By Bishop Dean M. Davies
First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

We know that through the selfless sharing of your time, talents, and treasure, untold numbers of beneficiaries have experienced the blessings of education, missionary service, family history, temple service, and humanitarian aid. Your generosity results in new opportunities and hope among God’s children—members and nonmembers alike.

Accepting the Invitation

Of the many issues that concern the Presiding Bishopric, none weighs more heavily on our hearts than the scriptural mandate expressed in Doctrine and Covenants 84:112 to “travel round about . . . searching after the poor to administer to their wants.” This scripture goes on to clarify that the poor will be administered to by the humbling of the rich—or, in other words, by inviting people with means to give and to serve. The poor may range from people who are bereft of the necessities of life to those who have what they need to survive but lack the resources to serve a mission or to receive a higher education. The Lord has instructed us to administer to all of His children in need.

I AM GRATEFUL for the opportunity to work with Tanise Chung-Hoon, managing director of LDS Philanthropies. She leads a team of consecrated men and women who are doing the work of the Lord. Recently I had an opportunity to address the team during their yearly summit meeting, which had the theme “One Heart and One Mind.” We see this theme highlighted throughout the scriptures, particularly in the Book of Mormon, as prophets sought to unite the people of God around a common cause.

Mark 10 recounts the story of the rich young ruler who asked the Savior, “Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” The Lord lovingly examined the young man’s heart and replied, “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven” (Mark 10:17, 21). We learn from this account that selfless and abundant generosity to people in need is a critical element in yielding our hearts to God. The fruits of this generosity are joy, consolation, and the purification and sanctification of our hearts. Brothers and sisters, is this not the doctrinal underpinning that should support and uphold our efforts?

Uniting in Purpose

There are many stories that illustrate the power of unity. One such story is that of Mother Agnes Mariam de la Croix, the mother superior of a Melkite Greek Catholic monastery in Qara, Syria. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, to a Palestinian

Above image: LDS Charities has installed several reverse osmosis systems in India to help communities filter out high concentrations of fluoride, which can cause health issues if consumed in high quantities.
Welcome

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

True Philanthropy and Positive Change
By Tanise Chung-Hoon
Managing Director, LDS Philanthropies

Through sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure, individual selfishness declines, harmony and cooperation are magnified, and the lives of donors and recipients are changed for the better.

Giving is a sanctifying experience. Voluntary philanthropic giving (beyond tithes and fast offerings) in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is facilitated through LDS Philanthropies. As a department overseen by the Presiding Bishopric, LDS Philanthropies was created to assist individuals and families in their charitable efforts to help others. It is our privilege to invite people to give to projects and programs identified and approved by the First Presidency.

At LDS Philanthropies, we recognize the act of giving as a sacred work and are humbled daily as we see people exercise their agency to choose to share their gifts of time, talent, treasure, and testimony in spectacular ways. We recognize that generosity starts with humility and a desire to share the gifts we have been given by the Lord to accomplish His work and purposes. Generosity also demands a choice to act in tangible ways. That is why the process of choosing and sharing our gifts is important and symbolic. LDS Philanthropies exists to help others enjoy an inspiring giving experience that results in positive change.

When we are seeing, feeling, serving, and sharing as the Savior would, we are changed to be more like Him. Personal sacrifice indicates true philanthropy—a tangible manifestation of charity, the pure love of Christ—resulting in transformational changes.

Our goal is to encourage all to come unto Christ and experience the joy of positive change. We strive to meaningfully teach, engage, coordinate, invite, and report on the process and experience of true philanthropy. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Because of You. It includes several examples illustrating positive changes that are happening because of your example of true philanthropy. Thank you for helping us accomplish our mission by donating to Church programs. I invite you to consider the impact that generous gifts have on the lives of those you choose to touch. We are blessed to work with you!

Sincerely,

Tanise Chung-Hoon

LDS Philanthropies is a department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that encourages and facilitates philanthropic support for programs and charities affiliated with the Church, including the Humanitarian Aid Fund, General Missionary Fund, and Family History/FamilySearch International. Because of You highlights the impact that donations have on these three fundraising priorities of the Church. To make a donation, or for more information about how to make a gift, contact your donor liaison, visit give.lds.org, or call 1-800-458-8298.
HUMANITARIAN AID

HOW YOUR DONATIONS TO THE HUMANITARIAN AID FUND BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE

LDS CHARITIES, the humanitarian arm of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and its partners respond to emergencies throughout the world because of generous donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund. Together, we respond to emergencies, provide disaster relief, and offer short- and long-term aid to refugees, victims of famine, and the homeless. We also maintain our signature programs, including wheelchair donation, immunization, maternal and newborn care services, vision care, clean water, and other humanitarian projects. Through these efforts, we are answering the Lord’s call to “abound in good works” by having “faith, hope, and charity” (Alma 7:24).

