World Scout Jamboree
Church enjoying visible presence at international gathering in England

Article and photos by Blake E. Hart from LDS Church News, week ending August 4, 2007

ESSEX, England — Coined as a derivative of the Swahili greeting "Jambo," the word "Jamboree" is synonymous with large gatherings of Scouts. Ever since the first Jamboree was organized almost 90 years ago by Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell, boys have pulled on their Scout uniforms and "Jamboreed" at local, national and world levels. And almost since that beginning, such gatherings have usually enjoyed an enthusiastic LDS presence.

The Church is again prominently represented at the 2007 World Scout Jamboree being held in the heart of England — the birthplace of the Scouting movement. Between 400 to 500 LDS Scouts and leaders from different spots on the globe are counted among the 40,000 Scouters gathered for the international event. Many are from the United States, while others traveled from nations as far away as Tahiti. The 10-day 2007 World Jamboree began July 28 and is expected to offer young Church members an opportunity to befriend, recreate and serve beside fellow Scouts from some 150 countries and many religious backgrounds.

The Jamboree's opening ceremonies included a procession of knights on horseback. They were followed by flag bearers of each participant nation. England's Prince William and the Duke of Kent attended the ceremonies. The Duke read a message of welcome from Queen Elizabeth II.

Many of those attending the World Scout Jamboree will likely learn of the Church for the first time. An LDS display tent is located within the Jamboree's Faith and Beliefs area — a circle of large tents with many of the world's religions represented. Visitors to the Church's tent can wander past several dioramas. One displays a large painting of Christ. The familiar "The Christus" statue is found in another. Also exhibited are photographs of the First Presidency and the Young Men general presidency. The Church's Duty to God Award and Scouting's Eagle Award are also highlighted in the display. The LDS display is interactive. Visitors of all ages can sit at one of the dozen computer stations and discover their own ancestors via familysearch.org. Full-time missionaries are also on hand to answer questions about the Church and its youth programs. Literature such as the Strength of Youth pamphlet, the Joseph Smith story, Article of Faith cards and copies of the Book of Mormon are also available.

Patch collecting is a favorite hobby among Scouters attending the Jamboree. They leave the Church's display tent happy with an LDS-themed patch — and a frozen treat to help them keep cool.

For LDS Scouters, the Jamboree offers opportunities for spiritual instruction and growth. Young Men General President Charles Dahlquist II is presiding over the Church contingent. He is joined by his counselor, Brother Michael A. Neider, and a team of LDS chaplains. The first sacrament meeting was held July 29 in the Jamboree's Global Development Village. A second Sabbath gathering is planned for August 5.

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Young Men General President Honored with Top Award

A longtime champion of Scouting, Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II has received the organization's highest commendation for service to youth.

On June 1, Brother Dahlquist was presented the Silver Buffalo Award at Scouting's National Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

He joins a storied group of Church leaders to receive the Silver Buffalo Award that includes several Church presidents, members of the First Presidency and other General Authorities.

Brother Dahlquist has worn the Scout leader uniform for many years, serving in various capacities at all levels. After becoming a Scoutmaster and Explorer adviser, he became active at the council level, serving the Great Salt Lake Council as vice president for five years and as an executive board member since 1999. At the regional and national levels, Brother Dahlquist was a member of the Western Regional Executive Board, the National Executive Board and the International and Relationships committees.

President Dahlquist was recently appointed chairman of Scouting's National Venturing Committee.

Since accepting his calling as the Young Men general president, Brother Dahlquist has presided over the annual LDS leadership training at New Mexico's Philmont Scout Ranch, offering guidance and direction to hundreds of Church priesthood and Scout leaders.

A trial attorney and member of the board of directors of Kirton & McConkie in Salt Lake City, Brother Dahlquist is also renowned for his expertise in health care law.

He presided over the Germany Hamburg Mission from 1992-1995 and serves as honorary consul to the Federal Republic of Germany in Utah.

A past recipient of Scouting's Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards, Brother Dahlquist was recently named head chaplain for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

Brother Dahlquist and his wife, Zella, have five daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Scouting’s Distinguished Service Awards

As a movement whose leadership is overwhelmingly volunteer, the Boy Scouts of America recognizes the need to acknowledge the invaluable services that men and women render to youth. Of the hundreds of awards that the BSA presents each year to those on the local council, regional, and national levels, the Silver Buffalo, Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver, and Silver World awards are the most prestigious. Although the criteria are different for each of these awards, there is one common thread: The recognitions are granted by one's own peers in Scouting for distinguished service to youth. Other BSA awards, by comparison, are granted only to those who have completed a prescribed course of study or have participated in special training sessions.

