

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

How to Improve Temporal Self-Reliance

By Elder Christopher Charles, Great Britain

Area Seventy



Elder
Christopher
Charles

In the UK, 6th April sees in a new tax year. So for me, a retired financial consultant, the date has more than a spiritual significance. I remember preparations needed to minimise clients' tax liabilities and make sure that their affairs were in place for the new tax year. It was an ongoing process lasting right through the year and required concerted effort—preparation.

In the same way, temporal self-reliance requires preparation and is not a one-time process. If only we could exercise hard for one day a year and then forget about it until the next!

It cannot be like that! Temporal self-reliance—the ability to care for ourselves, our families and others—is a lifetime's work. It takes hard work, prayer, study and meditation. It takes resolve and perhaps mostly faith and self-control.

In this article, I will discuss personal finances, one aspect of temporal self-reliance.

We are told that “if ye are prepared, ye shall not fear.”¹ Faith comes from listening to our leaders and trusting their inspired judgement. Their counsel is, for example, to avoid debt (or get out of debt quickly) by living within our means, paying tithing and fast offerings so that the Lord can open the windows of heaven for us.²

I have counselled many members with financial difficulties. It is a bit

like establishing a diet regime. People start off strong but give up so quickly that they have not given it a chance. Few have applied the principles taught them for long enough to allow them to work. “Thou hast declared unto us hard things, more than we are able to bear.”³

One small-company client was doing very well, but the director bought a £70,000 BMW against my advice. After all, his neighbour had one! I told him that he would very quickly take the car for granted and be much poorer for it. He phoned me soon after.

“You were right, Chris”, he said to me. “It's just a lump of metal and now we cannot pay our debts this month”.

The company failed, and the tragedy was that it need not have happened.

We try to maintain an image by buying with other peoples' perceptions of us in mind. I call it “buying for other people.” Pride, ego trips—call it what you will—can have tragic consequences.

Contrast the above story with “Nasty Nick” from Portugal, who came to England to find work. He was in his twenties and married. I secured his first mortgage. He worked hard but was considered by his peer group as an ungenerous individual—in short, nasty. He never took his wife out or

went on holiday or bought gifts. He just worked and worked and worked.

Within a few years, he paid off his mortgage and saved enough money to go back to Portugal and build a family home and two apartments, which he let. Last I heard, Nick was starting up another business. “Nasty Nick” was not nasty! He had vision, he set goals and sacrificed for the security of his family. He bought only what he needed; his wants had to wait.

What of us? Do we “buy for other people”? Or are we patient enough to wait so that we do not get into debt except for essentials—possibly education, a house and modest car—and even then we pay them off quickly. We should pay our tithing and fast offerings. I testify to you that the Lord's blessings are real and we will prosper if we are obedient. I know this from personal experience.

If we have a foot in the world of material things that we cannot afford, let us withdraw quickly. Loans should be for the essentials mentioned, even if your sofa could do with being replaced! Decide what you want. Set goals and plans to achieve your desires by budgeting. Pray and work at it. These are the ingredients for success! ■

NOTES

1. Doctrine and Covenants 38:10.
2. See Malachi 3:10.
3. 1 Nephi 16:1.

New Temple Presidency for the London England Temple

By Shawna Denny

President Michael Robert Otterson, of Liverpool, has recently been named as the new president of the London England Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Accompanying him is his wife, Catherine Berry Otterson, of Liverpool, who will serve alongside him as temple matron.

Regarding his call, President Otterson says he feels humbled but thrilled to be back in his homeland.

President and Sister Otterson have lived in Australia and Salt Lake City, Utah, for the past forty years, where he has served professionally in the Church's Public Affairs Department, and he says they have welcomed the call to return home to England to serve in the temple. Together they have eight children and twenty-four grandchildren.

Called as President Otterson's counsellors are President David Robert Irwin and Lyn Irwin, of Devon, first counsellor and assistant matron; and President Michael Leslie Peel and Valerie Ann Peel, of Norfolk, second counsellor and assistant matron.

