



Service Missionary Newsletter For UK & Ireland

OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE 23



United in Purpose

By Elder & Sister Crew Service Mission Leaders, Birmingham and Bristol Areas

It was with much excitement and happiness that seasoned and new Service Missionaries from the UK and Ireland joined with their Mission Leaders for the second annual Service Mission Conference at the Wylde Green Chapel, Birmingham Stake on the weekend of 23 – 25 September 2022.

As missionaries came together from Southern Ireland, the Shetland Islands, Scotland, Wales and England, old friendships were renewed and new friendships made. All who visited the conference, commented on the feelings of love, unity and care that they experienced. The spirit felt replicated that spoken of in Alma 18: 21 when Alma baptised in the Waters of Mormon and organised the Church of Christ: “And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another.”

A warm welcome was received from our hosts, Bishop Edgerton of the Wylde Green Ward and President Peedle, Birmingham Stake President who joined us for dinner with his wife Hannah and spoke to the missionaries about the blessings and miracles that he had witnessed through the service missionaries in the Stake. During the Conference weekend the missionaries participated enthusiastically in devotionals and workshops led by the Service Mission Leaders.

On Saturday morning a group of 40 Elders and Sisters gathered on an inner city canal bank in central Birmingham with staff from the Canal Trust. Dressed in protective clothing and life jackets the group cleared and tidied the canal and towpath along a flight of locks. Expressions of gratitude and a lasting impression was left with the Canal Trust and the many walkers and cyclists who witnessed the service given by the missionaries.

On Saturday evening it was wonderful to experience laughter, a great deal of noise and healthy competition as the missionaries enjoyed some fun time together. The highlight of the Conference was the opportunity to partake of the Sacrament and share testimonies on Sunday morning. It was heart-warming to hear expressions of love for the Saviour and fellow missionaries. We were touched as missionaries shared sacred experiences relating to the blessings and miracles of service missions.

Following a final photo shoot, hugs, tears and expressions of love were shared as missionaries departed for home with cherished sacred memories of time spent in the company of dear friends. As we look back on time well spent we are reminded of the words of Elder Ronald A. Rasband, "True friendships are based on love of God and sharing that love with others."

Conference Thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to President Peedle, Bishop Edgerton and the members of the Wylde Green Ward for hosting the Conference. We are also very grateful to Brother Andre and Sister Joanne Robertson and their family for their help in catering for us throughout the weekend.



Missionaries Share Conference Experiences



"During the workshop there was a story shared called 'You Are Special'. It was a story that I heard as a child and was a nice reminder of that, and of the lesson that I am special and that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ knows me by name. It's something I often forget and it would seem I needed the reminder."

"Recently I have been struggling with some personal issues and have had some questions. Through the thoughtful and prepared lessons and the moving testimonies shared over the weekend, I felt uplifted and received answers and insights that I believe have and will continue to help me." - **Elder Wiltshire**

"The testimony meeting was one of the high points of the conference. Being able to hear the testimonies and experiences of so many missionaries was really spiritually uplifting. They each radiate a pure example of Christlike love and discipleship that truly inspires me to keep pushing myself. As a new missionary, to become more like my fellow missionaries would be the biggest blessing and honour in my life."

"A highlight for me was to join the Canal Trust with all the other missionaries in cleaning up the canal and the towpath. It was spectacular to not only make an impact within the community, but to also witness the blessings that come from serving others with unconditional love." - **Elder Berry**





“Elder Kureczko described feeling a spirit of unity in serving and sharing testimony together. He said that he felt stronger, a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose that he doesn’t always feel. We spoke about why unity is important in the church and how it requires each individual to pull together and embrace differences. It was a powerful experience for him.” – **Elder Kureczko and Family**

“With a weekend of so many spiritually powerful moments, I was humbled to see how much this mission has helped its communities but more so the impact it has had on the lives of its missionaries. I am grateful to have been able to witness the growth and strength that these missionaries hold.”

