

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

To Bring a Friend to Him

Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Great Britain
Area Seventy



Elder Clifford T.
Herbertson

In the England London South Mission coordinating council meeting (where the stake presidents, mission president and Area Seventy counsel together), there is a tradition of beginning each meeting by watching a presentation filled with photographs of all the members baptised in the previous three months. Often the photographs have the new member dressed in white, standing with family members, missionaries, and the person who baptised them.

In a recent meeting, one photograph in particular caused me to stir! There, dressed in white and with his arm around another man, was a dear friend, Clive, that I recall standing in a similar photograph almost twenty years previously.

In 1998, a number of experiences had generated feelings of spiritual hunger in Clive. After receiving a copy of the Book of Mormon from a work colleague, he decided to cycle to the Slough Ward meetinghouse and attend church. He walked through the doors, keen to learn. As the bishop, I greeted Clive and was delighted to hear that he wanted to learn about the Church. Two missionaries were on hand, and with great eagerness they looked after their new friend. Following some difficult decisions and significant changes, Clive was baptised some weeks later and started a journey of faith and commitment

as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Many years on, now living in a different ward and different stake, Clive took an opportunity to discuss the Church with a work colleague. Following a number of conversations and feeling a strong impression, he presented a copy of the Book of Mormon (in which he had written his testimony) to his friend.

Some time passed and Clive was in his local ward when a presentation was made about the three components of the area plan: “Bring a Friend”, “Become Spiritually and Temporally Self-Reliant” and “Find an Ancestor”. As Clive sat there, his mind turned to his friend to whom he had given the Book of Mormon. He turned to his wife and said, “I have a friend that I can invite to church”.

Clive acted on this inspiration and telephoned his friend. He invited him to church, arranging to meet him in the car park beforehand. Sunday arrived and so did his friend, who enjoyed the services and felt very welcome. His friend was later introduced to the full-time missionaries, who taught him the discussions. Can you picture Clive’s great joy when a number of weeks later his friend asked him to baptise him? It was an invitation he happily accepted!

This was the photograph I saw that day that caused my heart to stir.

Jesus taught, “And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!”¹

Clive felt that joy because he followed the beckoning of our Area Presidency and invited his friend to come to church. Even though he had previously held numerous conversations about the gospel and given him a copy of the Book of Mormon—all wonderful things to do—the real joy came when he followed the prompting of the Spirit and extended that invitation. The invitation itself was so important and necessary; without it, his friend may never have attended church and ultimately may never have become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am convinced that the inspired invitation we have each been given—to bring a friend to Him—is one that we can all follow and apply in our lives. Clive’s example is one of many that testify to the joy that comes from extending invitations. I have both observed such examples and experienced them.

May we each seek inspiration to identify invitations we can extend to our friends. And may we have the faith and commitment to follow through and invite, that we may experience this same joy. ■

NOTE:

1. Doctrine and Covenants 18:15.

Maidstone Stake Conference

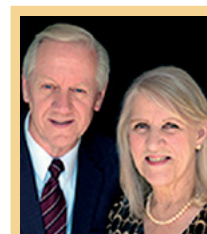
By Suzanne Urie

On Sunday 20th November members of the Maidstone England Stake met for their semiannual conference. Invited to the event were the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Derek Butler, and his wife, Mary, who seem to have a permanent place on the Maidstone chapel stand. Being sworn into office at the same time that President Stephen Baldock was called as the Maidstone stake president earlier this year, the Mayor and his wife have been to several past conferences, but this was their first as Mayor and Mayoress. Both now look forward to attending these conferences on a regular basis, despite their very busy schedule. Chris Woodward, a counsellor on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and his wife, Jenny, escorted them.

Two of the speakers on the Sunday session were the newly called London temple president, Michael Otterson, and his wife, Catherine. President Otterson recently retired from his position as

managing director of the Public Affairs Department of the Church.