Providing Shelter from the Storm

SINCE 2013, violence in the Central African Republic has displaced hundreds of thousands of people. More than 500,000 refugees are still seeking shelter in the surrounding countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo.

LDS Charities is working with USA for UNHCR, an organization supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to help improve the living conditions for more than 2,000 refugee families fleeing from this crisis. These families will receive nonfood items such as blankets, tarps, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and soap. This emergency is one of the least-funded crises in the world. Donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund allow us to make a difference.

The Church recently authorized a project that includes funding for shelter supplies and materials to help with the Syrian refugee relief efforts. With these funds, made available by generous donors like you, LDS Charities is working with partners to deliver 1,100 tents to families in the Idlib province of Syria. These tents will serve as shelter for more than 6,000 people.

Sowing Seeds of Hope

Like many in her community of Torit, South Sudan, Natalia’s family has survived on wild fruits and vegetables. But with the rains yet to start, the vegetation is drying, and so is their source of food. “When I can’t find anything in the bushes, I force myself to go to the forest again,” Natalia says. “I know it’s dangerous, but my children have to eat. With God’s grace, I have survived. But for now, one of my friends was recently sexually abused in the forest, and I am afraid something may happen to me as well.”

If the rains come in good time, Natalia’s fortunes may change for the better. She recently received a starter pack of seeds and farm equipment from CARE, one of LDS Charities’ partners in the famine-affected area. The seeds, which consist of the staple millet and an array of vegetables, will improve her food production, as they are high-yielding varieties. “I look forward to the rains since I now have seeds for my farm,” says Natalia. “I am very grateful to CARE for the help. If we get good rains, I am sure I will harvest enough to feed my family.”

Your donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund allow the Church, through LDS Charities and our partners, to help women like Natalia in South Sudan and other famine-affected areas around the world.

The Church Makes $11 Million Famine-Relief Donation

LDS CHARITIES IS PARTNERING with 11 key non-governmental and faith-based organizations to respond to the famine crisis in Africa and the Middle East. Hundreds of men, women, and children are dying every day and an estimated 20 million more are on the brink of starvation because of prolonged drought, civil conflict, disease, and other challenges. Donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund make it possible for LDS Charities to support a variety of needs, including food, shelter, clean water, medical care, and malnutrition treatment. These efforts will benefit more than 1.1 million people for up to one year.

Lifting Farmers out of Poverty

MANY FARMERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES lack the resources or access to buy high-quality seed and fertilizer, which means much lower yields from their fields. To enable farming families to lift themselves out of poverty, LDS Charities partners with One Acre Fund to provide farmers with high-quality seed and fertilizer as well as agricultural training. Farmers can then produce more and sell more, which allows them to support their families and lift themselves out of poverty.

Because of generous donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund, the Church continues to partner with relief organizations to help lift others from poverty and despair.
YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

HUMANITARIAN AID FUND

100% of donations go to humanitarian projects and programs throughout the world wherever needed.

Because of ongoing donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund, a number of life-changing projects and efforts were approved between January 1, 2018, and July 11, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision Care</th>
<th>Maternal &amp; Newborn Care</th>
<th>Clean Water</th>
<th>Wheelchairs</th>
<th>Emergency Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44,626 people served in 18 countries</td>
<td>42,274 caregivers trained in 25 countries</td>
<td>581,727 people served in 25 countries</td>
<td>15,000 people served in 13 countries</td>
<td>87 projects in 33 countries</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benson Food Initiative</th>
<th>Benson Scholarships</th>
<th>Refugee Projects</th>
<th>Immunizations</th>
<th>Community Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49,359 people served in 7 countries</td>
<td>41 people received in 9 countries</td>
<td>25 projects in 19 countries</td>
<td>45 countries since 2003</td>
<td>Over 1,500 projects in over 100 countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAMILY HISTORY/FAMILYSEARCH

ONLY 15 PERCENT OF THE WORLD’S TOP GENEALOGICAL RECORDS ARE DIGITIZED AND PRESERVED.

At current rates, it will take 124 years to capture the top-tier records.

1.26 BILLION digital images published in FamilySearch’s historic collections online

5,073 Family History Centers

318 digital cameras in operation

252 million indexed records published yearly (three-year rolling average)

5.8 million photos uploaded

1.78 million stories uploaded

252 million indexed records published yearly (three-year rolling average)

10 CENTS SAVES 3 RECORDS, 1 DOLLAR SAVES 30 RECORDS, AND A $10,000 DONATION WOULD SAVE 300,000 RECORDS.

Donations to FamilySearch go directly to the Church’s Records-Capture Project.
“Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—who live in virtually every country of the world—care deeply about the human family. The Church will continue to contribute resources and manpower to provide aid in areas of need.”
—President Russell M. Nelson

**GENERAL MISSIONARY FUND**

More than 35 percent of the current missionary force needs at least partial assistance from the General Missionary Fund to serve.

