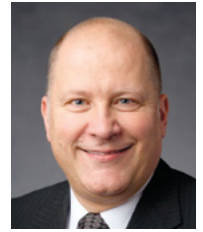


AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Find Your Personal King Benjamin Talk at General Conference

By Elder Tom-Atle Herland, Norway

Area Seventy



Elder
Tom-Atle Herland

General conference is a wonderful time for us all to receive spiritual renewal, become strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ, and feel greater peace. When King Benjamin in the Book of Mormon invited his people to a kind of general conference by the temple, he gave one of the most powerful sermons in the scriptures. His clear focus on Jesus Christ and the Atonement is a great blessing for all of us, even today. In the *Ensign* from January 1992, we can read “King Benjamin’s Manual of Discipleship” by Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (pages 8–13). In his message, Elder Maxwell

emphasizes how important it is that we be doers of the word.

General conferences give us an opportunity to find our King Benjamin talks. These talks that speak so strongly to our hearts, our souls and our spirits are like manna from heaven. Because we are all different from each other, one talk will impact one person more than another and vice versa. Our circumstances in life are different, we have different levels of understanding in the gospel, and we have different insights into what goes on around us, but at each general conference, there is always at least one talk that speaks to our

heart and soul. This provides us with the opportunity to be not only the hearers but also the doers of the word (see James 1:22; Matthew 7:21–25; John 13:17). We can, as Elder Maxwell says, become disciples of Jesus Christ. This is perhaps one of the most essential things to do after a general conference, that we allow these talks that give us so much to be a spur to growth and change in our lives. Additionally, such talks will strengthen us and permit us to feel peace in our personal lives and in a turbulent world. We can feel that God and Jesus truly love us, despite our weaknesses and challenges.

President Henry B. Eyring gave a very powerful talk at the last general conference in April 2017. The talk entitled “My Peace I Leave with You,” to me, is a King Benjamin talk. Equally so is President Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s talk “Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear” and Elder Dale G. Renlund’s talk “Our Good Shepherd.” Also when President Russell M. Nelson spoke so personally about Christ in “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” the conference was a great blessing to me. I felt as though I had been seated by the temple and had been listening to King Benjamin.



LOCAL NEWS

If you take the time to listen to or read more of the talks, you may be surprised to discover that some of the talks are like hidden gems that you didn't discover until you took the time to read them again.

President Nelson mentions Mark 5:22–43. It is one of the most beautiful accounts in the scriptures that I know of. Jesus meets Jairus, a ruler of a synagogue, who falls at Jesus's feet and pleads for Jesus to heal his daughter who is dying. This account is wonderful in and of itself, but en route to Jairus's daughter, Jesus exclaims as they are walking in the streets and bumping into many people, "Who touched my clothes?" (verse 30). The disciples are puzzled and say that here all bump into others, but Jesus felt that a power had gone out of Him when the woman touched his clothes. The woman, who had been sick for 12 years and had spent all her money to get well, was still sick. Christ now heals her. Their encounter is superbly depicted. At lds.org/bible-videos, you will find a 1-minute-and-40-second video that portrays this marvelous meeting between Christ and the woman.

This time, find your personal King Benjamin talk at general conference. The general conference is by the temple. Be both a hearer and a doer of the word, both parts; then you will feel, as did this woman, that power goes out of the word of Christ and it will heal and strengthen you. Comfort you. Guide you. Like a King Benjamin talk. ■

Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day Report

By David Eaton and Chelsea Craven

Around 3,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints took part in collecting for poppies during the two weeks of the Royal British Legion's national Poppy Appeal in late October 2016. Around 44 stakes donated a collaborative 11,755 hours of their time to aid the cause.

Some local LDS Church leaders and officials were invited to attend Remembrance Day services and placed a wreath along with other

local organisation representatives and joined in a reception held at the council offices. In total, 306 Remembrance Day wreaths were laid at local services, with the Staines England Stake laying a total of 15.

Many members were touched by the experience as they witnessed the range and also the variety of ages of the huge crowd attending to pay their respects at the local Remembrance Day services.

The Poppy Appeal was a good opportunity to renew acquaintances with area officials like Councillor Barbara Russel, Mayor of Aylesbury.



