

What More Can We All Do?

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What I want to do today is discuss what actions we may take to improve the world beyond the Church, beyond BYU, beyond the UN, in addition to USAID. What can we do personally, privately as individuals? How can we address poverty? How might we reduce some of the suffering around the human globe? We know there is a lot of need out there, and a lot of good being accomplished. I'm sure many of you are already working to some degree or other in this quest.

Such actions are what we might call the Mormon's War on Poverty, a phrase that one of my friends wrote in a book published by the University of Utah with that title some years ago. Today I want to give an updated perspective on what I see LDS individuals, families, business people, government professionals, who, as Latter-day Saints, are attempting to put into personal practice, put into their family culture, put into their neighborhood or community efforts, strategies to reach out to those who struggle.

For this I will draw on my experience at the Marriott School over many years. Last semester, I finally did "retire," but in reality I just quit BYU. However, I am still working approximately forty hours per week, but that is a lot less than I used to work when I was a professor. I feel this calling to combat poverty in my genes. The Marriott School has been a great platform from which to launch my efforts against social injustice, to foster humanitarian outreach, and to instill in wonderful young people like Rachel Zwingli, my former student here with us today, a vision of their own potential. I encourage them to study again their patriarchal blessings. To reflect again perhaps on their life's mission, the poverty they see, the suffering they witness, and to reflect on the sense of helplessness they have from time to time about what they could do. I often raise the question about what they might do to make a difference. I seek to admonish them to use their business skills for doing good, not just making money. I suggest that they formulate some kind of global strategy, as if we were a kind of "Latter-day Saints Without Borders" effort, or a "Mormon Peace Corps," or a "BYU Outreach," or an "International Society Global Change" program.

Today, I hope to inspire you with limitless possibilities for doing good, above and beyond formal church programs or corporate social responsibility efforts. As I do so, I want to first acknowledge my appreciation to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, who has been my partner and collaborator in many of these efforts through the years. I first met him at my *alma mater*, the University of Michigan, where I had earned a PhD years earlier. I went back to speak at a poverty conference there, and about a dozen BYU students attended, as well. Professor Yunus was blown away by the fact that I had twelve Mormon students there for this three-day conference on global poverty. There were probably not even twelve Ann Arbor students there. He inquired of me how I could get people with this kind of caliber involved. I informed him that it was because we feel blessed as Mormons. My students have an inkling of their responsibilities as members of the human family to make a difference. Later, I secured funding for Dr. Yunus to come out to BYU for the first time. He came and spoke, and after that he told me he wanted to come back again. So he did a number of repeat visits. Eventually the university consented to fund his travel, and later the Brethren agreed to give him an honorary doctorate, the first Muslim to be so honored. We have been hanging out as partners ever since.

Today my goal is to suggest that this session become a call to action for members of the BYU International Society. I plan to give a little inkling about what you may do with your families, with your friends and/or your colleagues. I am not going to talk so much conceptually, but more practically. Maybe I will get you to join, if you are not already involved in, this growing global movement to fight poverty. I will describe some real cases, real problems, real struggles, and we will discuss narratives of immense suffering, as well learn about tools and methodologies that we may apply in our own lives for a better society.

We already have institutions such as USAID, the IMF, the World Bank and the UN as huge, rich, powerful, organizations doing some good things around the globe to reduce poverty. I want us to think about a more humble approach—bottom up. Starting with you as an individual. You as a parent. You as a child. You as a neighbor. What could you do from the bottom-up to accelerate humanitarianism? Maybe out of this we will find some common insights.

To frame my suggestions for world-changing strategies, here are a few teachings from the Brethren, drawn from my book, *Working Toward Zion: Principles of the United Order for the Modern World*:

-Spencer W. Kimball said we need the full economic plan of Zion, the united order” (“Becoming the Pure in Heart,” April 1978).

-Lorenzo Snow, “We should employ our surplus means in a manner that the poor can have employment” (*Journal of Discourses*, 19:349). He condemned the saints for putting their money into gold or precious metals. He asked, in essence, that we not save money in bank accounts, but instead invest it in small enterprise start-ups to help foster more job creation.

-John Taylor declared that part of the calling of a stake president was to create employment for all who wanted or needed jobs (*Journal of Discourses*, 20:165).

-Ezra Taft Benson, “The law of consecration is a celestial law, not an economic experiment” (speeches.byu.edu, “A Vision and a Hope for the Youth of Zion,” April 1977).

