

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Increasing Faith through Christ's Constant Love

By Elder Patrick Kearon, Great Britain
Europe Area President



Elder
Patrick Kearon

The Savior is the perfect example of love in thought, word, and deed. The scriptures give us insight into His loving nature. As the Redeemer washed the Apostles' feet, He taught, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."¹ Christ invites us to look for ways to show and to feel greater love in our lives.

Through this simple plan, we have opportunities to learn about the Savior and His love. These three steps bring us closer to Him and His teachings.

First, bring a friend. The Savior loves each and every one of God's children. We can grow to see

ourselves and others as He does. Be a good friend. A simple text message or phone call can make a big difference in another's life. Invite a friend to join you for a walk, to eat with you, and to come to church with you. You will become more aware of that friend's joys and needs and be given opportunities to share the pure love of Christ.²

Second, become spiritually and temporally self-reliant. When revelation comes, respond swiftly. Revelation can be directed towards both spiritual and temporal matters. Spiritual strength can be increased by reading scripture more regularly and fasting with greater purpose. You may receive a prompting to

advance in education, apply for a better job, or to increase your personal savings. As you become more self-reliant, you will be more capable of strengthening others.

Third, find an ancestor. Through finding an ancestor, you can discover more about who you are and where you come from. This knowledge will lead to an even greater understanding of where you are going. As you discover new connections to your ancestors, you will come to a deeper understanding that you are a loved daughter or son of God.

As you steadily act on these three invitations, setting a goal for each, you will begin to receive the reward promised to those who strive for righteousness, "even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come."³ Working on these goals with constant Christlike love will bring you a deeper appreciation of the goodness of the gospel and an increased desire to share it.⁴ ■

NOTES

1. John 13:34.
2. See Moroni 7:47.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 59:23.
4. See Alma 34:4.



NHSBT—Helping to Save and Improve Lives

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

For the past seven years, Latter-day Saint meetinghouses throughout the UK have been opening their doors to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to facilitate blood donation sessions. The NHSBT, whose purpose is to save and improve lives, is most grateful to the Church for its support, and its chairman, John Pattullo, and CEO, Ian Trenholm, met with Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Area Seventy, and Brother David Eaton of the national public affairs council to express their appreciation.

Currently, 1.3% of blood donated in the UK comes through LDS meetinghouses. During 2016, 232 blood donation sessions were held in 33 wards or branches from 15 stakes up and down the country. More than 21,765 donations of blood were made, which had the potential to help 65,295 adults and over 152,395 babies.

“The NHSBT is very grateful to the Church for its commitment to help,” explains Brother Eaton. “The free use of Church buildings is invaluable to them, but if additional wards and branches got involved, we could do so much more to help save and improve the lives of sick people.”

Currently there are 45 stakes in the UK, but only 15 (about 33%) are participating in the blood donation scheme. Of the 286 wards (not

counting branches), less than 7% have become involved.

The NHSBT needs to attract 200,000 new donors every year simply to replace those who can no longer donate. In addition, it needs to recruit more young blood donors aged 17–24 years. What an opportunity for the young single adults to participate in a service project that could really make a difference to someone’s life!

The NHSBT also manages the National Transplant Database. Every day three people die due to a shortage of suitable organs. The NHSBT is keen to promote organ and stem cell donations to give those on the waiting list the chance of a better life. In particular, they are looking for donors from the Afro-Caribbean, Asian and other ethnic minority communities.

“The membership of the Church is diverse, with people from many different cultures and backgrounds,” comments Brother Eaton. “We are ideally situated to promote the needs of the NHSBT to our members and the larger community to which our members belong.”

Left to right: Ian Trenholm, NHSBT CEO; John Pattullo, NHSBT chairman; Elder Clifford T. Herbertson; and Brother David Eaton

Getting involved with the blood donation initiative is not difficult. Contact should initially be made with a regional contact from the NHSBT, and from there arrangements can be made to make the ward or branch cultural hall available for a donation session.

The purpose of the Church and that of the NHSBT are not too far apart. They both strive to save and improve lives. Let’s follow the mandate of President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) to “try a little harder to be a little better”¹ and do what we can to help the NHSBT achieve its objectives! ■

NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, “We Have a Work to Do,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 88.



COURTESY OF DAVID EATON

From Professional Footballer to Mormon Missionary

By Elder Lee Burke

When Daniel Sintim-Aboagye gave up his football career to serve a mission, he showed that he is one of those special individuals who recognise what matters most and choose to follow it.