Members participating in the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Services around the UK



VARIOUS

She greeted Robert Fu, the LDS bishop in Aylesbury, warmly, having enjoyed several events at the Aylesbury chapel: a family fun day in the summer, a rousing ceiledh in October, and—one that she complimented him on—a lovely Chinese meal with the Relief Society at the beginning of the year.

Under the direction and encouragement of England Birmingham Mission president Mark Leppard, 200 full-time missionaries from the Birmingham mission were authorised to increase their usual weekly service hours from five to seven so that they could join regular ward members in the 2016 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Spread over a

two-and-a-half-week period, this resulted in 1,400 hours of Poppy Appeal collection time.

Claire Rowcliffe, fundraising director for the Royal British Legion, expressed gratitude to the members for their contribution, stating, “We are grateful to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the assistance they have given during the annual Poppy Appeal. Their support has strengthened our collections, ensuring that vital funds are

raised which will make a huge difference to service personnel, veterans and their families.”

Participants felt the experience was a great opportunity to get involved with the community in a worthwhile cause and are looking forward to contributing once again in the coming years. ■





ARTEH ODIDIA

YSAs from all over the UK at the recent YSA temple gathering

“And They Pitched Their Tents Round about the Temple” (Mosiah 2:6) YSA Temple Gathering

By Lindsey Maughan

The young single adults (YSAs) of the United Kingdom were invited, like the people of the Book of Mormon, to pitch their tents “round about the temple” (Mosiah 2:6). One hundred and twenty men and women from all over Europe gathered at the Lord’s house. They participated in baptisms, endowments, and sealings. The event was organized by the Britannia YSA Ward of the London England Hyde Park Stake.

Friday, June 2nd, was a day of travel and trial, but that didn’t stop the YSAs from performing over 200 ordinances. Many old friends were reunited and new friends were made that night around the campfire. S’mores were eaten and songs were sung.

Saturday, June 3rd, started out with a devotional given by President Stephenson of the Hyde Park stake. He challenged us to follow the words of the Book of Mormon prophet King Benjamin: “Thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust

in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life” (Mosiah 4:6). Then throughout the rest of the day, more than 1,000 ordinances were performed for ancestors. The YSAs then gathered on the back lawn of the temple grounds to listen to the new temple president, President Otterson. The YSAs were encouraged to ask questions. What followed was a lively discussion full of the Spirit.

On Sunday, June 4th, everyone gathered at the Hyde Park chapel for a fast and testimony meeting where all were invited to share their personal spiritual experiences from the weekend.

The windows of heaven were indeed opened and blessings were poured out throughout the weekend on those brothers and sisters who were truly gathered together in Zion on both sides of the veil. By gathering at the temple, everyone grew closer to each other and their Father in Heaven. ■



From left to right: Brother Stephen Mills, Councillor Kath Phillips and Margaret Hampton at the recent meeting

Special Presentation to Walsall Councillor Kath Phillips

By Margaret Hampton

Two members of the Walsall Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints met with Councillor and recent Walsall Mayor Kath Phillips in the town hall. They presented Councillor Phillips with gifts to show their appreciation for the visits she made to their chapel in Old Wolverhampton Road.

Councillor Phillips, with her consort husband, Maurice, attended the annual hymn singing festival and the Christmas carol service. Stephen Mills, a member of the Walsall Ward bishopric, presented her with a beautifully bound volume of the scriptures.

Margaret Hampton, who acts as the local Church historian, presented her with a volume recording all the major events Kath had been involved in during her term as town Mayor.

Margaret and Kath have been long-time friends since they began working together at the old CO-OP Home Maker store some thirty years ago. ■

ANTHONY HAMPTON

Doncaster Helping Hands

By Colin Bacon

Around 30 members of the Doncaster Ward, in the Sheffield area, volunteered up to 105 hours of their time for the annual day of service and Mormon Helping Hands project in a new area in Doncaster, the Bentley Community Woodlands, working with the Conservation Volunteers (TCV). The volunteer leaders, Leon and Hayley, who work for TCV, met the Church volunteers at the community woodlands and walked them to the spot where they would be working. The weather was very kind, with beautiful sunshine.

