

www.scriptures.lds.org (click on **English** for a list of languages); more than 600,000 people use the online edition of the scriptures each month.

The entire standard works and study helps can also be found in multiple languages on the CD-ROM *The Scriptures: Electronic Study Edition*, available through local distribution centers. A new DVD-ROM edition with another 20 languages will be released late this year.

The Church is also producing official scripture applications for mobile devices that will be available in 2010 in English, with other languages to follow.

The results of sharing the Book of Mormon are unmistakable. This keystone and additional

testament of Jesus Christ helps hundreds of thousands of new converts each year come to know and accept the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. With more copies of the Book of Mormon available in more languages and more formats and with more missionaries and members to distribute it, the Book of Mormon and its influence continue to spread.

However, with billions of people yet to reach, the urgency President Benson felt to publish and distribute the book in 1988 remains today.

“We have the Book of Mormon,” he said. “We have the members, we have the missionaries, and the world has the need. The time is now!” (“Flooding the Earth,” 4). ■

New Guidelines Blessing Relief Society

Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president, announced new guidelines for Relief Society meetings nearly six months ago at the general Relief Society meeting, and the results are blessing the lives of sisters around the world.

The reception of the new guidelines has been generally warm, said Sister Beck, pointing out that members worldwide can now design meetings according to their individual needs, allowing more flexibility in a church that isn’t confined to one culture or locale.

“This has been a very positive step for a global organization,” Sister Beck said. “We love the sisters, we trust the sisters, and we know that if they make this a matter of faith

and obedience, they won’t have any problem with it.”

Sister Beck’s address, entitled “Relief Society: A Sacred Work” (*Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 110)

should serve as the official policy regarding meetings, and Relief Society leaders with questions about the policies should counsel with their priesthood leaders.

General Changes

It was affirmed that Relief Society counselors should follow the pattern of the priesthood and be called the first or second counselor.

The calling previously known as the home, family, and personal enrichment leader should be called the Relief Society meeting coordinator. The sister in this calling should continue to arrange Relief Society meetings held on weekdays under the direction of the presidency.



Relief Society Meeting Guidelines

In her address, Sister Beck told how the meetings formerly called “home, family and personal enrichment” would now simply be called Relief Society meetings.

Sister Beck described how the ward Relief Society president should oversee all Relief Society meetings and counsel with the bishop or branch president, who approves all meeting plans.

The Relief Society president should oversee the meetings, but may ask the first or second counselor—or recommend a sister in the ward or branch be called—to be coordinator of the meetings. At least one member of the presidency should be present at all meetings.

Meetings generally should be held monthly, but at least quarterly, at a time other than Sunday or Monday evening. The bishop or branch president and the Relief Society president determine the frequency of the meetings, and sisters should not be made to feel it is mandatory to attend all these meetings.

When planning meetings, the Relief Society presidency should consider such issues as time commitment, cost, safety, and travel distance.

Meetings should accomplish the “charitable and practical responsibilities” of Relief Society, increasing faith and personal righteousness and seeing to the spiritual and temporal needs of individuals and families.

In planning meetings the Relief Society presidency should give priority to topics that fulfill Relief Society purposes; meetings can focus on one topic or be divided into more than one class or activity. Teachers should generally be members of the ward or stake.

“Using Relief Society meetings appropriately will increase the ability of the Relief Society to work in powerful ways with priesthood leaders in every ward,” Sister Beck said. ■

IN THE NEWS

Annual Pageants Begin with Mesa

Each year the Church sponsors five pageants across the United States. Information about each pageant is included here.

Mesa Arizona Pageant

The Mesa Arizona Pageant, *Jesus the Christ*, retells the story of Jesus Christ’s birth, ministry, selfless death, and miraculous Resurrection. The show runs March 24 to April 3. See www.easterpageant.org for more information.

Manti Utah Pageant

Manti Utah’s *The Mormon Miracle Pageant* intertwines the stories of the Restoration of the gospel, the witness of the Book of Mormon, and the journey of the faithful pioneers to the Sanpete Valley. The show runs June 17 to 26. See www.mormonmiracle.org for more information.

Nauvoo Illinois Pageant

The Nauvoo Illinois Pageant, *A Tribute to Joseph Smith*, celebrates the restored gospel, the prophetic mission of Joseph Smith, and the legacy of early Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo. The show runs July 6 to July 31. See



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM SMART, DESERT NEWS

www.nauvoopageant.org for more information.

Hill Cumorah New York Pageant

The Hill Cumorah New York Pageant, *America’s Witness for Christ*, retells the Book of Mormon story, including the trials of Lehi’s family and his descendants, the climactic visit of Jesus Christ to the Americas, and Joseph Smith’s discovery of the plates. The show runs July 9 to 17. See www.hillcumorah.org for more information.

Castle Valley Utah Pageant

The Castle Valley Utah Pageant is an elaborate outdoor historical drama that portrays the settling of a pioneer village in Castle Dale, Utah. The show runs July 29 to August 7. For more information, call 1-435-687-2403. The Castle Valley Pageant alternates every other year with the Clarkston Pageant, *Martin Harris: The Man Who Knew*, in Clarkston, Utah. ■