- **67,049 FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES**
  - SERVING FROM **158 nations**
  - SERVING IN **over 150 nations**

- **421 MISSIONS WORLDWIDE**
  - **132 MISSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA**
  - **16,118,169 MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**
  - **233,729 CONVERT BAPTISMS IN 2017**

**15 MISSIONARY TRAINING CENTERS (MTCS) WORLDWIDE**

- **50%** of missionaries trained in the Provo MTC
- **50%** of missionaries trained in other 14 MTCs

Because of you, these worthy young men and women, like Ammon and his brothers, experience the joy of becoming “instruments in the hands of God” (Alma 26:3).

**CURRENT FUNDRAISING PROGRESS**

Because of your selfless acts of charity, we are on our way to reaching the goals set forth and approved by the First Presidency.

**Progress on Church Programs Fundraising Priorities (January–September 2018)**

- **76%** GENERAL MISSIONARY FUND
- **46%** HUMANITARIAN AID FUND
- **30%** FAMILY SEARCH

The generosity of Church members and others has led to sufficient levels of donated funds to the Perpetual Education Fund and the Temple Patron Assistance Fund. As a result, members are encouraged to select other categories for their ongoing donations.
HOW IS THE GENERAL MISSIONARY FUND USED?

THE CHURCH WANTS MEMBERS everywhere to have the opportunity to serve missions without regard for their economic condition. With Church membership now over 16 million worldwide, the number of members with a desire to serve as missionaries continues to grow.

Donations to the General Missionary Fund help those who are unable to provide some or all of the financial support for their own missionary service.

- More than 35 percent of the current missionary force needs at least partial assistance from the General Missionary Fund to serve.
- The typical missionary needing assistance comes from a family with an average total income of less than $10,000 per year. In many places such as Africa, the average income is much less.
- The four countries with the most missionaries needing assistance are Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines, and Peru.

Turning a Dream into Reality

GROWING UP IN SURINAME, Lorna Tjong-Ayong had many questions swirling inside her head. “I was eight years old,” Lorna recalls, “and I remember wanting to know where we are going after we die and what was the meaning of living.” Lorna’s questions were soon answered when two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints found their way to her home. When the elders taught her family the plan of salvation, she knew she had found the truth. Lorna and her family were baptized on April 18, 1999.

Lorna says she wanted to serve a mission but didn’t think it was possible. For the next decade, the missionaries played a huge role in her life. “I looked up to the missionaries; they had so much knowledge about the gospel,” Lorna remembers. “I wanted to be just as enthusiastic about sharing the gospel as they were.” One day Lorna was invited to join the missionaries on a visit to an investigator’s house. “I got a feeling that I hadn’t felt before for any stranger, and that feeling was sincere love. We were teaching this guy, and even though I didn’t know him, I really cared about him, and I wanted him to progress. He never got baptized, but just to really care about someone in a Christlike way made me want to serve a mission so I could help others come unto Christ.”

“My parents didn’t have a lot of money and I was really worried about it,” Lorna recalls. To earn extra money she made and sold bracelets, and her father, a mechanic, sold pineapples. But it still wasn’t enough. Then a missionary couple serving in her area told her about the General Missionary Fund. “Because of the General Missionary Fund, I was able to go and serve a mission.”

Thanks to generous donations to the General Missionary Fund, Sister Lorna Tjong-Ayong realized her dream and served a mission in the Utah Provo Mission from 2012 to 2014.

A Note from Gary Crittenden

Managing Director, Missionary Department

It is exciting to witness the record number of faithful young Saints from around the world who desire to serve a full-time mission. They do so out of love for Jesus Christ and with a hope to serve and bring souls unto Him. Many of these young men and women come from modest circumstances with limited financial resources. Generous donors like you provide needed funding so that all who are worthy and wish to serve a full-time mission may do so. Truly, the spirit of missionary work and philanthropy is the same.

Please know that many lives will be touched because of your contribution, the blessings of which may be felt for generations.

“To help maintain this missionary force, and because many of our missionaries come from modest circumstances, we invite you, as you are able, to contribute generously to the General Missionary Fund of the Church.”

—President Thomas S. Monson
A Child’s Faithful Response

By Kim Gibson

WHILE WORKING FOR LDS PHILANTHROPIES as a donor liaison, I learned about a new fundraising priority for FamilySearch called the Chinese Records Initiative. I was very excited about this because I served a mission in Taiwan and studied Asian history in college. The family and family name are very important within Asian culture. Centuries of meticulous record-keeping has enabled people of Chinese heritage to trace their ancestors back many generations.