Over 500 people were in attendance to hear uplifting messages from their recently called stake presidency,



IAN MCKENZIE

The new London England Temple president, Michael Otterson, with his wife, Catherine

President Stephen Baldock and counsellors President Leighton Bascom and President Adam Hawkins. ■

Left to right: President Adam Hawkins, 2nd counsellor in the Maidstone stake presidency; Brother Chris Woodward with his wife, Jenny; Mayoress Mary Butler; Mayor Derek Butler; President Stephen Baldock, president of the Maidstone stake; and President Leighton Bascom, 1st counsellor in the stake presidency.



WWW.LDS.ORG

Foyle Ward, Belfast Stake—50th Anniversary Celebrations

by Terry McKenna

The Foyle Ward of the Belfast Northern Ireland Stake on the Racecourse Road in Londonderry celebrated the 50th anniversary of its dedication on Sunday 6 November 2016. It was exactly 50 years to the day when,

in 1966, it became the first Latter-day Saint chapel dedicated in Ireland. The ground was broken in 1962 by Sandra Covey, wife of the then Irish Mission president, Stephen Covey. Although other LDS meetinghouses in Ireland

had finished construction ahead of the Londonderry building, the Foyle chapel was dedicated first.

Commenting on the celebrations, Robert Smyth, who joined the Church in the city in 1957 and was one of the early converts who donated labour from 1962 to 1966 to build the church, comments, “The building was originally scheduled to take just one year, but when this expanded to four, it tested the faith and commitment

HANNAH BERNAT



Members of the Foyle Ward at the 50th anniversary celebrations

of all of us who were around at that time. I cannot tell you what a blessing it was when it was finally finished.”

Guests at a one-hour commemoration service included the Deputy Mayor of Derry & Strabane District Council, Jim McKeever; Martina Anderson, Member of European Parliament; and Jim and Dessie O’Neill, principals of O’Neill Bros (main building contractors for both the original construction in 1966 and the refurbishment in 2001). In addition, a 25-minute video outlining basic Church beliefs and the history of the Church in the Foyle area was launched.

“When we started this, we didn’t know very much about the early days of the Church in this area,” reflected Bishop Tom McElhinney. “The earliest record we now have is of a Robert Frazier presiding in 1851 and of an hitherto unknown ancestor of my own, Rebecca Hammond from Newtown Cunningham. She joined the Church with her family on 1 December 1851 following the untimely death of her husband, Thomas McElhinney, and young son. Following some very difficult years, she eventually emigrated in 1862, remarried and was eventually laid to rest in Salt Lake City. Further, we found a Robert Baird, born in the city on 15 May 1815, who was with Brigham Young when he and his

party first entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1847.” These and other precious little vignettes are incorporated into the celebration DVD. ■

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Barbara Retz—an LDS Woman for Irish Independence

By John Connolly

Last year, 2016, marked the centenary of the “Easter Rising,” which led eventually to the establishment of the modern Irish state.

As part of the commemoration ceremonies, an event was held in Dublin, attended by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, and several other Irish luminaries, to honour “The Women of 1916”.

At least 300 women were actively involved in the struggle for Irish independence, and 77 of them were detained on Richmond Barracks in Dublin in the immediate aftermath. One of the 77 was 31-year-old Barbara Retz, and for many years very little was known about her in the public domain.

However, research in preparation for “The Women of 1916” identified Barbara Retz as having

been imprisoned for a brief period. Subsequent investigation led to the somewhat astonishing finding that she was a Latter-day Saint!

President Higgins issued an invitation for the Church to be represented at this celebratory occasion, and John Connolly, director of public affairs for Ireland, attended with his wife, Eileen.

Barbara Retz (née Böger) was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and she, along with her husband, George Retz, and her two brothers and their wives, all of them German, came to Dublin in 1904. All ten of the total group were Lutherans who read about the Church and requested the mission office in Preston to send literature. Subsequently, they asked for missionaries to come and baptise them. This group became

the founder members of a branch in Dublin. Whilst there had been a branch organised in the 1850s, severe opposition and the economic necessity of emigration meant that Church membership had dwindled dramatically during the ensuing years.