The Silver Buffalo Award, created in 1925, is bestowed upon those who give truly noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth. This award, Scouting's highest commendation, recognizes the invaluable contributions that outstanding American men and women render to youth. The service must be national in character and can be directly connected with the BSA or independent of the movement. The first Silver Buffalo Award was conferred upon Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement and Chief Scout of the World.

The Silver Antelope Award, created in 1942, is granted for outstanding service to youth within the territory of a BSA region. The criteria are similar to those for the Silver Buffalo, with one major difference: A recipient must be a registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America. The awards are presented in connection with regional meetings or at other public functions within the region. The National Court of Honor bestows Silver Antelope Awards on the basis of the number of registered volunteers in a region.

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Spiritual potential of Young Men program
Aim of Duty to God is to help youth make something of their lives

With the Salt Lake Temple serving as an apt background, Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve led a group discussion on how local priesthood leaders can utilize the Duty to God and other programs to help young men realize their spiritual potential.

Included in the group was Elder Oaks' fellow apostle, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, along with Elder Steven E. Snow of the Seventy, Fruit Heights Utah Stake President David L. Frischknecht, and Bishop Jeffrey D. Swenson of the Fruit Heights 1st Ward, Fruit Heights Utah Stake.

Elder Oaks began the discussion by saying everything that happens in the temple fits under one of three purposes: the teaching of eternal truths, the making of covenants, and the promise of blessings. "Those three great categories — teaching, covenants and blessings — are the foundation of what we seek to do with the young men who hold the Aaronic Priesthood."

Elder Oaks asked Elder Holland what priesthood leaders hope to do with the young men of the Church.

First, Elder Holland answered, "we want them to enjoy their Aaronic Priesthood years, to magnify their callings in that Aaronic Priesthood, to enjoy the privileges and opportunities of those Aaronic Priesthood offices, and to advance to move successively through the Aaronic Priesthood stages toward the ordination of the Melchizedek Priesthood."

Following such a path would lead to the temple, a full-time mission and, later, a family.

Elder Snow commented on how such a path is followed.

"The direction, of course, comes from the scriptures and from the Brethren," he said. "(Another) way we do this is through fulfilling our duty to God with the Duty to God program that we use with our young men."

Holding up a Duty to God pamphlet, Elder Oaks spoke of the program's spiritual development requirements — along with those more physical and social development requirements that may overlap Scouting. He asked the discussion group how priesthood leaders can work through any ambiguity between the two programs.

"Scouting and the activities of the Duty to God program help build young men," Elder Snow said. "But I think, from our point of view, that the most significant is the spiritual development."

Focus should be placed on spiritual preparation for the Melchizedek Priesthood, the temple, missions and marriage, he added. The Duty to God program also reminds young men of many different opportunities to serve.

The focus of the Duty to God program, Elder Oaks said, is not simply to achieve a series of requirements.

"It's on becoming something," he added. "We want a young man to be on his life journey — with the Melchizedek Priesthood and mission and marriage being important milestones along that path. But the focus is on what the young man is to become."

Elder Oaks also counseled priesthood leaders to be flexible and not get caught up in the technicalities of the overlap between Scouting and the Duty to God program.

Bishop Swenson commented on how he had become a better father and bishop by helping young men follow the Duty to God program.

The Aaronic Priesthood allows young men to prepare for the Savior by serving now and today, added President Frischknecht. "If you're 12, and you know that you're fulfilling your Duty to God in helping and serving other people right now, then you can progress and then you can move forward. (The) Aaronic Priesthood is not just about preparing for something in the future, it's doing real work right now."

Elder Holland said it's important that priesthood leaders teach young men the "grand tradition" of the priesthood, its historicity and ancient origins. "I'm not sure that we do enough in the modern day to put some of this in the historical context."

In summarizing the discussion, Elder Oaks called the Duty to God a program that involves important priesthood duties and leads to the three M's: Melchizedek Priesthood, Mission and Marriage in the temple.

"We've stressed that a young man's fulfilling his Duty to God is about becoming what God wants him to become," he said. "That requires us to concentrate on young men fulfilling requirements listed under priesthood duties and standards, family activities, quorum activities and spiritual development."

