

by bus up to five hours to attend the conference, and more than half of them were nonmembers and investigators. Two were baptized in the following weeks.

“When [the youth] realize that there are other young people with their hopes, dreams, problems, and concerns, they have more confidence. They know they are not alone, and this gives them strength,” said Elder Brad Wilkes, a full-time missionary who, with his wife, Sister Karen Wilkes, helped organize the conference. ■

Romanian Young Women Hold First Camp

Five young women and their leaders from the Bucharest Romania District, along with a nonmember friend, took part in the Church’s first Young Women camp in Romania from August 24 to 26, 2009. District Young Women president Dina Cojocaru led the camp with the help of senior missionaries Elder Don and Sister Edie Van Noy.

The girls and leaders held morning and evening devotionals, studying the scriptures together every day. Elder and Sister Van Noy taught workshops on topics such as virtue and how to give effective talks in church. In another workshop, the girls learned about modesty

and dressing fashionably while still maintaining integrity.

Alina Mateescu, one of the young women, said she had wondered what it takes to be a virtuous young woman, but through the workshop on

virtue she felt assured she could become the exemplary woman of integrity God wants her to become.

Romania, a country in south-east Europe, has about 2,736 members in 17 branches. ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Canadian Census Collection Expands

FamilySearch has added the 1851, 1861, and 1871 Canadian census indexes to its online collection, which already included the 1881 and 1916 Canadian censuses. There are plans to add the 1891 Canadian census shortly. The searchable online databases, found at FamilySearch.org, contain some 17 million records. Free public access to these indexed censuses will make it easier for people to extend their knowledge of their family history.

Service Helps Detroit Children

Inner-city Detroit, Michigan, USA, has a reputation for crime, gang activity, and drug use. Because of high unemployment and low graduation rates in the area, the Bloomfield Hills Michigan Stake teamed up with the Unity Church to help school-children as part of Detroit’s citywide Neighborhoods Day. The two groups assembled and gave away more than 250 school backpacks complete with



PHOTOGRAPH BY BETSY ANDERSON

Members in Detroit, Michigan, USA, worked with others to give school supplies to children.

notebooks, pencils, crayons, erasers, and other school supplies.

Members Escape Wildfires

More than 70 Church members evacuated their homes, many of them staying with other member families, because of wildfires in Utah and California, USA, in September 2009. Fires burned more than 123,000 acres (50,000 ha) in the Sacramento and Los Angeles, California, areas, killing two firefighters and destroying more than 100 buildings. In the area of New Harmony, Utah, fires consumed more than 10,000 acres (4,000 ha) and several buildings. In both states, local priesthood leaders assisted affected members. ■