Many of them were pork butchers and had shops in the south inner city. Their positive influence on the development of the Church in Ireland both then and afterwards would be difficult to exaggerate.

Barbara and George Retz had not become UK subjects when her two brothers and their families did so in 1908. As a consequence, George was detained as an enemy alien and spent the years 1915 to 1919 at a camp on the Isle of Man. This left Barbara with



Barbara Retz, LDS member and actively involved in Irish independence

two small children to rear and a business to run during this period.

It is not clear why she, as a German, had embraced the cause of Irish freedom. It is understood that she knew Pdraig Pearce and others of the leaders of the Independence Movement.

Ironically, 22 years later, when in her native Germany, she was arrested again, this time for taking part in an anti-Nazi rally in Berlin, and was only

released after a fortnight's imprisonment through the good offices of the British Embassy!

Barbara died in New York during May 1948. She was on her way to Salt Lake City and Southern California to visit her siblings who had earlier emigrated.

Barbara's grandson, Gilbert Retz McCabe, a Church member, grew up in Ireland and now lives in England. ■

The Carders—Keeping Their Promise

By the editor and the Carders

A promise made to the patients at the Paladio Clinic in Athens, Greece, was kept as Stephen and Rosemary Carder of the Clonsilla congregation in Dublin visited again this year, for the second time since their mission in that area.

They had been called to serve as the first humanitarian aid missionaries to Greece back in 2013. They took a year out from their employment and prepared themselves to leave. Recalling her reaction when the eagerly anticipated letter came from the Church, Rosemary says, "I didn't want to serve in a holiday destination; I wanted to go where we would be really needed!"

However, after arriving in Athens she realized that what lay ahead of them was going to be anything but a holiday. The refugee crisis was already taking hold, and they worked with many organisations in order to help those who were affected by displacement.

They were able to work with a multitude of charities on the ground, including the Salvation Army both in Athens and Thessaloniki, the Red Cross in Cyprus, the SOS Children's

Brother and Sister Carder serving in Greece



Village, Caritas, the S/N Foundation, the Metropolitan Clinic, Mother Teresa's Soup Kitchen, Melon House, Friends of the Homeless, the Archangel Michael Hospice in Cyprus, Avlona Juvenile Detention Centre, Church of Christ, the Hellenic Ministries and the Hatzikyrakio Orphanage in Piraeus.

These were vital projects designed to help relieve the suffering caused by homelessness, imprisonment and dislocation.

But perhaps the circumstance which affected them most profoundly was the plight of 220 mentally and physically challenged patients at the Paladio Clinic in Athens. Rosemary recalls, "I couldn't speak the first time we entered the building that was home to these unfortunate, forgotten people. We sat outside and cried, asking Heavenly Father to help us to help them. Our prayers were answered when the doctor in charge allowed us to visit every week. Our missionaries and members came laden with gifts and food at Christmas, and we all felt the Spirit as the missionaries sang hymns in Greek that told the story of the Saviour's birth."

During their weekly visits, the Carders taught arts and crafts classes, supplied much-needed furniture, and also worked on a Mormon Helping Hands project which involved planting a garden. They regularly brought along cookies that they had baked as a treat to add to the very bland diet available in the clinic.

Rosemary's hairdressing skills were also utilised, and each week she would have a queue of 'clients' expectantly awaiting her arrival!

A great love developed between the Carders and the people whose home was the Paladio Clinic. As the end of their mission approached, Nicos, one of the patients, asked

them, "When will you be back?"

"Next year!" was the instant response from Brother and Sister Carder, who promised to return again soon. ■

Lincoln Members Reenact Historical Scenes

By Brenda Collier

Time lines crossed as historical figures gathered together for a family history open day, held at the Lincoln chapel, with special guests the Mayor of Lincoln, Yvonne Bodger, and her consort, Gerry Gladwell, who were welcomed by local Church leaders and their very own town crier. On an historical note, Councillor Bodger is the 810th Mayor of Lincoln.