When he was a young man, Daniel's ultimate desire was always to be a professional football player. His entire life seemed to be centred upon that dream. Although he was baptised

into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at age 9, his focus was more on football than on the Church.

When he was asked to play on the Woking Football Club in the Conference Premier as a defender, centre back, Daniel felt like his dream had finally been realised. Unfortunately, playing football—especially on Sundays—kept him away from church, and he eventually went inactive. After

that, serving a mission never seemed like an option. Football was too important to Daniel for him to give it up.

However, when his younger brother Timothy was serving his mission, Daniel began to think about going back to church. He started to read the Book of Mormon. For several weeks, the full-time missionaries would visit his home and read the Book of Mormon with him. He watched movies about the value of serving a mission. He began to feel the Spirit telling him he should serve. At about this time Daniel began to lose interest in football, as he knew it was not the life he wanted. He started to go to church and later received a calling to serve as the ward clerk in his ward.

About six months before his brother was to return home from his mission in the England Manchester Mission, Daniel emailed Timothy to tell him that he was considering serving too. Six months later when Daniel went to Manchester to pick Timothy up to bring him home, the mission president told Daniel that he would go on a mission and he would come to the England Manchester Mission. As time passed, Daniel became more active in his ward, and in November 2015 he received a call to serve in the England Manchester Mission.

Although he was 25 years old, Daniel decided he wanted to serve a mission. He gave up his football career, and he is now more concerned about passing out copies of the Book of Mormon than about passing footballs. ■



Elder Daniel Sintim-Aboagye (right), who is now serving a full-time mission after turning down the opportunity to play professional football. On the left is his brother Timothy Sintim-Aboagye.

Nottingham Stake Self-Reliance Road Shows

By Elder and Sister Goddard

Self-Reliance Services

A year-long self-reliance road show exhibition that travelled around all seven wards within the Nottingham England Stake ended in December 2016 having had 250 visitors, representing one-third of the stake's active membership.

President Jonathan Gray, the Nottingham stake president, explained: "Because of the large area of the stake, rather than expect members from afar to come to the self-reliance centre to learn about self-reliance, we decided to take self-reliance to the members in their own ward buildings. Elder Ken and Sister Patricia Goddard, the stake self-reliance specialists, who are serving a three-year part-time welfare mission within the stake, were asked to organise and direct the road shows".

Sister Goddard stated: "We started from scratch compiling all the data available and producing charts, displays, exhibitions, information, testimonies, games and activities for children, etc., about all six aspects of self-reliance. We visited a different ward each month and set up the various displays throughout the chapels. Members and friends were then invited to visit the road show any-time in the afternoon".

Elder Goddard added: "As well as gaining knowledge about all six areas of self-reliance, visitors were given handouts in each department and a

booklet summarising what they had learned together and matching scriptural references to enable them to continue to discuss self-reliance issues in their homes during family home evenings".

Those attending the road shows signed a visitors' book in which they wrote their comments and feelings about the event. Here is a sample of their comments:

"Fabulous".

"Brilliant".

"Wonderful and very informative".

"Excellent presentation and very enlightening and enriching".

As one of the objectives of the road shows was to engender changes in people's lives, there was a column in the visitors' book to allow people to

state one thing they intended to do as a result of their visit. Home production and storage featured most, followed by writing of journals, making wills, having a healthier lifestyle, practicing better financial management and improving spirituality.

The six areas of self-reliance covered were:

- Spiritual strength
- Financial management
- Education
- Employment
- Home production and storage
- Health

President Gray states: "I have a strong testimony of self-reliance, and the work that Elder and Sister Goddard are doing has served to strengthen that. I have heard many members bear testimony of the way the road shows have blessed their lives, and it is clear that it is having a real impact in our stake." ■

Elder and Sister Goddard, self-reliance missionaries



COURTESY OF ELDER AND SISTER GODDARD

Paignton Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Tony Arkell

Members of the Plymouth England Stake saw a hive of activity at their meetinghouse on Belle Vue Road, Paignton, Devon, as they celebrated the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the building with attendance from Kevin Foster, MP.

The celebrations began with a cantata of music and the spoken word called "The Saviour of The World", which was enjoyed by everyone. The choir from the Church's Newton Abbot Ward sang, with the members of Paignton taking part in the spoken word. The effect was very spiritually uplifting.

