

AROUND THE CHURCH

we can do in helping others become what they can become will be to lead them to the Savior.” He bore testimony of the Savior’s power to right wrongs and to “compensate for our inadequacy and justify us before that law which enables us to become joint heirs of eternal life with Him.” He ended with his witness that Christ lives.

Also during the fireside, Elder Christofferson was awarded the J. Reuben Clark Law Society Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the field of law.

Sister Beck Emphasizes Relief Society’s Role in God’s Plan

Relief Society general president Julie B. Beck met with nearly 10,000 Relief Society sisters and leaders on the BYU-Idaho campus on February 26, 2011, to strengthen their faith and to encourage them in their roles in Relief Society and in the plan of salvation.

In a general session and a leadership training session, Sister Beck fielded questions from women and priesthood leaders from more than 40 southeastern Idaho, USA, stakes.

Sister Beck testified that as those involved in the work of Relief Society keep the Lord’s purposes in their heads and in their hearts and fulfill His purposes here on earth, they will be blessed, strengthened, cleansed, and healed.

“We have an organization established by the Lord to bless His daughters,” she said. “The Lord knows who you are because it is His work. He will strengthen and magnify you.”

Read more on what Sister Beck taught and watch an accompanying feature video at news.lds.org. (Both video and text are available only in English.) ■

Sewing Machines Grow Self-Reliance

With the Church’s donation of 50 sewing machines to Fiji’s Ministry of Social Welfare in 2010 and an upcoming donation of another 50, self-reliance and employment opportunities are growing for women living in Fiji’s rural areas.

Church members’ donations to the humanitarian fund allow the Church to meet needs throughout the world with projects such as the sewing machine donations. Church representatives work closely with village and government leaders to understand local circumstances and respect community members’ wishes.

“We do this and projects like it because we are followers of Jesus Christ,” Elder Taniela B. Wakolo, Area Seventy, said in an interview with the *Fiji Times*. “Our faith leads us to . . . do good in the world.”

Japanese Member Receives Award

On November 9, 2010, four months before the devastating earthquake in Japan, Yoji Sugiyama, a member of the Fujisawa Japan Stake, received an intermediate class of the

Order of the Sacred Treasure for his meritorious service to his country.

As a member of the Foreign Ministry for years, Brother Sugiyama was heavily involved in negotiating treaties and serving as an envoy for Japan.

Brother Sugiyama recognizes that the Lord provides all of us with opportunities to do good in our own spheres. He said, “The Lord sometimes gives us difficulties so we can find our needs. Without those necessities and the opportunity to find good solutions, men make no progress and bring no happiness into this world.”

Latter-day Saint Charities Provides Clean Water

Nearly a billion people on the earth lack access to clean water, often resulting in waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid. But since 2002, the Church has helped seven million people in more than 5,000 communities obtain access to clean water sources. The video *Water Is Happiness*, available in English on news.lds.org, shows the story of LDS Charities bringing clean water to a village in Sierra Leone. ■

