

# NEWS OF THE CHURCH

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## New Visiting Teaching Topics Begin in October

Beginning in October 2013 the Relief Society Visiting Teaching Messages will focus on the divine mission of Jesus Christ and His many roles and attributes.

As we read in *Daughters in my Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society*, “When Jesus Christ was on the earth, He showed us the way we should live.”<sup>1</sup> By studying and focusing on the roles and attributes of the Savior, the sisters in the Church will learn to be like Him<sup>2</sup> and will be able to discuss with the sisters they serve how the teachings and example of the Savior can influence their lives.

The Lord showed us how to minister—how to watch over, strengthen, and teach one another. His was a ministry to individuals, one by one.<sup>3</sup> Visiting

teaching is our opportunity to follow His example.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, testified that “visiting teaching is part of the Lord’s plan to provide help for people all over the world. . . . ‘He set a pattern in place.’”<sup>4</sup> As visiting teachers, we also remember President Thomas S. Monson’s counsel: “We are the Lord’s hands here upon the earth, with the mandate to serve and to lift His children. He is dependent upon each of us.”<sup>5</sup> ■

### NOTES

1. *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 105.
2. See Moroni 7:48.
3. See *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 105; *Handbook 2: Administering the Church*, 9.5.
4. *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 110.
5. *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 112.

## One Billion Records Now on FamilySearch

By R. Scott Lloyd  
*Church News*

Volunteers around the world indexing (digitizing) the Church’s vast collection of genealogical records collectively reached a major milestone on April 19, 2013. On that date they attained one billion searchable records added to the Church’s FamilySearch website in less than seven years.

Volunteers have been extracting or indexing records in earnest since 1978, but in September 2006 the Family History Department launched a major innovation inviting virtually anyone anywhere to log on to the site and sign up to participate in the indexing project.

“The documents are drawn primarily from a collection of 2.4 million rolls of microfilm containing photographic images of historical documents from 110 countries and principalities,” explains a wiki entry on the FamilySearch site. “The documents include census records, birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, military and property records, and other vital records maintained by local, state, and national governments.” ■



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