This is the future dream for Zion, a place with no poverty, but a united order instead. It is mandatory, and we need to figure out how to do it. I suspect many of you have been to one of the holy temples, so you know you have already promised to do this. It’s a commitment not for some faraway future time, but for here and now. Or we can sit on our rear ends, go to our meetings as usual, and run our businesses on the side. But as Brother Brigham puts it: “The Lord Almighty has not the least objection in the world to our entering into the Order of Enoch (now). He questions why cannot we do it today?” (*Journal of Discourses* 16:8).

-Elder Neal A. Maxwell expressed his deep concern about LDS members that are focused primarily on worldly cares instead of becoming consecrated saints (“Settle This in Your Hearts,” *The Ensign*, 22, November 1992, 65-67).

So what follows are a few mini cases I would like to highlight. They have to do with gospel principles and values, along with the Mormon entrepreneurial spirit, business acumen, good management practices, and social innovations.

During the last few years in Utah, there have been some five thousand new business startups. The bulk of them are high tech, and a lot of them were launched by our university students and graduates. Less known is the fact that we also have had a lot of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or non-profit startups during that same timeframe. Back in 1985–86, friends and I were working with the Church to establish the first ever global fast-for-the-poor event. Out of that was created the Church Humanitarian Services fund. It channeled millions of dollars to the crises in East Africa and beyond. It was what also spawned the first two Utah-based independent NGOs, the Ouelessebougou Alliance in Mali, West Africa and CHOICE Humanitarian in three Latin American countries.

Now both of these NGOs have spread way beyond that simple beginning. They have each been operating for nearly thirty years. I believe a lot of this comes from our Mormon faith, whether it is to establish for-profit, tech-industry startups, or nonprofit NGOs and humanitarian startups. It comes from our “can-do” pioneer tradition. It comes from our global experiences during our missionary work. Many LDS folks have also had careers abroad, and some of you are still doing work abroad. You served a mission. You learned to love the people. You spoke their language. You always wanted to help them more. You saw how they suffered.

Collectively, all of these forces, prompted by the Spirit of the Lord and the current admonitions and blessings and encouragement of the Brethren, have given rise to these social innovations. I love this quote from Joseph Smith, which has become a mantra to me as I have worked throughout the earth: “A man filled with the love of God, is not content with blessing his

family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 174). So we should not focus on oneself. It is not me, me, me. Not my little self-reliance income. My little nuclear family. My little group of friends. Not just my neighborhood nor my little LDS ward. Rather, Joseph suggests we are global citizens, global saints who should have a global reach for doing good.

What can we do? How can we make a difference? How can we as individuals labor to improve the world and to foster humanitarianism? Here below is my list of possibilities.

First of all, I ask you to donate to the Church. Tithing, offerings, PEF, LDS Charities, etc. Those are the requirements of being a temple-worthy Latter-day Saint.

A second thing to do, a big need we have, is that of learning more so we know more. Until we realize the extent of societal problems—global suffering, malnutrition, joblessness—we cannot be very effective. Sometimes it is easy to look the other way or just change the TV channel or whatever. We need to be more aware of what is going on today and what future scenarios look like. Give some time beside your home teaching or visiting teaching or your instruction to the YW in your ward or stake, or whatever, to do some community service downtown with United Way, Centro Hispano, or Project Read. Extend yourself by initiating service in strategic ways.

I am always intrigued with the phrase “random acts of kindness.” I do not think that it does a whole lot. It makes people feel good temporarily, and it suggests a little bit of love to be shared, sure. But effective humanitarian service needs to be more strategy-driven to so as to produce the deeper impacts we want.

Another action you may consider is for you to join an NGO as a board member. Peter Drucker, a few years before he died, wrote a great *Harvard Business Review* article called “Managing One’s Self,” Jan. 1, 2005, <http://hbr.org/product/managing-oneself-harvard-business-review/an/R0501K-PDF>.

In it he talks about how the rising generation, the Millennials we will call them today, is going to have a good amount of money and a lot of control over their time. They are going to have a great deal of education. After they have worked for that law firm or that accounting firm in that corporate space or for the local, state, or federal government, they are going to be bored out of their minds. They are going to get restless and wonder if this is all life has to offer—a job, a house, a car, and a few children who have grown up and left on their own.