The Scouting/Aaronic Priesthood Broadcast can be downloaded in its entirety on the church website: http://www.lds.org
Philmont camp teaches the value of every soul
More than 300 stake leaders participate in annual Scouting conference in New Mexico

Folks who participate in the Church’s annual leadership training at Philmont Scout Ranch frequently categorize their week of learning and fellowship as a "Zion's Camp"-like experience.

President Robert Homer said he enjoyed his own glimpse of the Philmont version of Zion's Camp this year. Yes, there were hundreds of tents and communal meals and a sunburn or two. And, like that edifying camp led by Joseph Smith, "Philmont was filled with so many good people," said President Homer, who presides over the South Jordan Utah Highland Stake. People from various backgrounds and home towns gathered together to instruct, learn, worship and bless the lives of others.

More than 300 stake leaders and their families participated in one of this year’s two weeklong training sessions at the massive Scout-owned ranch in eastern New Mexico. During the first two weeks of July, participants traveled to Philmont "from California to Maine," said David Pack, director of Scouting's LDS Relations Office.

The hundreds of priesthood leaders who sat in the many training sessions represented a diversity of professions. But each arrived at Philmont wearing Scout uniforms, unified in an effort to strengthen LDS boys and their families.

"The greatest part of Philmont was the feeling that everyone felt while they were there," said Brother Pack, who was participating in the LDS encampment for the first time.

For local priesthood leaders, weekdays at Philmont were passed in training sessions, learning the ins-and-outs of Scouting's supportive role as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood. While the classes covered a wide range of subjects, "it was priesthood all the time," President Homer said.

Training sessions were taught by members of the Young Men and Primary general presidencies and boards, along with Brother Pack. Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II presided at both weeklong sessions. He was joined at one or the other session by his two counselors, Brother Dean R. Burgess and Brother Michael A. Neider, along with Primary General President Cheryl C. Lant and her first counselor, Sister Margaret S. Lifferth.

Training focused on how to fortifying those areas of the Aaronic Priesthood that can sometimes be wobbly. Priesthood leaders were taught to "Rise up, O men of God," Brother Dahlquist said.

"Each (participant) leaves with a greater testimony of the importance of saving the one," he added.

While the men were involved in their daily training sessions, their wives kept busy with a plethora of activities, workshops and spiritual devotionals. Meanwhile, their children were divided by age and led on hikes and other fun excursions by members of the Philmont staff.

Older youth at Philmont once again were encouraged to join in the weeklong trek through the New Mexican backcountry to sharpen their outdoor skills, strengthen testimonies and make new friends from across the country.

While many at Philmont are dedicated to instruction and training, participants say the camp is fueled by its ward-like camaraderie. In fact, the Philmont student body functions as a ward during each session. Most of the adults are given a "calling" weeks before arriving in camp.

Sunday was dedicated to Sabbath services and gospel instruction as participants gathered for a traditional three-hour meeting block.

"I was called to be the first counselor in the ward Young Women presidency, so I taught the Mia Maids," said Sister Rhonda Homer, who traveled to Philmont with her husband and twin teenage sons, Ryan and Regan. President Homer served in the ward Sunday School presidency.

Sister Homer said she soon forgot about the Spartan accommodations found at Philmont's tent cities and instead found pleasure in personal scripture study and observing her "neighbors" gather for family home evening and sing hymns before retiring for the night.

"It felt good being surrounded by the Church."

For the encampment to be called a true success, local leaders will return home to their respective stakes eager to pass along Philmont's spirit and eternal lessons. Brother Pack said each priesthood leader was asked to set five "Philmont goals" that would improve the priesthood and Scouting programs in their home stakes.

President Homer is eager to sit down with his counselors and begin implementing what he learned in New Mexico.

"We want to strengthen our Varsity and Venturing programs," he said. "In six months, things will look different than they do today."

Brother Dahlquist is already looking forward to next year's Philmont training sessions.
Philmont and the LDS Church

Philmont Scout Ranch has been called by many “God’s Country.” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has enjoyed a long and wonderful history with the Philmont Scout Ranch, located in Northeastern New Mexico. In 2009 it will be our 50th anniversary. During that time the Church has been privileged to have a representative serve as the LDS Chaplain to Philmont and assist in providing spiritual strength and support to staff and those that come on treks or to the training center. For the past few years David and Charlene Wilson have been serving in this position and loving every minute of it.