President Irwin and his wife served in the temple presidency with President Kenneth and Pamela Johnson, the previous temple president and his wife.

"It's an honour to be asked to serve in the temple again," said Sister Lyn Irwin.

The Irwins have previously served a senior mission in the Czech/Slovak Mission, where President Irwin was called to be mission president. They have five children and six grandchildren.

President and Sister Peel said they are looking forward to this new call to serve.

"What a wonderful opportunity and privilege to serve in the house of the Lord and feel of the spirit of the temple and serve His children," Sister Valerie Peel said.

The Peels both joined the Church in 1975, as the result of a new missionary's first street contact. President Peel has served as a stake president for the Norwich England Stake. They have five children and fifteen grandchildren.

President Otterson said he and his presidency are excited to get out and among the members of the Church and to encourage them to come to the temple.

"Like all temple presidents before us, we want to make the temple a welcoming place, where every patron has an uplifting experience," he said. "We expect to be out among the members on Sundays to help keep the temple prominent in the thoughts and lives of our members." ■



President and Sister Otterson, London England Temple president and matron

COURTESY OF PRESIDENT PEEL



President and Sister Irwin, first counsellor and assistant matron



President and Sister Peel, second counsellor and assistant matron

Chelsea Cameron—a Letter to Her Parents

By Chelsea Craven, local editor

In the news and seen on TV recently, Chelsea Cameron inspires many adolescents. Chelsea wrote a public letter thanking her mother and father for some life lessons she learned from them, regardless of their addiction to drugs.

"I wholeheartedly believe that God only gives us trials that he knows we can deal with."

After her grandmother died, Chelsea says, "my dad invited the missionaries from the Church round for a laugh. My parents weren't interested, but the missionaries were keen to keep teaching me."

Chelsea was later baptized at the age of ten. In Chelsea's eyes, there wasn't a more perfect time, because four years later she came home one day to find that her mother was gone, and she was left with her father, who was getting worse in his addiction, and with her six-year-old brother.

At 14 she left her home to stay with various family and friends over the years. She became determined to not let her parents' choices define her. She involved herself with the Church and school, where she was given opportunities in public speaking, organizing events, and service. Chelsea recently moved into a home of her own and has started an apprenticeship in an administrative job. She's hoping to serve as a missionary for the Church and is considering being a teacher as a profession.

Chelsea keeps in touch with her parents and has no bitter feelings towards them. She is thankful to have learned by their example that her life can be better for her when making good decisions.



COURTESY OF CHELSEA CAMERON

Chelsea Cameron, who wrote a letter to her parents expressing gratitude

"My parents are good people. They've just made bad choices."

Not long ago, Chelsea's mother, Tammy, told the *Dundee Evening Telegraph* how proud she was: "No child should have to go through what Chelsea did and live that kind of life. I am ashamed and upset at my behaviour and am so sorry and so proud of her."

Closing her letter to her parents, Chelsea says this: "I hope one day that you'll wake up and realise there is so much more the world has to offer you guys and when that day comes, please come to find me so we can enjoy life together."

Chelsea's attitude of forgiveness and understanding is one we could all follow.

"God is good, oh so good. The Lord has poured his blessings upon me, and I hope I can continue to obey Him and find joy in this marvelous journey." ■

Choir Raises Funds for 1,000-Year-Old Anglican Chapel

By Nic Read

The Right Honourable The Lord and Lady Clitheroe recently hosted a choir from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at an historic Remembrance Day fundraiser for a new organ at St Leonard's Church in Downham.

Staged for the sixth time outside the USA, the musical *Our Story Goes On* saw 20 actors, soloists and a 40-person local choir blend show tunes, love songs and original music in an uplifting tale of life, loss, love and the family journey.

Two performances were presented to capacity audiences. At the end of the evening, Chorley stake president Michael Gratton presented a cheque to the Honourable Ralph Assheton, warden of St Leonard's Church, to bring the organ appeal closer to its fundraising target.