Drucker was not a Mormon, but he had this notion that people in their twenties now and thirties tomorrow ought to be thinking about a “second career” so that when she is forty or forty-five and done with her nursing career, she can do something different. Or when she is done with her business, and she sells it off, or after he has golfed a few years and has been to Hawaii and done all those cruises, he or she will ask, “What else can I do?” Drucker argued that you should start preparing in your thirties and early forties for a second career in the social sector, in the nonprofit community, in the citizen sector, in civil society. These are all those terms we have invented in the last ten years, because we realize business and capitalism on this hand, and government and the public sector on the other hand, can do a lot. But there are things that fall through the crack.

We have seen a rise in this new social enterprise sector. President Barak Obama established the White House program with a start-up amount of \$50 million to support social innovation. Even before that we had seen an explosion of start-up NGOs across the country—a total of two million, I believe now. So I suggest you become a board member and start volunteering some time at the library, or the PTA, or the local symphony, or the food bank. Get some experience being in a different sector than your for-profit corporate experience or government role, so you can phase out of your traditional job into a better, more meaningful late stage second career.

When Drucker was a young man and on his way to becoming the father of modern management, he wrote his first book, *The Concept of the Corporation*, a study of General

Motors. Decades later, at about age eighty, he was phoned by the president of the Girl Scouts of America and asked if he had any business experience that would help their non-profit success. He met with them, and then he started consulting with them for free. Later he reported that the Girl Scouts was the best, most efficient, most effective organization in the United States. In a way, he was implying as a professor he could see that the things he had thought and taught, could be ignored. And he spent his last ten years in the nonprofit sector, eventually dying at age 95. He suggests to us that we should learn to do this non-profit work before we are eighty years old.

Another possibility for you to do is humanitarian tourism, the experience of performing some type of community service while on vacations. Some of my purist international development students say one should not waste their time doing to that. Instead, they feel people should go live among the poor. In response, I would say that not all of us can. Not all of us will, but at least you can go volunteer while taking a travel vacation.

For example, there is a great organization started by my MBAs called Singular Humanitarian experience (SHe). They started in Washington, D.C. and are now across the globe in New Zealand, Australia, and Europe. They are looking for older Mormon singles in their thirties and forties who have made their millions on Wall Street, or are heart surgeons in Denver. Many have more money and time than they know what to do with. They have done all the fun stuff over the years—resorts in Cancun, the Bahamas, and so on. SHe is mobilizing these folks to go serve as singles rebuilding village schools, etc. for a couple of weeks. Check them out online.

You can also write a small check to a college student who wants to go volunteer for a Third World summer. Such individuals can go dig ditches with the poor in Mexico, but sometimes they need financial support. Help them do an internship by your helping to fund it. Engage your neighbors, your friends, your business associates.

Likewise, you may start an NGO in your within your own family. Get your spouse and kids together and say, "You know, we have done these fantastic vacations cruising to Alaska. We have eaten all the food. Maybe we have gotten sick on the Caribbean ship:) So let us go do something good in the world, something that enlarges our definition of our small family as we serve the human family. We are going to feel real purpose and spiritual joy if we go to a village in Mozambique and live in there for two weeks, paying our own way and serving those indigenous people in great need."

A key point I want to emphasize is that such humanitarianism is initiated by individuals, not large institutions. Of this President Hinckley expressed his concern and worry, that among Latter-day Saints "We must be careful not to overinstitutionalize that care" (for the poor). He admonished us to not assume the church alone will take care of others, that contributing tithing or fast offerings will solve the suffering around the world, and so forth. No, he taught, "We need, as individuals, I think, to reach down and extend a helping hand...." (*Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley*, Deseret Book, 1997, 459).

He felt like there was too much dependence on members waiting until when the Church says, and then we will go do it. Apparently, it is not enough. We should be engaged Mormons who declare: "We see a problem; let us mobilize; let us get our group together and change the world."

Let me illustrate such an approach by recalling a stake president in California. He and his high council decided to adopt a couple of impoverished stakes in the Philippines. They started sending money to create microenterprises there and help fund LDS kids to go to school. After several years of doing this, they traveled to Manila and spent a week there with those members. This righteous leader gave the Filipinos a big hug and shed tears of joy seeing upon seeing how those monies they had contributed, not as a stake, not as a church, but as a group of members, individuals and friends, had helped. They came back to the States reporting that it changed our lives. They were more spiritual and empowered by realizing they could make a difference.

