.

We will post how-to videos to help you navigate through the website. The URL for the website is <http://ensignsubmissions.co.uk>. If you have questions, contact us through the LDS UK Facebook page ([facebook.com/ChurchOfJesusChristUK](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfJesusChristUK)) or by email at [UKIEnsign@ChurchofJesusChrist.org](mailto:UKIEnsign@ChurchofJesusChrist.org). ■