

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Saints Hear Conference in Georgian for the First Time

On October 9, 2011, a congregation of 35 Saints gathered to watch general conference—and to hear it in their native Georgian for the first time. Prior to October, the approximately 50 active members in the country had the option of listening to conference in either Russian, Armenian, or English. However, there were many who spoke only Georgian, so interpretation being offered in that language was a significant event.

"I was so happy to be able to hear President Thomas S. Monson's address to us in Georgian," said Lela Tsnobiladze. "It makes such a difference when you hear conference in your native tongue."

### Church Responding to Typhoon Damage in the Philippines

Following Typhoons Nesat and Nalgae in the Philippines in late September, which affected nearly 200,000 people, the Church

Area Welfare Department initially responded with 600 sacks of rice, which were delivered in Pampanga. The Social Action Center of Pampanga of the Archdiocese of San Fernando Pampanga, a partner nongovernmental organization, handled the distribution of the donated rice.

Catholic and LDS volunteers worked hand in hand to repack and distribute the rice donation to the 352 affected villages in Pampanga.

### African Members Participate in Fifth Day of Service

For the fifth consecutive year, members in Africa participated in All-Africa Mormon Helping Hands Day, a cooperative effort between the Africa Southeast and Africa West Areas. On one day each year, the members in these areas perform service of various kinds in their local communities. This year's event was held on August 20, 2011; reports of some of the projects are available at news.lds.org. ■

*Saints in Lagos, Nigeria, participate in the All-Africa Helping Hands Day on August 20, 2011.*

## SPEAKING TODAY



PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG T. OLSON

### Elder Ballard, Elder Jensen Visit Members in Mexico

During the weekend of September 10–11, 2011, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Elder Jay E. Jensen of the Presidency of the Seventy met with members and missionaries in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Elder Ballard asked members to embed the gospel in the hearts of the people of Mexico through spiritual experiences. "There is too much mental acceptance of the gospel without experiencing a spiritual acceptance," he said. "Deep conversion of the spirit is necessary for our members to introduce to their hearts what they agreed to in their minds."

### Elder Oaks, Elder Andersen Visit Peru, Bolivia

In August 2011 Elder Dallin H. Oaks and Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles traveled to Bolivia and Peru in South America. Elder Andersen's messages included

PHOTOGRAPH BY EBERE EVANS





his teaching that throughout the world, all people struggle to choose between good and evil. “The difficulty in making decisions regarding mortality is exactly the same for you as it is for me,” he said. “We are here to learn how to live with faith.”

### **Elder Bednar Fulfills Assignment in Europe**

During the first part of September, Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met with Saints in England, Germany (where he served as a full-time missionary nearly 40 years ago), and Denmark. In each setting, Elder Bednar taught the doctrine of Christ and emphasized the power of the Atonement. He also continued to teach the principle of moral agency and our individual responsibility to act. “Moral agency is the power and capacity of independent action,” he said. “And as we act appropriately and in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ, our very natures are changed through His Atonement and by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

*For more on these stories, search news.lds.org using the General Authority’s name and the location of his visit as keywords.* ■

*This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are a few examples.*

**“The Doctrine of the Father,”** page 20: Start by asking family members to share what they know about the nature of Heavenly Father. Discuss the article, summarizing the points made in each section that give insight into who God the Father is. Consider concluding with your testimony of the love of Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

**“This Is Your Work,”** page 42: First, read the sidebar titled “What Can I Do?” and choose one of the ideas that will help your family get involved in family history and temple work (see also lds.org/familyhistory youth). During family home evening, read the article with your family and then ask what blessings Sister Beck promised to those who engage in this important work. Carry out the idea you planned and consider continuing this project in weeks to come.

**“The Tender Mercies of the Lord,”** page 48: Read the story of the young family who received a special Christmas card and the story of the priesthood leader

who learned the names of the youth in his stake. Ask family members to think of tender mercies they have received from the Lord. Consider asking, “What are tender mercies? Who receives tender mercies? How can you show gratitude for the tender mercies you receive?” You may want to follow up with Elder Bednar’s answers to these questions from the article.

**“Unplugged,”** page 61: Read what these children and their families are doing to consume a healthy amount of media. You may want to discuss how your family keeps a healthy balance of TV, computer, and other “screen time.” In the October 2011 general conference, Elder Ian S. Ardern of the Seventy spoke about using various technologies wisely: “As good as these things are, we cannot allow them to push to one side those things of greatest importance” (“A Time to Prepare” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 32). Consider making goals similar to those in this article to make your home a place where the Spirit can dwell. ■

### **Sunday Lessons on Monday Night**

I really wanted to have an effective family home evening lesson each week, but figuring out a topic and preparing a lesson were always challenges for me.

One Monday I realized that I had forgotten to prepare a lesson. But then I realized a hidden blessing of being a Primary teacher. I had recently been called to teach the five-year-olds and had just taught a lesson the day before. I decided to use an abbreviated (and age-appropriate) version of what I taught on Sunday for FHE. That Monday night we talked about obedience, and I retold three stories I had shared the previous day in Primary.

Adapting my Primary lesson to my family has been a great way for me to accomplish my goal of having a well-prepared and effective family home evening lesson each week. ■

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