Other Latter-day Saints are funding the purchase of food for malnourished Mormon kids through the Liahona Foundation that was established in the U.S. to initially aid church members in Ecuador. Those folks, medical experts among them, estimate there are about a hundred thousand LDS children struggling to live, being severely malnourished. In screenings they performed, it was discovered that childhood poor health made up 30-50 percent of LDS kids under age five in certain nations. Yet there is no formal church program to help with this problem. Fast offerings cannot touch it. Missionaries cannot help. So the Liahona group developed a vision and built a coherent strategy to act as individuals in ensuring better health for Third World children. They designed a program with strong systems, and are now carrying it out, having mobilized 31 U.S. stakes to reduce malnutrition, not only in Ecuador, but also in Cambodia, Guatemala, and Peru.

If we look at the need, roughly two billion-plus people on our planet live on less than \$2 a day. Whether you look at per capita income between the U.S. and poorer countries, the literacy rate, the deaths of children under five, kids being exploited, twelve-year-olds working in the fields, or in the inner cities trying to support their parents, what is our stewardship? That is the big question. Some twenty thousand small children die every day around the globe. By the time we turn off the lights in our hotels tonight, thousands more will be dying. I want you to imagine, to explore, to dream what we might do to change our present fallen state as a world toward a future ideal state. Obviously we cannot do it for the whole planet, but we can do it for a few families. We can do it for a few communities. We can do it for a small, impoverished branch of LDS members.

We should reflect on the analysis of Brother Brigham when he was talking in general conference about “most of the inhabitants of the earth (who) for the lack of opportunity they are not able to develop the talents and ability that are within them. This is the condition of the people of most of the nations of the earth. ...what does He (God) expect of us to do? He requires, absolutely requires, of us to take these people who have named his name through baptism, and teach them how to live, and how to become healthy, wealthy and wise. This is our duty” (*Journal of Discourses* 18:353).

I hear from some Mormon friends all the time, in essence condescendingly complain: “Well, those poor people of the inner city, those welfare queens, those poor guys just sitting around wasting their time. They deserve what they have.” But if you go to those countries among the Third World poor, you see a lot of people working.

Let me introduce another strategy for poverty alleviation. It’s called Microfinance. How many of you have heard of the Grameen Bank before today? It is in Bangladesh. The thing I like about Grameen is that women control it. Not only is it the world’s first bank for the poor, it is the first bank of women, for women, by women. And that means a big change. Grameen focuses on the rural poor in Bangladesh. Increasingly, there are some Grameen replications in other countries that have arisen in recent years.

My good brother, Muhammad Yunus, has said that his microfinance mission in life is to help the poorest people in his own country in creating self-employment and enable them to increase their incomes and become empowered. Grameen started out in the 1970s with a few little loans outside Chittagong University where Yunus taught. He had been trained at Vanderbilt here in the U.S. He had learned all our great economic theories. Then he saw that they did not seem to work in his home country. Grameen, the little NGO started as a welfare organization, and eventually it became an official bank for the poor with new legislation in that country. Once Yunus gained widespread credibility with his Nobel Peace Prize, his recognition accelerated.

I was honored as I was retiring last year when he taught my final microfinance class and invited students to go out and change the world. A few weeks later he was in Washington, DC. Congress was giving him the Congressional Gold Medal that was first given to George Washington. Yunus is only the seventh person in history to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nobel Prize, and the Congressional Gold Medal. On that occasion, it was fun for

me to see Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reed, and John Boehner, my “good friend” from Ohio—all of them praising the need to work on poverty reduction. It was wonderful.

Among the latest Grameen interventions has been this notion of giving loans. Not just to poor women in rural areas, but to beggars in the streets. Yunus and his board determined to give them \$9 loans. Typically a Bangladeshi woman would get \$70 or \$80 first loan these days. But Grameen has pioneered the concept of also serving the poorest of the poor. So it gives the people sleeping in the streets \$9. They are told they can go buy more liquor with it and get drunk again. Or instead, if they want to, they can buy some candy or other items and sell them in the neighborhood. If they then pay back the \$9, they are able to receive double the amount, an \$18 loan. And on and on. I think Grameen has now grown to some 50,000 new clients, people off the streets who lived as beggars, yet who are now becoming self-reliant to some degree.