After officially opening the event, the Mayor and her consort were invited to watch Church members reenact scenes from the past. First there was Henry VIII overseeing the execution of a young boy for stealing some bread. This was followed by Pilgrims preparing to leave for the promised

land. Suffragettes shouting, "Votes for women!" echoed around the building, and Florence Nightingale tended to a wounded soldier. Another scene showed the anguish of a mother saying good-bye to her 16-year-old son who was leaving to serve his country in the First World War. A young mother and her child were depicted facing the harsh realities of life in the workhouse. Sir Winston Churchill and a member of his cabinet were seen signing papers and announcing that British troops would be sent to war. The final scene was of the present day with Queen Elizabeth II reading a statement to our great nation, encouraging us all to work together. Every



Left to right: Pete Storr, Den Storr, Mayor of Lincoln Yvonne Bodger and her consort, Gerry Gladwell.

ANDY COLLIER

scene was closed with the question, “*Could you be related to me?*” It was hoped that guests would ponder their own ancestors and their heritage. Help was then offered to anyone who wanted to trace their own family tree.

The Mayor made a brief speech, after which she was presented with a bouquet of flowers. She then viewed displays created by Church members featuring their own family artefacts, heirlooms, photographs and medals. ■

encouragement and some tender care. One sister has been travelling into the centre for many years as a very regular visitor and always requires a gentle nudge to go home when the centre reaches closing time.

The spirit of Elijah motivates everyone to find family names, culminating with taking a name to the temple. One brother, in a talk during a Church service, related how he felt when he received a very distinct prompt to research a family and then he personally submitted this family at the temple. Sharing this experience was the most effective method for teaching and motivating others to travel this spiritual journey.

A stake family history social was recently organised with members dressed as ancestors, which included a ‘Would I Lie to You?’ activity where stake leaders presented various explanations of old occupations and the audience were invited to decide who was telling the truth! ■

One Million Names Indexed

By Steve Wright

This summer the Northampton England Stake celebrated family history and achieved an indexing target of 1,000,000 names—a target which was set by President Peter Slattery, 1st counsellor in the stake presidency, in late 2014. The enthusiastic approach of Sue Purcell, stake indexing director, created the momentum to attain this objective, together with the support of Pete Dodkins and Moira Dodkins, family history centre directors.

Indexing names is a real benefit, as many members are reporting that they are finding pertinent information from indexed names (for example, probate records) to help identify individuals on their family tree.

Throughout the stake can be found very dedicated members who devote time to family history research, indexing and providing local help and support for others. On a stake level the family history centre provides training,

COURTESY OF STEVE WRIGHT



Left to right: Brother Peter Dodkins, Sister Moira Dodkins, Sister Sue Purcell and President Peter Slattery with the ‘cheque’ for one million names indexed.

A Passion in Serving

By Elder Ian Waller

I currently serve as one of 1200 FamilySearch support missionaries worldwide. The support programme began in 2005 to assist members with family history and temple ordinances for their ancestors. We also help nonmembers find their way around FamilySearch. I am the group leader of the UK team of support missionaries, and we want to tell you about our



Family history work

calling and encourage like-minded members to think about serving the Lord in this way.

Like all missionaries, we are all called of the Lord, set apart to serve and wear a missionary badge and therefore offer Christlike service as we represent the Church and the Saviour in every interaction. You serve part-time from your own home with a flexible schedule. If you are an adult, unable to serve a full-time mission or have health challenges but desire to serve the Lord, then this could be exactly what you are looking for.

As a FamilySearch support missionary you provide help and guidance to those who contact FamilySearch by telephone, on chats, or by email using a computer and telephone. Patrons contact us from all over the world, so you could be speaking to someone from Australia, the Philippines, the USA and even England.

So what is required? You will generally be asked to serve a minimum of 12 months for an average of 15 to 20 hours per week. You are able to take holidays. After training, your weekly schedule is arranged in shifts typically of 2 to 4 hours' duration.

