



freedom to be claimed by all the inhabitants of this planet, and we are far short of that at present,” he said.

At a conference on religious persecution and forced migration held at Windsor Castle in **England** in September, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said there is much to learn from the experience of early LDS pioneers that could help modern-day refugees rise above their circumstances. “Whenever possible, we should facilitate and perpetuate the unique identities of refugees and highlight stories from their past,” he said.

In **Spain**, including the **Canary Islands**, and in **Portugal**, Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles invited members, missionaries, and leaders to encourage those who are less active to return to full participation in the Church.

As **Vietnam** granted the Church full and official recognition in June, Elder Quentin L. Cook and Elder Gary E. Stevenson, both of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, met with government officials and discussed the history and development of the Church. They also discussed how the Church assists with social and charitable projects and helps the poor and disadvantaged. They also presided over meetings in **Guam**, **Micronesia**, and **Japan**.

Also in June, Brisbane, **Australia**, and the **Cook Islands** were blessed by the visit of Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Elder Andersen also visited the island of **Rarotonga** and became the first Apostle to set foot on the island of **Mangaia**.

In **Colombia**, **Peru**, and **Ecuador** in June, Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles rearranged his schedule to visit those

still recovering from a massive earthquake. He shared a message of love from President Thomas S. Monson and assured the quake-weary members that they were not forgotten.

In **Guatemala** in August, Elder Quentin L. Cook noted a steady rise in family history research and temple work and said it is an indication of members’ faith.

When the king and queen of Tonga were welcomed to the Church’s Polynesian Cultural Center in **Hawaii, USA**, in June, Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave introductory remarks about the importance of family ties.

In **Louisiana, USA**, President Russell M. Nelson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Elder M. Russell Ballard visited flood victims while Mormon Helping Hands volunteers helped clean up damaged homes during August and September. Elder Ballard noted that more than 11,000 volunteers had come from 13 states.

And in September, during a worldwide devotional for young adults that originated in **Washington, D.C., USA**, Elder Cook said, “We should not have fear even in a dangerous and troubled world.” He counseled young adults to set righteous goals and have a plan to achieve them and to not underestimate their own talents and capabilities. He also encouraged them to evaluate their use of social media. “We hear a lot about being authentic in social media,” he said, but “being sincerely Christlike is an even more important goal than being authentic.”

Up-to-date information on the ministry of these Church leaders can be found on their respective Facebook pages and at prophets.lds.org. ■

155th Temple Dedicated Soon

Upon the dedication of the **Hartford Connecticut Temple** (USA) on November 20, 2016, the Church will have 155 temples operating throughout the world. Recently dedicated or rededicated temples include the following:

- **Sapporo Japan Temple**, dedicated on August 21, 2016
- **Freiberg Germany Temple**, rededicated on September 4, 2016
- **Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple** (USA), dedicated on September 18, 2016
- **Fort Collins Colorado Temple** (USA), dedicated on October 16, 2016
- **Star Valley Wyoming Temple** (USA), dedicated on October 30, 2016

Additional information about temples that are under construction or that have been announced can be found at temples.lds.org. ■

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA TEMPLE, FREIBERG GERMANY TEMPLE, AND SAPPORO JAPAN TEMPLE