The Grameen Bank itself is huge, having grown to over 7.1 million clients. The borrowers own most of the bank—some \$7.4 billion. Over the last few years, some of us have proposed that Grameen start up here in the United States. We could see that our traditional banks are not solving our poverty problem. We invented credit unions to do that, but not even they are making the big difference. We felt that need Grameen here. So Grameen was begun in New York some six years ago. I was on its advisory board to help them get going. Now there is a Grameen Bank in nine other cities, east to west, from Charlotte, North Carolina to San Francisco and Los Angeles. Others are from Boston in the North to Austin, Texas in the South. What we are finding is that hundreds of thousands, and eventually we will find that millions of so-called “un-bankable Americans” will receive loans to launch microenterprises through Grameen in the U.S. So far some \$160 million has been loaned using an alternative paradigm to Wall Street banking, one that only lends to the poorest women in U.S. society.

Among other things, what I see Grameen having done is inspire Latter-day Saints with business backgrounds to start other NGO organizations. One of them is called the Yehu Microfinance Trust (YMT), started by my good friend Lewis Pope. He has about a thousand employees in his business here in Provo. He also was inspired by my book, *Working Toward Zion*. In it he read about Grameen and some other organizations, and decided to do something. Then Louis took action. He started an NGO in Mombasa, Kenya to do a microfinance operation, and he and YMT have now given out thirty thousand loans.

Louis eventually began to collaborate with another Grameen-inspired NGO called Jamii Bora Bank, the largest microcredit NGO in the country with some 300,000 clients. It started in the slums of Nairobi, one of the largest, most dangerous slums in the world. Jamii Bora primarily gives loans to prostitutes, pimps, drug addicts, alcoholics, and criminals. Those are their clients. Not just the normal poor; there are other NGOs that give loans to the regular poor. Instead, they want to take the risk, to see if a tiny bit of credit will change a person’s view of themselves, give them some dignity. In the process, they now have over a thousand staff members giving out loans who used to be the thugs, as they called themselves. When I was last in Nairobi a staffer told me he had been a thug in Kenya himself, but was now a business person.

Another NGO you should check out is the Ouelessebouyou Alliance, started in Salt Lake City about the same time as the Church’s humanitarian fund. Back in the 1980s, we Americans saw for the first time on CNN the devastating mass famine, deaths, and huge refugee camps in Ethiopia. Through innovative television we could see that mother with her child in living color on the news at night as she wilted away and then died, often as her baby starved to death. LDS members began to push the church headquarters to act, “to do something!” They had that global fast which raised about \$9 million and thus, LDS humanitarian services was born.

During that era another group of Mormons who helped push for the worldwide fast decided to get some Catholics and Muslims in Salt Lake together to focus on Africa. They set up Ouelessebouyou as a foundation to serve the indigenous masses of Mali in West Africa. For over two decades they have been laboring with about twenty-five villages. It’s the third-poorest

nation in the world, a place with no roads, no electricity. Just dirt trails. No cash. Really it is just a barter economy. Many humanitarian interventions have come out from that effort. LDS leaders like Elder Marion G. Hanks and Chieko Okazaki have been on our board, and the Garff Motors family, the Larry Miller family, etc. have helped this little organization make many impacts. Over the decades Utah doctors, dentists, micro entrepreneurs, school teachers, as well as some of Utah's largest companies, have sent teams of five or six volunteers to help them get experience about poverty and Ouelessebouyou, so they could come back to Utah and design community programs to partner with Mali.

I was struck with the church's commitment to address suffering when participating in a large Salt Lake City event, at which President Hinckley declared that the worst pandemic on the planet is poverty. Not AIDS, not war, not the invasion in Iraq or Afghanistan, or the terrorism of 9/11. This was said from a speech he gave at another of my NGOs, Mentors International, at our 15th anniversary banquet, in Salt Lake City back in October 2005. It shocked some attendees, which led to more support for our NGO movement.

Another NGO you could become inspired by or learn from arose from an Organizational Behavior course I taught in winter semester 1999. I established a student practicum after Hurricane Mitch destroyed much of Central America a month earlier. I came back from a trip, went to the dean, and said that Central America had basically been knocked back fifty years. All of that U.S. aid, all of that World Bank development, had been virtually destroyed. I told him I wanted to create a class to mobilize some students to go help. I requested that I be able to teach one fewer courses in consulting for MBAs and instead teach a new course to help students mobilize against poverty? Let me ask you: What do you think the dean said? The response was no, that BYU doesn't do such work. (I hope that the dean is not here today.) Thus we started this little project.