President Gratton said, "Downham and the surrounding area hold an important place in the history of our Church. The townspeople here have always been very gracious to those of our faith who visit as tourists and leave as friends."

The Honourable Ralph Assheton wrote in the church's parish newsletter, "The singing was magnificent throughout from both soloists, cast and choir. We owe a big debt of thanks to the Church . . . for a wonderful evening of beautiful music."



President Gratton presents the cheque to The Right Honourable Ralph Assheton.



Cast of *Our Story Goes On* assembled in Downham Hall, where the group sang 'I Am a Child of God' during a reception for the VIP guests. The VIPs included Lord and Lady Clitheroe and The Right Honourable Ralph and Mrs Assheton.

The first LDS missionaries to England in 1837 quickly found converts and organised the Preston Branch in Lancashire, now the longest continually operating unit of the Church in the world.

Of that group, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, Willard Richards and Joseph Fielding had some of their most spiritual missionary experiences in the nearby village of Downham.

Within nine months of missionaries arriving, more than 1,000 people were baptised in England. By 1900, as many as 100,000 converts emigrated from the British Isles to strengthen the main body of Latter-day Saints in America.

Thomas Emmett was one of these. A Downham blacksmith, he was baptised and emigrated to America 165 years ago. Three of his descendants were in the audience of *Our Story Goes On*. Allison Warner and two of her sisters flew from Salt Lake City, Utah, to visit their ancestral home on the weekend of the performance.

In an emotional speech, Ms. Warner paid tribute to the people of Downham and the Assheton family for preserving the village as it was in the 1800s. She presented a further donation to the organ appeal "from the descendants of one of Downham's sons".

The previous day as performers rehearsed, soldiers from The Queen's Own Yeomanry based in nearby Wigan laid their Remembrance Day poppies in Downham and visited the church.

Perhaps feeling they had intruded on proceedings, they turned to leave until the ensemble stood to attention

and offered an impromptu rendition of the beloved hymn "I Vow to Thee, My Country", which speaks of a Christian's loyalty to their homeland and to the heavenly kingdom.

After this year's Remembrance Day, many may indeed recall that home and heaven became one and the same in historic Downham. ■

The Family Tree of Kensington MP

By David Hooson

Lady Victoria Borwick, Member of Parliament for Kensington and former Deputy Mayor of London, was a special guest at a recent

Sabbath day service of the Hyde Park 1st Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The service featured a presentation by

Kensington MP Lady Victoria Borwick with children and youth at the Hyde Park 1st Ward's Sunday service



the young children aged 3 to 11, who shared in words and music the things that they had learned at church so far this year.

After this special service, Lady Borwick MP was presented with her personal family history, which had been researched over several weeks by the youth group of the

Church. These young people created an information pack that was filled with photographs, stories, and copies of public records which included names, dates and places. The pack was given to Lady Borwick as a token of appreciation for her visiting the church. Lady Borwick commented on the hard work and effort

that the young people had put into the project.

Bishop David Hooson of the Hyde Park 1st Ward commented, "The Church is well known for its interest in family history research, and we were pleased to be able to surprise Lady Borwick by presenting her with her very own family history." ■

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Scottish Family Values Award

By Evelyn Liston

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and chief executive of Mary's Meals, and Maureen McIntyre, who pioneered Educate the Kids, each received this year's Family Values Award. Members of the Latter-day Saint faith meet annually with other organisations and individuals in recognising prominent members of the Scottish community who support the family as the fundamental unit of society.

Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Area Seventy, said: "These two worthy recipients of the awards lead charities that feed and educate citizens of the future—they are making a huge difference to individuals and families. Their compassion, vision, strength, courage and diligence influence not only those who receive the help but also the extended families and communities around them and those who give to make it possible."

On accepting the award, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow responded by

saying that the recognition was for his "own family and all those who have sacrificed to further the cause of Mary's Meals".