Afterwards a large collection of arts and crafts were displayed, including jewellery making, quilt work, knitted goods, cross-stitch and pictures painted by members of the Church. There was also an exhibition of a 72-hour emergency pack, with an explanation of why it is important to have one. Videos made by the young people of the Church were also shown. Included in the exhibition was a video showing still photographs of the building, which had been created by Bishop Peter Schofield, the local leader of the Church.

The author researched the history of the building and exhibited historically interesting findings for all to view. Ken and Gwyneth Mealey's display of their family tree made the day complete. On



Left to right: Linda Good, Shirley Boycott and Jemma Sanderson with Jeremy and Harvey Sanderson displaying some of the donated goods which were sent to Bulgaria

STEVE BUTCHER

Help for Refugee Camp in Bulgaria

By Annette Arbour

When members of the Norwich England Stake discovered that a mother-and-daughter team from Cambridge had set up a school within a refugee camp in Southern Bulgaria, about 20 minutes from the Turkish border, they were keen to help.

The Church members from Norwich launched an appeal to generate supplies that the children would be able to use. After just two weeks, a significant quantity of material had been donated. The donations weighed 107 kilos, and they were subsequently packed into 18 boxes before being shipped to the Harmanli Refugee Play Camp in Bulgaria.

Gil and Sadie Clasby set up the school, using their previous experiences in childcare and teaching to help the Syrian refugee children, who had gone through a great deal of trauma

and hardship. The school provides children between the ages of 4 and 14 with a range of activities and lessons to develop maths, science, art and English skills, knowledge and understanding, as well as opportunities for personal, social and emotional development.

The school is a centre for play-based learning and play therapy. When it opened in 2014, there was little sanitation, no heating and very little food. The project has been a great success, and the school now accommodates up to 200 children at a time. As Bulgaria is a poor country, the school has relied on the generosity of people in countries across Europe.

A spokesperson for the Harmanli Refugee Play Camp said, "This is one of the best donations, if not the best, that we have ever received! Just perfect! I can't stop smiling!" ■



JON MARTIN

Left to right: Kevin Foster, MP; President Martin of the Plymouth England Stake; and Bishop Schofield of the Paignton Ward

hand was a family history consultant who helped people with their own family history research problems.

As part of the celebrations, a special Sunday service was held, and

Bishop Schofield welcomed the special guest, Kevin Foster, MP for Torbay. The congregation was addressed by President Paul Martin of the Plymouth stake and Bishop Schofield. ■

Interfaith Work in Poole Stake

By Moira Head

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Poole and Weymouth, both in the county of Dorset, recently built new friendships with other faith groups as they joined together to celebrate International Women's Day.

Church members joined with Unity in Vision and the Friendly Food Club to host a series of multi-faith and multi-cultural cookery courses. The faith groups represented at the events

included Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Sikh.

Moira Head, who represented the Church, said, "Friendships were formed as we learned, side by side, to cook and appreciate each other's dishes. We discovered that as women of faith, we have more that unites us than divides us. First and foremost we are women, with all the same emotions and priorities—to feed and nurture our families,

to live in peace and practice our faith".

At the Weymouth event, stake Relief Society president Tracey Au spoke about the history of the Relief Society. The local advocate for the Black and Minority Ethnic Group addressed the delegates, as did Sayma Ahmed, the founder of Unity in Vision, and Rita El-Gazali, the current chairperson. These presentations were followed by a multi-cultural buffet provided by the Friendly Food Club. A straw poll of the attendees showed that there were people from America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, the United Kingdom, Europe, including Russia, and across the Arab countries.

The event held in Poole was in two parts. In the afternoon, participants were invited to attend a number of workshops which were presented by members of the Church. In the early evening there were presentations from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths and a young refugee girl who had recently arrived in the UK from Libya. The event concluded with sampling a wide range of foods from different cultures.

Across the two events, about 180 people attended, including in Weymouth the High Sheriff of Dorset, the Mayor of Chickerell, the Mayor of Weymouth, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester. The Poole event was attended by the Mayor of Poole with her escort and the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth. Both events were conducted by Roger Head, director of public affairs for

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Irish Night in Limerick

By Patrick Kearney

In Spring 2017, the Limerick Branch, Limerick Ireland District, held their annual Irish Night during "Seachtain Gaeilge," which is the Irish translation of Irish Week. This week is celebrated each year in Ireland and incorporates St. Patrick's Day. The event was attended by over 180 people, including Senator Kieran O'Donnell and Maurice Quinlivan, Teachta Dála (Member of Parliament) for the Limerick City constituency.