It ended up that I had about eighty-five students take the new class. And forty-six organized our strategy and went to Honduras that summer as HELP Honduras (Help Eliminate Poverty). We raised some \$116,000 for microloans, rebuilding schools, and more. I remember a woman called Maria. She was the first borrower to whom we gave a \$100 microloan. We trained people in those villages. In essence, we told them, "We are here from HELP Honduras. We want to give microloans to those who seek to dig their way out of poverty. You can wait for the government. Or you can wait for the World Bank. Or you can get a microloan experience now." And we had many women, mostly single mothers, do that. It was a great blessing, and Maria was the first borrower.

We trained a group of Mormon sisters in a little Relief Society group. I think it was in Comayagua, Honduras. Then came the day to get their loans. We brought balloons. We brought soda pop. We brought Coca-Cola—the basic drink of the Third World. They sang the national anthem. We celebrated. They told stories. As board chair of HELP, I got up in front to give the first \$100 loan, and asked to whom we ought to give the first one to? The woman who they had elected president said it should go to Maria. She was the oldest and needed it the most. So Maria came up. But she did not want to so. When she finally was coaxed to the front, I had an envelope, and I took the equivalent amount of \$100 out to give her—the very first loan in her life—and she just pushed it away. As I recall now in English she basically said "No, no, no, *hermano*. I cannot do it. I cannot take that." And I replied, "But you have been trained and this is for you. You are going to start a business." She wanted to raise some chickens. Finally she broke into tears and said, "*Hermano*, I am just a poor Indian woman. I am not worth \$100. I have never seen \$100." She had never even been in a bank. She thought banks were where you go to die. She saw guys in uniform out front with their AK-47s. I was so touched and felt such pity. I would have given her \$1,000 if she had asked for it, right there. Maria finally agreed to accept her first microloan and three months later she paid it off. From two chicks she grew to two hundred, and the last time I saw her, she had thousands of chickens. Today she is successful. I would like to become a business partner with her myself!

So HELP Honduras gradually evolved into HELP International. Various changes occurred and we did a lot of other service. The organization kept expanding to other countries, not only in Latin America but in Africa and Asia. Twenty-four hundred volunteers have served so far. These students learned what the great Mahatma Gandhi meant about being the change you wish to see in the world.

Here is another example. How many of you know of Care for Life? Three of you. What is it? Who can tell us? Mozambique was devastated after the civil war and after the AIDS plague destroyed much of that country. A wonderful LDS couple, Cindy and Blair Packard, went off to visit and adopt a child from there. They saw something on the news about all the orphans suffering from HIV AIDS, along with their twenty-five years of civil war. They went back to Arizona and decided to create a nonprofit enterprise. (Like most people do when they come back from a vacation, right?) And so they started this little organization in Mozambique where 70 percent of the people live on less than a \$1.25 per day.

My friend and former student from Brazil, Joao Bueno, went to that African nation to set up a program to strengthen every family. Before his arrival, Care for Life (CFL) had fumbled along for about four or five years until Joao got involved. He began to say they needed to have full development in every village, set up community centers, and start income-generating projects, build wells, create a bicycle ambulance in every village for pregnant women who are about due to deliver their babies. The emphasis was on those who struggle, and sought to teach people how to have a better home life. They have since grown to fourteen villages where they have had tremendous changes. They document every improvement of the family, through the Family Preservation Program (FPP). Goals include clean drinking water, getting their kids to school, sleeping under mosquito nets, whatever it may be. Check out Care for Life online.

Another NGO you might consider donating to is Mentors International. It was started in the Philippines with some of my students and several wealthy Latter-day Saints who had been mission presidents there. They had seen the poverty and how in the Philippines every generation of Latter-day Saints is more poor than the previous. We started this NGO to benefit the people there and we Latter-day Saints in the U.S. help with money, business expertise, and ethical energy. In 1989 we started in the Philippines and have since expanded to six other countries. We have been able to get a fair amount of donations, some \$48 million thus far, and have found that groups of LDS individuals can make a huge difference in the world.

Another, newer LDS-related NGO was established about a decade ago by Becky Douglas, a Mormon, who went with her wealthy lady friends from Atlanta to India. There, in a taxi one day, their car was stopped at an intersection. Then came the beggars: Leper kids with a nose falling off or a club-fisted hand because they had lost their fingers to leprosy. She later told me that she was so shocked. She had thought Jesus cured leprosy two thousand years ago. I said that while He did some curing of that terrible curse in Palestine, His miracles back then were geographically limited, yet leprosy was a global disease.