“ I am reminded of that road to Calvary, how my fellow missionaries and our leaders take up their crosses and their challenges and they tarry with the Lord in all they do. In the words of Elder Jeffrey R Holland “As we take up our

crosses and follow Him, it would be tragic indeed if the weight of our challenges did not make us more empathetic for and more attentive to the burdens being carried by others.” I know that the Lord truly qualifies all that He calls, without exception or bias” – **Elder Smith**

“One thing I learnt about at the mission conference was in the workshop presented by Elder and Sister Conway where they talked about comfort zones. This stood out to me because my mission has taught me to step outside of my comfort zone and as a result, I have been able to try new things and push myself to achieve bigger goals. I felt a strong presence of the Holy Ghost while I was listening to testimonies, confirming to me that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and that we need trials to grow and become the best versions of ourselves. I am especially grateful for the strong friendships I have made over the conference weekend and for the opportunity to be in the presence of so many individuals who share the same values and standards as myself.” - **Sister Why**



“The workshop that stood out to me was the beautiful lesson given by Elder and Sister Summersgill about being a good friend. Even though I was raised in the church, I still understand being new, and not knowing anyone and it can be hard. Just the simple ‘hello’ goes a long way to help new people.” I don’t remember a moment during the mission conference when the spirit wasn’t there. I felt its presence in the testimony meeting, workshops, having fun and eating together and litter picking at the canal where it was wonderful to feel that we were making the world which the Lord created that little bit more beautiful.” - **Elder Hayes**

“Meeting all of the other missionaries was great. The Conference was very spiritual, especially the Sacrament Meeting on Sunday.” - **Elder Maytham**

“Being able to serve others by clearing litter along the canal in an area where we don’t live and have never been before, blesses the lives of others without them ever knowing us. This is the true meaning of service. Much of the work we do, as little or as big as it is, will be noticed in small and simple ways by others around us and our loving Heavenly Father” - **Elder Singer**

“The Conway's workshop encouraged us to be confident and leave our bubble to try new things. I know that as I try to do this it will make me stronger” - **Sister Nunes**

"I really loved being at the mission conference because it was my final opportunity to be around the service missionaries in person and to enjoy my time with them. Something that stood out to me was that I had the opportunity to serve an Elder who needed some additional help throughout the Conference. For me, this related very much to the mission purpose of serving the one, just as Jesus Christ did, which helped me to appreciate what the Saviour has done for me and others, even more than I did before. I learned how important it is to understand our worth to the Lord and how that focus helps us feel joy. Lastly, I have felt how much Heavenly Father loves me and has blessed me over the course of my mission as I have done my best to follow the promptings of the spirit." - **Elder Hutchinson**



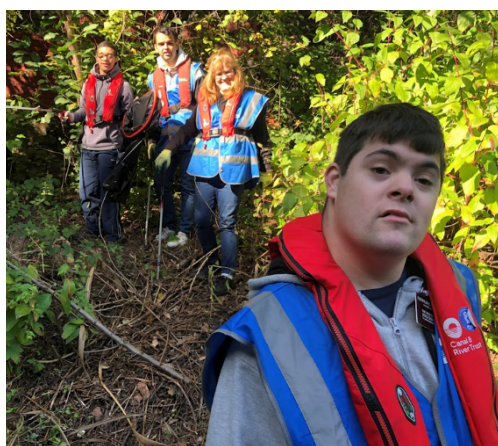
"During the testimony meeting I stood up to share my testimony. When I turned to look at all the other missionaries, I thought how much the service mission has grown and that there are now so many people who want to do good by following the example of Jesus Christ by serving and caring for others, ministering to the one and expressing His loving kindness." - **Elder Gardner**



"I really felt during the conference that at this time in my life, I am in the right place with the right people. The missionaries around me during the weekend have strengthened my testimony as I have observed their willingness to serve and the love they have shown to each other." - **Elder Peedle**

"I really enjoyed the Saturday afternoon workshops and the time spent making cards for the leaders and members that served us over the weekend." - **Sister Paraman**

"The missionaries on the bus say "that was great, that was great, that was great" The missionaries on the bus say "that was great" all day long" "The Conways on the bus say "please stop now, please stop now, please stop now" The Conways on the bus say "please stop now..... all day long." - **Sisters Davison and Morris**



"The workshops made me want to serve others and show love and kindness to them. As we try to be like the Saviour we set an example to others. I felt the Holy Ghost at the conference and this has made me more confident. I feel spiritually stronger." - **Elder Medina**

"If we come out of our comfort zone even when it is a hard thing to do, then jump in again and come out again... our comfort zone expands." - **Elder Flores**

"I really enjoyed the workshop with Elder and Sister Conway. It made me want to step out of my personal bubble and do hard things" - **Elder Stone**

"A very spiritual and uplifting weekend." - **Elder Spencer**



Bristol and Birmingham Service Mission



London Service Mission



Manchester, Leeds, Scotland and Ireland Service Mission

Click here to view our Mission Conference Video - It's very special !
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8YAJF4_vw4&ab_channel=DanielPeedle