As with all callings, you need to learn your duties, and initially you will receive training to understand the computer programs, the processes, and the procedures we use. In the first month to six weeks this will be quite intensive but rewarding and worthwhile. On graduation you will work one-to-one with an experienced missionary until you feel confident to be on your own. Training includes self-paced online modules, web-based conference calls, printed materials and practice sessions with trainers. Initial training is backed up by regular team meetings and ongoing in-house support. We have a massive knowledge base at our fingertips to provide accurate, up-to-date and consistent advice.

You will, without doubt, feel the spirit of Elijah. I have served in various leadership positions within the Church, but this mission was a completely different concept and a new challenge for me. Early on in training the real question arose—Will I really be able to help a patron when I am unsure of the answer myself? I then realised that I had been set apart to do just that. In each interaction the Spirit

guides me so I can make a difference to every person I am helping.

As part of a like-minded team, I know that experienced missionaries are always at hand to help answer a question or concern. I find great satisfaction in serving every day, and within the mission there are also opportunities to use other talents in areas such as IT, indexing, supporting family history centres and processing permissions for temple ordinances.

If this appeals to you or you want to know more, please visit www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/support-missionary?lang=eng and arrange to talk with us. We look forward to your contact. ■

“And They Pitched Their Tents Round about the Temple” Mosiah 2:6

By Elder Mark Tuttle

More than one hundred young single adults (YSAs) from around the South East of England came to the London England Temple for a weekend to perform baptisms, endowments and sealings. Organised by the Britannia YSA Ward of the Hyde Park Stake, and coming from places like Canterbury and Cambridge, YSAs from the England London Mission brought their own names to perform 800 baptisms and 44 endowments and 36 sealings between August 26th and 27th. Listening to the call of Book of Mormon and modern



YSAs from the South East of England at the London England Temple

prophets, and bringing their own tents to stay overnight, they resolved to quite literally follow in the steps of those who “pitched their tents round about the temple”.

Many were at the temple for the first time, and new converts were able to do temple work for their own ancestors—performing ordinances for those ancestors that they could no longer do for themselves. Leyddy, who took part in a sealing for the first time on this visit, said, “I understood and felt what ‘families can be together forever’ meant. . . . I know those spirits are grateful about the work we did that weekend, and that happiness stayed within me for days.” Young single adults sat as witnesses, performed ordinances, and acted as proxy. At times, Chinese nationals baptised and confirmed Brazilian youth for passed Italians, Britons and Chinese ancestors.

Arriving on Friday night, most of the YSAs camped not far from the temple, while others stayed in the accommodation centre. That night everyone enjoyed s’mores melted over a camping grill. Twenty YSAs were also able to perform baptisms before the night was over.

The morning brought everyone together on the front steps of the temple for a pancake breakfast and

a devotional by President Ricciardi, a counsellor in the Hyde Park Stake. The temple grounds were beautiful—a wonderful place to receive spiritual experiences as the YSAs prepared to help those who had passed on.

Three additional baptism sessions were held that day. Young adults from Italy, France, China, and Brazil joined their brothers and sisters from the United Kingdom in performing these saving ordinances.

The YSA temple trip also included a devotional from temple president Kenneth Johnson, a testimony meeting, a barbecue and games like Frisbee football in a nearby hay field.

One of the YSAs named David recalled, “I really enjoyed the temple trip,—It was great to serve my fellow brothers and sisters and to perform sacred ordinances for those who have passed beyond the veil. It was a great atmosphere of service and love.”

Elizabeth, another YSA, said, “As we gathered together to attend the London temple, we were blessed not only by being in that sacred space but by being there together—as sisters and brothers in Zion. That is what Zion is—it is a community—and by coming together, we developed bonds that drew us closer to each other and closer to God.” ■

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.

Local Editorial Committee

Des Waddington, Shawna Denny, Debbie Singh-Bhatti, Tracey Prior, Jonathan McColgan

Websites/Social Media

For the latest news and updates, please visit www.lds.org.uk, www.mormonnewsroom.org.uk, www.facebook.com/LDSUK and [ldschurchuk](https://twitter.com/ldschurchuk) on Twitter. All articles for inclusion should be sent to ukiensign@ldschurch.org. ■