She returned to America from that first exposure and invited more friends to help start a new NGO. With some contacts with various associates in Utah, LDS lawyers and friends in Atlanta, she launched Rising Star India. Over the years they have been building new schools, educating the parents and the lepers themselves with arts and crafts skills so they can begin doing some income-generating activity. Becky's group has enjoyed donations from Latter-day Saints here, New York, and the Marriotts in Washington, D.C. They have figured out how to live what President Monson talked about in terms of our calling as Latter-day Saints to be "rescuers."

So the list of suggestions as to what Latter-day Saints can do to improve the world are numerous, aren't they? I hope this session has inspired you to take action, to reach out to those in need. There are many actions we can take to make deep impacts. The various cases we have considered provide a wide range of possibilities. Some of these NGOs are more sustainable than others. A few have scaled up globally. In contrast, others have remained tightly focused on one country, or they offer a single type of humanitarian service. Different examples

demonstrate different opportunities. Some people are doing this humanitarian work as an action group within their circle of friends, work associates, and more. Others are starting family action groups or neighborhood action groups in their own communities. Brigham Young, George Q. Cannon, John Taylor, Warner Woodworth, and finally the Prophet Joseph himself declared that if you really have the love of God in your life, you are not content to take care of your own little nuclear family up on the hill here in Provo, Utah or New York City (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 174). Rather, you will seek to range “through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race.”

Handout: Dr. Warner Woodworth, 25th annual conference, BYU International Society, April 7, 2014

What More Can We All Do?

“When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, the power of God brings to pass His purposes.” - Thomas S. Monson

Ever dreamed of changing the world? This handout summarizes some of the humanitarian work we have been doing over the past 20 years as Latter-day Saints, entrepreneurs, housewives, professionals, college students, Church leaders, and friends to design courses, apply concepts, develop action models, and offer pro bono consulting to fight poverty and address social problems. Hopefully they will suggest applications that more LDS individuals like you may want to consider. These efforts grow out of the projects we have designed and implemented with our partners through the Marriott School at BYU--teaching courses, offering mentoring and service learning opportunities while doing research and publication. Some of these social ventures have resulted in public recognition—including those from Pres. Bill Clinton’s Global Initiative Award, Grameen Foundation’s Practitioner Excellence Award, Fast Company Magazine/Monitor Consulting Group’s Social Capital Award, the Drucker Centennial Professorship at Claremont University, Faculty Pioneer Award for social impacts from the Aspen Institute in New York City, and the LDS Church’s First Presidency. In some cases, we’ve had involvement of students from other universities, as well as BYU alumni to help as project advisors, to provide service on NGO boards of directors, and to donate their personal money and time.

The resources and links below show areas that may be of interest to you and your associates regarding our activities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. They foster social entrepreneurship, strengthen family well-being, build social capital and generate Third World improvements. They show examples of how individuals, NGOs, and corporations may partner as resource systems for combating poverty, thus enabling people and groups to become incubators in which to create, assess, and then spin-off social enterprises. Hopefully, this will open a dialogue as to what others may accomplish as we collaborate in future actions that transform peoples’ capacity for achieving economic self-reliance, solving global problems, and establishing Zion.

What: Humanitarian, Self-Reliance, Economic Development, Social Entrepreneurship, Zion-building, NGO Excellence

Where: Starting at Brigham Young University (<http://www.byu.edu>) and going far beyond

Programs: Over the past 2 decades, I have sought to recruit, train, and send out over 2,600 BYU students, along with dozens from other universities such as Stanford, Virginia Tech, USU, Portland State, Harvard, Utah, Colorado State, etc.

as global change agents—partnering with business, creating new NGOs, working with existing social enterprises, and striving to foster sustainable strategies to empower the poor. We have designed and implemented nearly fifty projects to build civil society and reduce poverty. As of now, 28 have become NGOs that operate in 31 countries. A few others are social businesses which utilize leading-edge management tools to serve the poor, not to make a profit. In 2013 alone all of these collectively raised some \$28 million in donations and investment capital, trained over 540,000 poor women, and grew their microentrepreneur base to over 8.1 million clients. I'm a founder of Unitus, Mentors International, Help International and other NGOs. You may wish to involve your friends and colleagues in these programs. At BYU, in addition to new courses, training modules, student theses, and faculty mentoring, we have produced several tools for change. Much of this has occurred because of LDS individuals becoming committed to making a difference:

