

Though he was afraid to ask too much of those who were still struggling to get back on their feet, President Balute asked anyway.

That afternoon the members arrived at the meetinghouse with 21 sacks of clothing, a bag of food, and Philippines \$1,500.

When Parma struck a week later, this time to the north, the members from the Alaminos district responded again and gathered more clothing, food, and money. Some of them even volunteered their time to go and distribute the goods directly.

“We just wanted to help,” said President Balute. “We never realized that we would gain so much. Our faith increased, our love for our fellowmen increased, our testimonies were strengthened, and our understanding of the Savior’s love and His Atonement was deepened.”

Selflessness and Optimism

Elder Kendall Ayres, who serves with his wife in the Perpetual Education Fund program, was called to oversee and organize the distribution of supplies. He described the unity of the Filipino Saints in the relief effort.

“It has been a wonder to watch as those who have lost the most are finding much of their relief in turning out and providing help to others who have been equally hard hit,” said Elder Ayres. “I comprehend the mechanics of ‘losing your life to find it’ in a way that I never have before. For me it is no longer theology—it is actuality. There are far more requests to participate than we have needs to fill. The outpouring of goods and efforts is almost beyond comprehension; it has been a revelation.”

“Filipinos generally are very resilient,” said Elder Benson Misalucha, an Area Seventy in the Philippines Area. Rather than looking at the glass as being half full or half empty, “we have been looking at the glass and saying, ‘Well, it’s a great glass, even if there’s no water.’” ■

Missionaries Support **Family History**

Since the Church released the new FamilySearch program last year, many Church members have tried the new system for the first time.

To support those new to the program or with questions about family history work in general, the Church has provided various resources, including Worldwide FamilySearch Support.

The FamilySearch Support program began in 2005 with a few volunteers offering help with family history work. The program has grown to include nearly 1,200 volunteer support missionaries positioned throughout the world.

Support missionaries are located in 34 different countries, offering assistance on a wide variety of family history questions in dozens of languages and multiple time zones.

Sister Cecilia Dimalaluan has served as a support missionary in the Philippines since August 2008 and says she loves the opportunity to share her knowledge of family history with others. One of the first Filipinos trained as a support missionary in the Philippines, she speaks Cebuano, English, and Tagalog. She helps members and non-members from surrounding areas, including India, Malaysia,

Micronesia, Mongolia, and Singapore, learn basic family history principles.

Support missionaries are traditionally called to serve for 30 months. All support missionaries serve from their homes or family history centers in their areas, where they receive program training and day-to-day support. They respond to questions by phone or e-mail, and because they are spread out around the world, someone is available 24 hours a day, every day, with the exception of Sunday mornings.

“I love being able to serve English-speaking patrons from all around the world, helping them to do their family history,” said Sister Connie Cheney of Pleasant Grove, Utah, USA, who is currently serving her second mission with Worldwide Support.

The easiest way to contact support missionaries is through the Internet, by visiting contact.familysearch.org or via e-mail at support@familysearch.org.

The FamilySearch Web site provides toll-free telephone numbers for contacting support missionaries in different regions of the world.

In areas where the Internet is not accessible, it is best to contact family history missionaries in the area, talk to a ward or

branch family history consultant, or visit a local family history center.

Article by Lauren Allen, Church Magazines ■

Interested in Serving?

Anyone interested in serving as a family history support missionary can find more information online at contact.familysearch.org, by e-mail at support@familysearch.org, or by

asking local priesthood leaders.

Missionaries should have access to a personal computer and high-speed Internet and have some experience in family history work. ■

Chinese and Korean Scriptures Available Online

The Church has launched two new online versions of the LDS scriptures: the Korean version in October 2009 and the Chinese (traditional characters) version in December. The Korean version can be found at scriptures.lds.org/ko,

and the Chinese version can be found at scriptures.lds.org/ch.

The Korean and Chinese scripture sites contain the text of the triple combination (the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of

Great Price) and Guide to the Scriptures, which includes a number of helpful study aids and an alphabetical listing of gospel topics. Japanese, Cebuano, and Tagalog versions of the scriptures are scheduled to be published online in 2010. ■

TEMPLE NEWS

New Temple Announced in Utah

President Thomas S. Monson announced in January a new temple to be built in Payson, Utah, USA. The temple will help meet membership growth in the area and ease usage of the Provo Utah Temple, one of the busiest in the Church. The Payson Temple will be the 15th in Utah. It brings the total number of temples already in operation or in the planning and construction phases to 152.

Temple Dedicated in Arizona

An open house for The Gila Valley Arizona Temple took place from April 23, 2010, through May 15, 2010. A cultural celebration was held on May 22, 2010. Dedication of the temple followed on May 23, 2010, with three dedicatory sessions. The temple was first announced in April 2008. It is the third temple in the state of Arizona in the United States.

Cebu Temple to Be Dedicated

The Cebu City Philippines Temple will be open to the public from May 21, 2010, through June 5, 2010. A cultural celebration will follow on June 12. The dedication will be held on June 13, with three sessions broadcast throughout the Philippines. The temple will open the next day. The temple, announced on April 18, 2006, is the second in the Philippines and the 133rd operating temple in the world. ■