The Chaplaincy at Philmont involves a variety of opportunities to serve. Philmont covers over 100,000 acres of land and is host to over 26,000 participants and 1,200 seasonal staff on an annual basis. That is a lot of land and individuals to cover! By dividing up the various Chaplain duties all of the Chaplains strive to be available to counsel and assist anyone and everyone as much as possible in a variety of ways from delivering emergency messages to holding back-country worship services during their stay at Philmont. A majority of the staff are college aged young men and women who are at a variety of crossroads in their lives. All Chaplains are available to sit down and ‘just talk’ with the staff and participants whenever the need arises. No matter their religious belief Chaplains encourage all to stand up for their faith, and to do their own duty to God.

From daily Sacrament meetings (for those that are leaving or returning from their Philmont Treks), to holding weekly social activities for the staff, Brother & Sister Wilson are constantly involved in the activities of the Ranch. They dedicate all of their time and efforts for over 3 months each summer to being the Church’s representative to everything and anything that is Philmont. “My purpose as a Chaplain has been to assist in strengthening the relationship between the Church and Philmont as well as building greater bonds of friendship and unity between us and the various other religious faith groups involved in scouting. It is always my strongest desire to demonstrate the benefits and blessings that can come through a strong scouting program and the Church.” Brother Wilson has stated. On numerous occasions, Sister Wilson has said that her favorite part of this assignment is hearing from young men and women how their lives have been touched by spiritual experiences as they learn to turn to the Lord for help.

There are a variety of ways for individuals to participate in a Philmont experience. In addition to the annual Church’s Priesthood Leadership Training in July, there are numerous other scout leaders training programs for Scouters and their families. There are 12 day backpacking treks for Troops, Teams and Venturing Crews, and individualized outdoor programs for youth ages 14 to 21, as well as summer employment opportunities for young adults age 18 and older. For the Church, Philmont is truly an opportunity for each to understand more fully what it means to be in God’s Country.

Invitations will be mailed from LDS Church headquarters to each Stake President in the United States during the first week of December. This information will also be available for download on our website: http://www.ldsbsa.org shortly after the mailing.

Those approved immediately to attend include members of the Stake Presidency, High Councilor Adviser for Young Men or Primary, and Stake Young Men President. All others will be put on a waiting list.
Scouting's whittler
LDS Scouter touches lives via wood and sharpened steel

Article by Jason Swensen, Church News, Week ending Sept 23, 2006

The real Pied Piper wears a Boy Scout uniform and carries a whittling knife. Skeptical? Try spending a few minutes alone with Bill Burch at a Scout function while he's whittling. It's impossible. Youngsters, teens and middle-aged folks alike are inevitably drawn (Piper-like) to the great-grandfather with the angel-white mustache. This diverse tableau hovers about Brother Burch, conversing with the man or simply listening to one of his time earned stories of Scouting or gospel living. They often sit at his side like acolytes, whittling on something themselves.

But their eyes always return to Brother Burch's 83-year-old hands. They watch as the whittling knife in his right hand shifts and sways while his left steadies a fist-sized block of aspen. Indeed, Brother Burch's charisma is on display whenever boys and men — scions of today's high-speed, wireless age — fall mesmerized at the sight of an elderly man patiently executing the ancient trade of carving wood with sharpened steel.

The word whittle has become a pejorative. Fools whittle away time and opportunities. But Brother Burch whittles with purpose. For decades he has whittled for Scouts and their leaders. "I whittle from 8:00 in the morning until midnight," Brother Burch said. He's only half-joking.

His specialty these days are bolo ties, those two-corded neckties favored by cowboys and Texas oil barons. There are literally tens of thousands of Bill Burch bolo tie owners. His carved tie clasp characters are easy to spot — hilarious wooden mugs suited for cartoons. There's the soldier and the pirate. The Viking and the grinning Scoutmaster. Santa Claus and the sailor. Another favors, well, Brother Burch. Each time Brother Burch finishes a bolo tie it's recorded and numbered on the back of its wooden clasp. He recently finished number 44,000.

A World War II veteran — "I was invited by Uncle Sam to go on an all-expense paid cruise of the South Pacific" — Brother Burch was a Scoutmaster long before whittling became his avocation. In fact, he was camping with a Scout troop in Washington in the early 1960s when he carved his first Scout-themed face.

"I came across a piece of driftwood, looked at it, and thought, 'This could make a great neckerchief slide,'" said Brother Burch. He pulled out a knife and began to whittle.