Soon after learning about this initiative, two friends, Tony and Mia San Gabriel, were visiting our home. We held an impromptu family home evening in which I gave a brief lesson about the Chinese Records Initiative. During my presentation, I told them that I felt a push on my shoulder as I spoke to them. I felt strongly that those who had passed away were urging me to get the word out about saving these records. To my surprise, their 10-year-old son, Raj, ran out of the room and came back with a $20 bill. “I want to help you,” said Raj. “I worked all year for this money; I want you to use this money to help get those names.” I was very moved by his generosity, and my initial thought was to turn him down because he had worked so hard for it. As I was saying no, Raj insisted, and I accepted the gift because Raj had listened to the Spirit’s direction.

A short time later, when Raj’s father was called to serve as president of the Philippines Butuan Mission, the family came to the Provo Missionary Training Center. Raj made sure that his parents delivered his donation so that we could get more records. To my surprise, their 10-year-old son, Raj, ran out of the room and came back with another $20 bill he had earned. Raj was very insistent that his parents deliver his donation so that we could get more Chinese names. I was shocked and delighted that Raj felt an urgency and a desire to give after all this time had passed. Many times in life, the Spirit whispers to us, but not always in the way we expect. Raj was obedience to the Spirit’s direction.

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“When our hearts turn to our ancestors, something changes inside us. We feel part of something greater than ourselves.”

—President Russell M. Nelson
Meet My Friend, Consolata

By Matt Heaps
Product Manager, LDS Charities

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to talk with Consolata on a recent trip to Western Kenya. She has nine children—eight sons and one daughter. Her husband is a manual laborer, and she helps with the family income by working their two-acre farm. The family has experienced hard times, and for far too many years, Consolata and her husband could only provide one meal a day for each family member. Today, because of donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund, LDS Charities has expanded its partnership with One Acre Fund, allowing them to help more families learn how to grow and sustain their food source. For Consolata, that meant learning how to improve her farming techniques.

Before participating in the One Acre program, Consolata’s typical harvest was a half-bag of corn, which was around 110 pounds. After implementing new techniques, her harvest is now seven bags of corn, or roughly 1,540 pounds! Not only can she feed her family three meals a day with this harvest, but she is also able to sell the surplus and enroll her children in school. She also plants onions, kale, and sweet potatoes and bought a sheep with earnings from her recent harvest.

I asked her if she was able to do anything with her extra harvest to help others. She responded, “Whenever I have extra harvest, I always take some to my church so they can help community members who don’t have food.” I was touched that this good woman did not forget the principle of giving back. I wish every person who has donated to the Humanitarian Aid Fund could have stood in my shoes that day. You are making a significant difference in the lives of millions of people just like Consolata.

Becoming One with the Lord

In a recent address at Claremont Graduate University, Elder Patrick Kearon expressed the following sentiment: “Caring for the poor and needy is a pillar of our religion, and one that must grow in scope and prominence as challenges in the world continue to expand. To those who may not desire to join us in worship, let them join with us in service to each other.” Truly, brothers and sisters, our hearts are knit together when we care for people in need. These efforts are made possible by the generosity of people like you who donate so willingly to the funds and programs of the Church. I hope with all of my heart that you can feel what a blessing and privilege it is to be part of this work.

President Russell M. Nelson declared that “few, if any, of the Lord’s instructions are stated more often, or given greater emphasis, than the commandment to care for the poor and the needy” (“In the Lord’s Own Way,” Ensign, May 1986, 26). As a Presiding Bishopric, we respect and recognize the importance of the service you give as you follow this injunction. It is my testimony that as you do so, your hearts will become one with the Lord’s. May God bless you, brothers and sisters. May you truly feel His influence and love in your lives. May God be with you, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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father and a Lebanese mother, she became a nun at the age of 13, and she relocated to Syria at the age of 42. Since the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War, she has operated a nongovernmental organization dedicated to attending to the needs of people who have been wounded, displaced, and deprived of basic necessities. Some years ago, one of our humanitarian couples in Lebanon came into contact with Mother Agnes and was immediately impressed with her passion for serving those in need. A wonderful partnership commenced, with Church humanitarian funds being used to provide critical supplies for war victims in Syria. Mother Agnes and her team members are granted access to places where most other organizations are not permitted to go, or would even want to go. What makes her story even more remarkable is that her dedication to the Syrians comes despite her childhood memories of her city being bombed by Syria.

We work with an equally dedicated partner in Syria that is headed by a wonderful Muslim imam, who has likewise become a great friend of the Church. Can you appreciate the significance of what is happening? LDS, Catholic, and Muslim leaders and members are working together in Syria. And this scenario is being repeated throughout the world with partners of various faiths.

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to continue using high-quality seed to maintain their farms. One Acre Fund’s model has been consistently proven to increase incomes on supported activities by 50 percent or more.

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**Give.lds.org**

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