Magnus had been previously praised as a 'CNN Hero'¹ and has also been named as one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. His book, *The Shed That Fed a Million Children*, reached the *Times* and the *Sunday Times* bestseller list immediately after release. Mary's Meals is a global charity that provides daily meals in a place of education to more than one million of the world's poorest children.

Maureen McIntyre was so haunted by the poverty and lack of education that she witnessed while visiting Kenya that she 'did something about it' when she returned home.

She said: "We went on holiday to Africa, and we were appalled at what

Elder Clifford T. Herbertson (left), Area Seventy, presents the Family Values Award to Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow. Maureen McIntyre receives the award from Daryl Watson, the Church's national director of public affairs for Great Britain.



IAN LISTON

we saw. We feel every child has a right to an education, and we spotted one little boy we really wanted to help. From there, people were coming to us saying they wanted to help too, and before long we realised we needed to start a charity."

Since 1998, Maureen's compassion, fortitude and hard work have enabled thousands of children from the poorest circumstances in Kenya to receive an education. The charity Educate the Kids has sponsors from all over the world, which has led to the building of a school and orphanage, with

around 800 children a year receiving an education. Four of the teachers today were in the first intake of children all those years ago. ■

NOTE

1. See Kathleen Toner, "Former Fish Farmer Feeds 1 Million Kids Every School Day," cnn.com/2015/06/04/world/cnn-heroes-macfarlane-barrow.

Aberdeen Bishop Hosts Member of the Scottish Parliament

By Sandra Wood and Des Waddington

Bishop Scott Goldie, local leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Aberdeen, Scotland, recently hosted Mr Kevin Stewart, the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Aberdeen Central. Mr Stewart is the Minister for Local Government and Housing. This meeting was requested by Mr Stewart, who wanted to know what the Church does in the local area.

During the meeting, Bishop Goldie was able to explain that members of the Church are encouraged to serve in their local communities to the extent that they are able. Many members serve in a private capacity, but the Church organises many service projects, often to benefit the poor and the needy. The examples that Bishop Goldie shared included tending gardens at a respite care home, painting a local community centre, stewarding at Celebrate Aberdeen (a community festival), charity fundraising, helping refugees and working with other faith groups. A regular service commitment by members is to help out with Poppy Scotland, raising funds every year by volunteering to collect donations at local venues. Elgin and Inverness congregations were

Glasgow the Caring City Helps Care for Refugees

By Mitch MacKenzie

Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have encouraged members of the Church to look at the suffering of the 1.25 million refugees coming to Europe. These people endure a perilous journey as they leave behind the turmoil and war in their native lands. Elder Patrick Kearon, Europe Area President, who directs the faith's relief efforts in the UK and Europe, has said: "Their story is our story, not that many years ago." He also said: "We don't have to look back far in our history to reflect on times when we were refugees, violently driven from homes and farms [in the midwest of America] over and over again. . . . This moment does not define [the refugees], but our response will help define us."¹

In response to this encouragement to act, members of the Church from eight wards across Glasgow, Scotland, decided to work in conjunction with Glasgow

the Caring City, a Scottish charity which supports children in crisis at home and overseas.

Several events were held over a number of months. A number of clothing drives took place, with the collection and sorting being handled by the youth group of the Church. A dance concert was held at the Mitchell Library Theatre in Glasgow, featuring the internationally acclaimed Brigham Young University Ballroom Dance Company. The event raised over £700.