Soon Brother Burch — who now lives in Orem, Utah — was carving neckerchief slides to reward local Scouts for earning merit badges and advancement awards. When he participated in district and national Scouting activities his neckerchief slides followed. Whenever Brother Burch participated in national and international Jamborees he would hand out as many of his carvings as possible. Payment would come in the form of a young man's promise to live the Scout Oath and Law.

He hopes such commitments have inspired people to serve others.

"As we help others, we are fulfilling our life's need — that's what we're here for," said Brother Burch, who is often accompanied on his Scout duties by his wife, Betty Burch.

In time, Brother Burch shifted from neckerchief slides to bolo ties. Besides hanging his ties around the necks of legions of Scouts, the lifelong member has also placed his humorous creations with plenty of famous folk. President Ronald Reagan owned a "Burch bolo." Former First Lady Nancy Reagan was once spotted on the news sporting one of Brother Burch's cowboy clasps adorned with a hot pink, feathered 10-gallon hat. Meanwhile, current White House resident George W. Bush is counted among Burch bolo tie owners that once included President Ezra Taft Benson. Brother Burch even carved a bolo tie for President Gordon B. Hinckley from the same walnut tree used to fabricate the Conference Center podium.

Despite his unexpected whittling renown, Brother Burch still considers himself a Scouter first. Each bolo tie he gives to a young Scout or leader still carries with it the promise of future service. His bolo tie tradition is further ensured in the form of a young apprentice: fellow LDS Scout leader and bolo tie carver, Gary Dollar. Brother Dollar has whittled more than 4,000 bolo ties himself since learning the trade from his mentor and friend.

Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist said the majesty of Brother Burch's efforts "lies not in his hands," — but in his heart.

"As he carves, I have watched him surrounded by youth of all ages to learn the timeless values this great youth leader has to teach them," Brother Dahlquist wrote in an e-mail to the Church News. "To the youth who come to watch him whittle, he is a straight talker — committing them to live Scouting values, to honor their priesthood and to commit to serve a full-time mission."

Several Scouts gather around Bill Burch during the recent LDS priesthood leadership training at New Mexico's Philmont Scout Ranch. Brother Burch draws a crowd whenever he puts his whittling blade to use.
Your Wood Badge Vision
by David B. Erickson

If you signed up for Baden-Powell’s first Wood Badge course in the fall of 1919 at Gilwell Park outside of London, you could have learned animal tracking, art, useful knots, and how to cook. And while learning those skills, you would have learned something else. Baden-Powell would have probably helped you to catch your own vision of how to lead Scouts.

Catching the vision of how you can be a great Scout leader is still one of the purposes of Wood Badge. Though the course has refined somewhat over the years—art, tracking, knots, and cooking are taught elsewhere—and the course has shortened from the original 12 days to six—advanced Scout leadership training is still the heart and purpose of Wood Badge. And the reward of sharing in this hands-on-experience is catching your own vision of how you can help boys feel the spirit of Scouting and become great leaders.

Careful! It May Change Your Life
While a Wood Badge course teaches you state-of-the-art leadership principles, I believe the genius behind Wood Badge is that you learn by doing in a patrol setting. You’ll acquire leadership tools and practice some models of success, and along the way you’ll probably feel something you would like your boys to feel—the spirit of Scouting. And it may change your life.

Here’s an edited version of thoughts shared this summer by several Wood Badge participants—

- “Wow, where do I find the words to say thank you!? You will never be able to know how much you have affected my life for the good.”
- “My prayer and desire was answered because of your talents, testimonies, work and service. I am so thankful to have been blessed to be here at Wood Badge. My testimony has been strengthened. Thank you!”
- “Wood Badge changed my outlook on Scouting. I have been converted! Truly converted!! I have felt the spirit many times over these six days and have been taught important principles. Thank you! Not only for me but in behalf of the boys I serve.”

Others May See You’ve Caught the Spirit of Scouting
When you come home from Wood Badge, watch and see whether others notice something different about you.

One Scouter shared his family’s impression of him after returning to the second half of his weekend Wood Badge course. He wrote, “I just want to say how much this experience means to me. My life is changed for the better. During the break between weekends, my family noticed something had changed. My 4-year-old daughter asked my wife, “What happened to Daddy?” Even my wife asked how many times I could go to Wood Badge so I could keep improving. Thanks so much!”

Judging by the experience of others, Wood Badge will help you become a better Scout leader. It’s also likely that along the way you’ll find ways to become a better person. Sign up soon for your Wood Badge experience. Do your best to serve others by improving your leadership skills. If you do, you’ll help fulfill Baden-Powell’s vision that Scouting can bring about God’s Kingdom on earth. And by going to Wood Badge, that vision can also become yours.