Before the project, a breakfast was held for all involved to prepare everyone for the day before driving in convoy to Bentley.

Leader Leon gave a little history of the site that was now the community woodlands, which TCV upkeep. The members' role involved removing the tree guards from the trees which had been planted 10 years ago and were now established. TCV provided all the safety equipment, and everyone donned gloves and set to work—some with knives and goggles to remove

the tree guards, some with clippers to remove the stakes from the tree guards. The younger volunteers were the legs by carrying the discarded tree guards through the underbrush to the clearing where 2 piles were made—one of wood and one of old tree guards. Everyone worked well as a team and accomplished the job in good time. The surroundings were beautiful, with all the woodlands, lake and wildlife.

TCV were very impressed by the work and have invited the Church members back to work on another project in the Brodsworth area at a later date. ■

Doncaster members at the Mormon Helping Hands activity at Bentley Community Woodlands



COLIN BACON

Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu in Merthyr Tydfil

By Dawn Morgan

On Good Friday, Her Worship the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, Councillor Margaret Davies, and her consort, Miss Linda Jones, joined with the Saints of the Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake to take part in a Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced guh-man-va gha-knee), a singing festival. A similar event has been held at the stake centre for the last five years to celebrate and commemorate Easter and the atoning sacrifice of our Saviour.

The tradition of the Gymanfa Ganu brings together a large congregation of people to sing songs of worship in harmony in both Welsh and English. The evening was enriched by performances from the local Dowlais Male Choir, under the musical direction of Mrs Darya Brill-Williams, and soloist

Sister Sian Jenkins. Jonathan Gulliford, Phil Jones and Brother Tom Entwistle provided the musical accompaniment for the evening.

Brother Arnold Jones, the master of ceremonies for the evening, highlighted the origins of some of the songs that were sung. He recalled that “I Need Thee Every Hour” (“Mae D’eisiau di Bob Awr” in Welsh) was written by a young wife and mother, Annie Hawks. She wrote: “I was busy with my regular household tasks. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words, ‘I Need Thee Every Hour,’ were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me.”

Her pastor, Robert Lowry, later added the tune and refrain, and the hymn was first published in November 1872.

Some years later, after the death of her husband, Hawks wrote: “I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace.”

How apt those words are for us not only during the Easter season but throughout the hours of our lives as we seek for the peace that the Saviour brings. ■

Right to left: Stake President Govier; Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil Councillor Margaret Davies; her consort, Miss Linda Jones; and members of the Dowlais Male Choir. The choir musical director, Mrs Darya Brill-Williams, is also shown second from the left.



NIA JONES

It All Started with a Smile

By Artwell Gono, as interviewed by June McWatt

When I was around 19 years old, I was working in a warehouse in Leicester, England. During the course of my employment I met a man who, unbeknown to me then, would change the course of my life. As we worked together, there was something about him that really surprised me. He was always happy! Every day he seemed to have so much joy and happiness. He would say hello to everyone he met, including myself, with real compassion and genuine interest, which left me wondering what on earth made him so happy. I always felt in England people were not always so happy and smiling (only when the sun comes out), but this man drew my attention. His name was Terry Bedford. Terry had retired from full-time work and worked part-time. I couldn't help noticing there was just something shining and magical about him, and I was intrigued to know what it was!

One day I asked him why he was so happy, and he expressed his views on life. At this point I did not know he was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as he did not say anything to me about the Church.

Fast forward my life five years later. I moved from London where I was living and moved to Leicester for a friend's wedding. I subsequently ended up staying in Leicester, as at that time I was planning to go on a worldwide travel adventure; I felt the need for a break in my life, although my mother was not very keen on my plans.

She subsequently became a member of the Church, and I started to go to church with her every Sunday. One day, the missionaries, Elder Langi and Elder Lindquist,

came to my home. They were new to the area and had asked the stake president for names of people to teach the gospel to and he had given them my name, having seen me at church a few times. After having been born in Zimbabwe and arriving in England in 2005, going to Church was not alien to me, but the whole idea of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon was a little strange because I grew up thinking that the Bible was the only Christian book.