- Established a \$3 million Ballard Center for Economic Self-Reliance: <http://marriottschool.byu.edu/selfreliance>
- Held 11 years of annual conferences, bringing together top practitioners, donors, NGOs, students, and faculty: See <http://marriottschool.byu.edu/selfreliance> for more information
- Published books such as *Small Really is Beautiful: Micro Approaches to Third World Development* (Third World Think Tank, 2001) and *Working Toward Zion* (Aspen Pub., 1999)
- *Journal of Microfinance*: <http://marriottschool.byu.edu/microfinance>
- Published 10 books, a hundred articles, and presented some 200 conference papers around the globe

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"Mormon should mean 'more good'...." - Gordon B. Hinckley

NGOs that we have started and/or been deeply involved with, or that are Utah-related include:

- Care for Life (Mozambique) <http://careforlife.org>
- H.E.L.P. International (Uganda, Latin America, etc.) <http://help-international.org>
- Sustain Haiti (Post Earthquake Haiti) <http://sustain-haiti.org>
- Ascend Alliance (Ethiopia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador) <http://ascendalliance.org>
- Cause For Hope (Honduras, Nicaragua) <http://causeforhope.org>
- Eagle Condor Humanitarian (Peru) <http://eagle-condor.org>
- Academy for Creating Enterprise (Philippines) <http://creatingenterprise.com>
- Empowering Nations (Wave of Hope Thailand) Plus Ghana, Panama <http://empoweringnations.org>

- Mentores para la Microempresa (Utah Latino Community) <http://microbusinessmentors.org>
- Singular Humanitarian experience/She (Nepal) www.singularhumanitarian.org/
- Liahona Children's Foundation (Cambodia, Ecuador) www.liahonachildren.org
- Rising Star Outreach (India) <http://risingstaroutreach.org>
- Mentors International (Latin America/Philippines) <http://enterprise-mentors.org>
- Choice Humanitarian (Nepal, Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala) <http://choicehumanitarian.org/>
- Ouelessebougou Alliance (Mali, West Africa) <http://sistercommunity.org>
- Reach the Children (7 nations, mostly in Africa) <http://.reachthechildren.org>
- Yehu Microfinance (Kenya) Also microfranchise projects <http://yehu.org>

Note: Other smaller Projects/NGOs include SOAR China, Acción Contra La Pobreza (Honduras), Liahona Economic Development Foundation (Nigeria), Nova Geracao (Brazil), Caisse De Sion (Ivory Coast), & Paramita Group (Asia).

Major microfinance organizations that we have ongoing relationships with consist of the following:

- Jamii Bora Microfinance Trust (Kenya) <http://jamiiborabank.co.ke>
 - FINCA International (Global) <http://villagebanking.org>
 - Grameen Bank (Bangladesh) <http://grameen-info.org>
 - Grameen America (New York) <http://grameenamerica.com>
 - Making Cents (Training) <http://makingcents.org>
 - Micro-Business USA (Florida immigrants) <http://microbusinessusa.org>
 - Katalysis (Central America) <http://katalysis.org>
 - Microcredit Summit Campaign (Global) <http://microcreditsummit.org>
 - Opportunity International (Global) <http://opportunity.org>
 - Unitus (India, Mexico, Argentina, Indonesia, Philippines, Tanzania, Kenya) <http://unitus.com>
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There are a number of NGOs and academic programs involved in research, funding, and promoting change agency, social entrepreneurship or humanitarianism listed as follows:

- Aspen Institute (social innovation) <http://aspeninstitute.org>
 - Program on Social Enterprise (Yale) <http://mba.yale.edu>
 - Idealist Org <http://idealist.org>
 - Harvard Initiative on Social Enterprise <http://hbs.edu./socialenterprise>
 - Institute for Social Entrepreneurs <http://socialent.org>
 - Social Edge (online magazine) <http://socialedge.org>
 - Ashoka (Innovations for the Public) <http://ashoka.org>
 - Net Impact (MBAs doing good) <http://net-impact.org>
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Film: A one-hour PBS documentary we produced, "Small Fortunes," is accessible on the web that features some of our NGOs and partner MFIs around the world. It also highlights concrete ways to establish action groups and fight poverty. See <http://kbyutv.org/smallfortunes> and/or <http://pbs.org/kbyu/smallfortunes> .

JOIN US IN BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF GLOBAL CHANGE AGENTS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD!

“A man filled with the love of God is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race.” --Joseph Smith