David B. Erickson is a member of the Young Men General Board and a recent Wood Badge course director.

For more information on becoming a Wood Badge participant, please contact your local council.
Jamboree chaplain
Alaskan Scouter serves others two years after Virginia tragedy

Article by Jason Swenson from LDS Church News week ending August 11, 2007

Scout Jamborees have become a defining element of Larry Call’s life.

Brother Call is a family man and faithful Church member. He is a proud Alaskan, a dentist by profession and, in recent days, a chaplain at the 2007 World Jamboree in England. Indeed, Brother Call enjoys a rich life.

But, again, much of who he is can be traced to Scouting and a few life-changing Jamboree moments.

Thirty years ago, when Brother Call was a young LDS Scout he attended a national Jamboree. He left that memorable event determined that one day he would return. That wish was realized two summers ago when Brother Call and his Scout son Kendell joined a group of fellow Alaskan Scouters traveling to Virginia for the National Scout Jamboree at Fort AP Hill.

Brother Call’s experience there would make national news and cause thousands of Scouts to mourn. On July 25, 2005, he and several other leaders and boys from Alaska were preparing their Jamboree campsite. Brother Call and a few others worked together, erecting a large canopy. As they were raising the canopy’s center pole, the pole came in contact with an overhanging power line.

Brother Call was injured in the accident. Four other men were killed, including his close friend and fellow Church member Michael LaCroix.

Amid extreme sadness, Brother Call found comfort in priesthood blessings and the prayers of several fellow members attending the National Jamboree. Counted among his supporters were a pair of LDS Scout leaders from Las Vegas, Nevada, who Brother Call had met moments before the electrical accident. Paul Moffat and Todd Moody were serving as chaplains at the Jamboree. Their shepherding duties were called upon in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. In a few short days, Brother Moffat and Brother Moody had become lifelong friends with Brother Call.

Given the dark memories of that recent summer, it would be understandable if Brother Call opted to avoid future Jamborees. But when an invitation came to serve as a chaplain at the 2007 World Jamboree, "there was no hesitation at all — it’s been a privilege to participate."

As an LDS chaplain, Brother Call served under the direction of event head chaplains Charles W. Dahlquist II and Michael A. Neider of the Young Men general presidency. His fellow LDS chaplains were Brother Moffat and Brother Moody, along with Don Ellison. Brother Call was also joined at the World Jamboree by his son Evan, 15.

"We have a bond because of a common, tragic experience," wrote Brother Moody, who presides over the Las Vegas Nevada Highland Hills Stake.

"Larry is a great, great person," added Brother Moffat. "He is so anxious to give back in large ways."

Pedaling bikes to navigate the massive English encampment, the team of LDS chaplains helped friendship and minister to the some 40,000 Scouts attending the Jamboree from more than 150 countries. Much of Brother Call’s time was spent handing out commemorative LDS-themed coins and patches to the many Scouts who visited the Church’s information tent at the Jamboree’s Faith and Beliefs section. He also offered a listening ear to homesick Scouts eager for a seasoned friend.

Brother Call said he was often recognized at the World Jamboree by Scouts and leaders who participated in the 2005 National Jamboree. Many shared tender feelings, recalling the tragedy and unity that defined the Virginia gathering.

Thoughts of Brother LaCroix and the other fallen Alaskan leaders were always present. "Mike had a huge impact on my life," he said. "It was a privilege to know him."

Reporting from the World Jamboree, Brother Dahlquist called the international gathering "an incredible experience" that brought LDS Scouts of many nations together. He wrote of the global unity found in the August 5 sacrament meeting held under a large tent.

"The invocation was given in English by a young man who spoke French. The hymns were sung in many languages. The sacrament was administered by priests speaking two languages. Three testimonies were given by youth participants, one from a Tahitian Aaronic Priesthood holder. And the closing prayer was given in Spanish by a Venturer."

At that meeting, Brother Dahlquist spoke of the small things that can yield great results. He told of how the lessons learned earning a lifesaving merit badge prepared a boy to save a drowning younger brother. And how a boy who learned to pray at his mother’s knee would once again pray in a secluded, sacred grove and bring about the gospel’s restoration.

Brother Neider also spoke of prayer’s sacred power, sharing personal stories and lessons from the Book of Mormon.