In a further act of support for the charity, the young people of the Church converged on the new warehouse for Glasgow the Caring City and helped to paint, tidy and clean the building. Irene Richardson, a member and a volunteer who works with the youth, said, "The young people were pleased to work in the community and represent the Church." ■

NOTE

1. Patrick Kearon, "Refuge from the Storm," *Ensign*, May 2016, 111, 114.

Glasgow members with the donation cheque for Glasgow the Caring City, which supports local and overseas refugee children



involved in the Poppy Appeal, and there were more than 60 Church members taking part in collecting donations around Aberdeen, with 15 remembrance wreaths laid.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which lasted about an hour, Bishop Goldie gave Mr Stewart a conducted tour of the Church building, showing him the wonderful facilities that members have access to. ■



JACQUIE WARE

Left to right: Mr Kevin Stewart (MSP) and Bishop Scott Goldie at the chapel in Aberdeen

My profession gives me many opportunities to work with and teach people of other faiths; and as President Hinckley said, ‘we can politely disagree without being disagreeable.’ As a disciple of Christ, I strive to help everyone have ‘a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with “the good word of God.”’ This really is the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop James Holt, previously a secondary school teacher, is currently a teacher and educator at the University of Chester. He has a PhD in theology and has written and researched extensively on teaching practices. His most recent publication is *Religious Education in the Secondary School: An Introduction to Teaching, Learning and the World Religions* (Routledge, 2015). ■

Manchester Bishop Contributes to 2017 Presidents Manual

By Lynne West



Bishop James Holt with his family

Bishop James Holt of the Hyde Ward in the Manchester England Stake was part of a team of writers who produced the current manual used in priesthood and Relief Society classes: *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Gordon B. Hinckley*. This marked the first time that members outside the USA had been involved in the production of the manual. Bishop Holt worked alongside members from

the USA, as well as a member from South Africa and one from Australia.

In recent stake firesides in Dundee, Paisley and Manchester, Bishop Holt shared some of the highlights of producing the manual, as well as how he was affected by the two-year experience: “As we seek the kingdom of God first in our lives, we are blessed. I gained a greater understanding of the life and teachings of President Hinckley, and I was inspired to be a little better and stand a little taller.”

In preparing for production of the manual, each committee member read and studied every talk given by President Hinckley. Then the committee combined all the material down to 25 lessons. Bishop Holt commented that it was hard to pick a favourite, as “there were many talks that touched me, but I can see two phrases that had an impact with my profession and my religious service.

A Right Royal Heritage

By AJ Hough

January 22nd, 2017, marked the 100th birthday of Herbert John Tate, a war veteran and a father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather to a numerous posterity.

Herbert John Tate, known simply as John, joined the Church in 1961 with his wife, Doris Maud Tate, after missionaries knocked on their door in Kingsworthy, Winchester, where John still resides.

Over the years, the entire family served the Lord faithfully in various



Herbert John Tate, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday with family, was baptised in 1961.

ways and through Church callings, including district Sunday School president, branch president, bishops, teachers, presidents of all auxiliaries, missionaries, and seminary teachers. The family, following in deep footsteps, watched as their parents served a full-time mission in the London England Temple, where John became a temple sealer. He went on to seal over 16 grandchildren to their spouses and 10 children to their adoptive parents. In his later years John became stake patriarch, giving over 20 patriarchal blessings to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Today he is still as much an example and inspiration to the members of his family, ward and stake as he ever was. Driving himself to church each week ensures he arrives on time and is ready to greet members and newcomers as they arrive and to watch for his home teaching families.

To celebrate his birthday, family came from all corners of the country and crossed seas to join in with this very special celebration, with the exception of his beloved Doris, who

passed away in 2003. The family picture is as complete as is possible with such an extended family.

So what is the secret to his longevity? At 100 his body may be showing the tell-tale signs of mortality, but his mind is alert and alive, along with his love of the Saviour and testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I asked him his secret, and his response was, “Be good and live the Word of Wisdom,” explaining he’d always lived a clean and healthy life even before joining the Church and that eating well and exercising were key.

Long after John passes on from this mortal existence, his testimony will live on in the hearts and minds of his family. No one can doubt John Tate is leaving behind him a right royal heritage, a long line of followers of Christ, a posterity of believers.

Thank you, John, for your faith, example, and endurance. We love you for it. ■

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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Herbert John Tate surrounded by his family at his 100th birthday celebrations