The Irish Night included performances by a large number of people, including the O'Rourke School of Dancers, who performed both hard- and soft-shoe numbers. These dancers are well known for the high standards that they achieve.

Also on the bill was local poet Thomas McCarthy, who has a reputation for composing thought-provoking verse. There was a set of old Irish melodies performed by Pat O'Connell on piano accordion, accompanied by his son on guitar.

Irenee Kearney gave a beautiful rendition of a haunting song which is part of an ancient myth of Ireland entitled "The Children of Lir". One of the youngest performers was 13-year-old Saoirse Freeman, who played a number of Irish tunes on a traditional tin whistle. The audience joined in many of the songs. Another poet who performed was Paul McNamara. He put a new look on life's travails with his poem "Having a Mid-Life Crisis."

Emphasising the local nature of the event, Robert Kearney sang a ballad

written by Limerick man Johnny Duhan called "The Voyage". Robert also sang a song composed by another Limerick man, Denis Allen, called "Limerick, You're a Lady".

For many, the highlight of the show was the final act, a local brass and reed band known as the Boherbuoy Band. The band was formed in 1850 in Limerick and has played a huge role in the life of the city. Their final piece was the Irish national anthem.

While Limerick Branch has quite an international community among its membership, nonetheless all had a wonderful evening. Much of what we celebrated on the night had to do with the story of Ireland, which as a nation has probably lost more of its people to emigration than any other nation on earth. This allows them to empathise with those who have come from afar to live among them, and the Irish have always made them feel welcome. ■

Left to right: William Ryan, second councillor, Limerick Ireland District presidency; Senator Kieran O'Donnell, Member of the Irish Senate; President David Kelly, Limerick Branch president; Robert Kearney, first councillor, Limerick Ireland District presidency



Photo taken at International Women's Day celebration at Weymouth chapel.

Left to right, seated: Sayma Ahmed (Unity in Vision founder), the High Sheriff of Dorset (Sir Phillip Williams), Moira Head (stake public affairs).

Left to right, standing: Saima Afzal (Unity in Vision), Rita El-Gazali (Unity in Vision chairman), the Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester, the Mayor of Chickerell, Tracy Au (stake Relief Society president), the Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Roger Head (Poole stake public affairs director) and the Poole stake president, John Crew.

Poole and representing the Church.

Moira Head added, "During the weeks of preparation for these events, we came to a better understanding of, and respect for, each other's faith and beliefs. Our desire to break down false barriers gave purpose to our work. If we didn't actually get to 'walk a mile in each other's moccasins', we all felt that we had made a good start, and we look forward to joining with our Muslim sisters again in the very near future". ■

Belfast City Poppy Day

By Terence McKenna

Members and missionaries from the Belfast Northern Ireland Stake turned out in large numbers to help the Royal British Legion with the Belfast Poppy Day on the 4th November last year. Apart from the normal Poppy Day collections, this was a day set aside in Belfast with many volunteers flooding the city centre to raise money for veterans of war and conflict.

Pictured is President James McCrudden, recently released as the Belfast Northern Ireland Stake president, helping on the Belfast Poppy Day. ■



EVE O'CONNOR

James McCrudden volunteering on Belfast Poppy Day

Correction

In the April 2017 issue, on page U2, part of the caption was missing from the photograph of President Michael Peel, second counsellor in the London England Temple presidency, and his wife, Sister Valerie Peel. The full caption should read: "President and Sister Peel, second counsellor and assistant matron."

Grandmother Serves Missionaries

By Angela Tivinan

After her husband, Ron Spindloe, passed away nine years ago, Sister Pauline Spindloe from the Hartlepool Branch, Billingham England Stake, found life as a widow very difficult. One way she has found comfort and feels of service is to be like a grandmother to the young missionaries serving in the branch. She has fed them until they were bursting, given the sister missionaries lifts, and phoned the mission home to make sure they got help when it was needed. She really cares for the missionaries like they were her own because, she says, "I would hope members would do that for my family if they were on missions."

One thing she did that has now become a tradition is to make the missionaries a cross-stitched cushion, on which she includes their names, start and end dates and mission. At the end of their mission, each missionary gets a cushion to take home as a reminder of their special time. Cross-stitched on



Sister Pauline Spindloe

ANGELA TIVINAN

the bottom of her cushions is a scripture: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Sister Spindloe has been a member of the Church for over 40 years and has been the pianist for her local congregation most of that time. Over the years she has served in just about every available calling. ■

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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