The missionaries came and helped me with painting, gardening, etc., which, looking back, I could see how I was shown the true love of Jesus Christ by people I didn't know that well, but they were amazing to me and my family. I felt those same feelings I'd felt with Terry, my old colleague in the warehouse. I didn't know what it was; all I knew was that I wanted it for myself. I'd always considered myself to be a very happy free spirit, but these new friends had something else!

Slowly, the missionaries started teaching me the gospel, and as they did so, I felt the Holy Spirit. During this process, I was totally unaware that I was in the same ward as my old friend Terry, but as I gradually came to spot him in the congregation each Sunday, he seemed so familiar and I was racking my brain to think where I had seen him. One day, it all came to me and everything made sense. All the pieces connected, and I finally knew the source of my friend's happiness!

My teachings with the missionaries became more in depth, and I started to find myself working so hard to give up tea and coffee and other things that were common to my lifestyle.



Artwell Gono

I was baptised on 1st May 2016. I have now been a member of this great Church for one year, and I am prepared to serve a mission in London from 31st May 2017.

I can testify that my conversion started with working with someone who showed me that being a member of the Church made you happy. I was shown true love and kindness by the missionaries and the members of the Church, and my own motivation now is to be able to show people the true love of Jesus Christ as it was shown to me.

I truly believe this is the true Church of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon is the second testament of Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God.

I am grateful for those families who have raised their children to serve as missionaries so that people like me can have the opportunity to feel the warm embrace and true love of Jesus Christ. And for me, it all started with a "Hello, how are you?" and a friendly smile from a work colleague. ■

COURTESY OF DAVID EATON



**Arnold Goodliffe,
1807-1888**

COURTESY OF DAVID EATON



**Arnold Goodliffe,
1837-1913**

My Two Arnold Goodliffes

By David Eaton

My third great-grandfather Arnold Goodliffe was born in 1807 in Belton, Rutland, England; he was a merchant in Nottingham; he died in 1888, age 81, just outside Nottingham.

My second great-uncle Arnold Goodliffe, the other Arnold's nephew, was born in 1837 in Barrowden, also in Rutland, and died in 1913, age 76, at Snowville, Box Elder, Utah, USA.

From his own narrative he writes:

“I became acquainted with the gospel when but a small boy and believed with all my soul, but my father thought I was too young to fully realize what I was doing and so I was not permitted to be baptized. I was sent to live with my uncle Arnold Goodliffe, a merchant of Nottingham to divert my attention. I was in Nottingham one year before I learned of any Saints, and I had some difficulty in getting to their meetings. By attending morning service in my uncle's church, I was allowed to go to the Saints meetings on Sunday and weekday evenings. I was baptized June 27 1853 being over 16 years old. My first church donation was to the Salt Lake Temple.

“My great desire and anxiety now, having been baptized, was to go to Zion, and I prayed to God earnestly that my way might be opened. God moved upon my relatives, and my brother proposed that I should go to America and they would furnish all

the money necessary. After a short visit among my relatives, I went to Liverpool, paid my passage, and set sail in the ship ‘Siddons’ for Philadelphia with a company of Saints. Pres John Taylor met us in Philadelphia where we landed April 20, 1855, and gave me my first meal in America. I possessed only 24 cents when I landed in America.”

Travelling in Captain Richard Ballantyne's company, Great-Great-Uncle Arnold went to Salt Lake City and in 1857 married Mary Robbins and later, embracing polygamy, six other wives. He was called to help settle Kaysville, Cache Valley, Logan, Bloomington, St Charles and Malad. He was called on a mission back to England in 1875. On returning from his mission he was called to make his home in Curlew

Valley, and in 1877 he was called as the bishop of Snowville, in which capacity he served for 29 years.

I had never heard of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints before 1972 when, in the town of Reading, Berkshire, England, I met it, believed it and was baptised into it. I had always assumed that I was the first person in my family to join the Church, so learning recently about Great-Great-Uncle Arnold's amazing LDS experiences back in 1855 has been a surprising, heartwarming eye-opener.

My great-great-great-grandfather Arnold was an ardent Baptist who served as a deacon in the Baptist Church in the Nottingham area in England. A great family man, I admire the way Arnold senior, at his brother's request, took Arnold junior into his home for a number of years prior to his leaving for the USA. ■

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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