

(“tweets”) via the Internet, to share the gospel. Most notably, general conference was Twitter’s top trend during conference weekend in April 2009,<sup>2</sup> meaning general conference was mentioned in more tweets than any other subject.

The Church has also established a presence on YouTube, a popular video posting Web site, which has generated a positive reaction from members and nonmembers alike. Every Mormon Messages video, like all others posted

to YouTube, can be easily posted on a blog or shared via e-mail, Facebook, or Twitter.

The Internet provides a way for Church members to find people in ways unimaginable a generation ago, and as technologies improve, so will Church members’ ability to share the gospel. ■

#### NOTES

1. M. Russell Ballard, “Sharing the Gospel Using the Internet,” *Liahona*, June 2008, N1.
2. “Top Twitter trend: LDS General Conference,” Mary Richards, *ksl.com*, April 6, 2009. <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=6074101>.

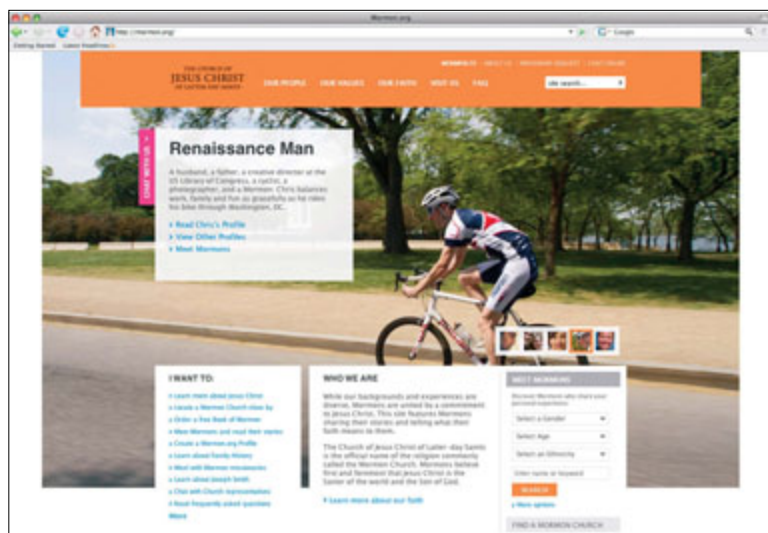
## Mormon.org Redesign Connects Members and Investigators

Since its launch in 2001, Mormon.org has helped people get straightforward, honest answers to their questions about the Church. Those answers came primarily from Church headquarters.

Mormon.org’s most recent update—including a complete redesign—still offers plenty of answers and a way to contact missionaries. But now, thanks to a new online profile feature, many answers come directly from Church members around the world.

Visitors to the new site—which will begin appearing in languages other than English in mid-2011—will be able to sort thousands of member profiles by gender, age, ethnicity, religious background, and other qualifiers to find Church members who are similar to themselves. Once on a profile page, users can read testimonies, ask further questions, and in some cases, connect with Church members on social networking Web sites. This peer-to-peer contact allows investigators to get a non-authoritative viewpoint of the Church.

“When people search the Internet for information, they give more credence to the opinions



**The redesigned Mormon.org will begin appearing in additional languages in mid-2011.**

of their peers than to what an organization says about itself, especially when it comes to organized religion,” said Elder Richard G. Hinckley, Executive Director of the Missionary Department. “That is why member profiles are such a valuable part of the new Mormon.org.”

The new Mormon.org is divided into four major areas, each focused on teaching about a certain aspect of the Church: Our People, Our Values, Our Faith, and Frequently Asked Questions.

### Our People

This section contains the member profiles, allowing investigators to learn more about the gospel by “meeting” those who have gained testimonies of the restored gospel.

“The one thing that helps people get past misconceptions about the Church is if they’ve had the opportunity to know a Mormon,” said Ron Wilson, manager of Internet and marketing for the Missionary Department. “They realize the negative things they might be hearing about the Church don’t line up with the lives their Mormon friends are living.”

### Our Values

The Our Values section teaches what members do as a result of their beliefs. It explains some of the Church’s priorities, including humanitarian aid, families, education, service, and family history. This section will help investigators connect Church doctrine with the way members live their lives.

### Our Faith

The Our Faith section explains fundamental doctrines of the Church. Everything in this section of the site can answer the question, “What do Mormons believe?” This section also provides context for other areas of the site. Visitors to the site can learn about our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Restoration of the gospel, Joseph Smith, the plan of salvation, the Book of Mormon, and other topics.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Church members create the content for this section by answering questions on their personal profiles. They answer FAQs in their own words, helping visitors to learn about the Church from its members. ■

## Simplified Organ Music Available Online

An “emergency preparedness kit” for pianists with limited organ experience promises to make sacrament meeting accompaniment a little easier. Two new resources, *Manual-Only Hymns for Organ* and *Transformations*, were produced to help pianists adapt to the organ.

*Manual-Only Hymns for Organ* is a compilation of 38 popular hymns arranged to be played without pedals. *Transformations* contains introductions and endings for the same 38 hymns that can be added to “transform” the hymns into prelude and postlude music. The set is available online and can be downloaded free of charge. Visit [music.lds.org](http://music.lds.org), click on **Learning Materials**, then **Accompanying Others**, then **Manual-Only Hymns for Organists**. Spiral-bound copies of the books are available for purchase at <http://creativeworks.byu.edu/catalog/ViewItem.aspx?item=SM021>.

Unlike simplified hymns available for the piano, the accompaniments include notes in each hand that can be played on separate keyboards or with the organ’s bass coupler button. Though it contains

some instructional material, the book is not intended to be a manual for learning to play the organ. Instead, it is designed to give pianists a place to start if they have no experience with the organ and limited time to learn.

The project, which has been underway since late 2008, was headed by former Tabernacle Choir organist Robert Cundick with assistance from current choir organist Richard Elliott and a team of organists from Brigham Young University and BYU–Idaho. ■

## Cebuano, Tagalog Scriptures Available Online

Cebuano and Tagalog editions of the triple combination, containing the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price, are now available online. They can be accessed at [scriptures.lds.org/ceb](http://scriptures.lds.org/ceb) and [scriptures.lds.org/tgl](http://scriptures.lds.org/tgl), respectively.

The sites include footnotes, maps, and photographs, and allow readers to mark the scriptures and perform key word searches. The scriptures site now includes 17 languages, with plans to add Japanese, Indonesian, and Thai in the near future. ■