

## President Hinckley called humanitarian of the millennium

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By Kyle Thompson

kylet@newsroom.byu.edu

Gordon B. Hinckley, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has spent most of his life seeking to help those in need.

Unitus, an Orem-based foundation dedicated to stamping out poverty, named President Hinckley Humanitarian of the Millennium on Tuesday.

Unitas Chairman Warner Woodworth, presented the award in the Sharon Room of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City's Temple Square.

Although the church leader joked with the audience during much of the presentation, he became very serious after he received the award. President Hinckley said his heart ached for the poor of the world.

President Hinckley called for Latter-day Saints everywhere to reach out to their neighbors. He said, there is nothing wrong with accumulating resources as long as they are used to help others.

"When you serve the poor, you serve the master. I have no doubt of that whatever," President

Hinckley said.

President Hinckley's example of unselfish service and compassion had already inspired many in the room, Woodworth said.

"We are here today for the poor of the church, for the hungry of the world, for those who are dying of AIDS, for those who have no jobs," Woodworth said.

President Hinckley said poverty and the spread of AIDS, which infects 18 million people in Africa alone, chiefly result from a lack of instruction.

"The ladder that will lift people from poverty is the ladder of education," President Hinckley said.

Mike Murray of Unitus, presented President Hinckley with an 1841 European edition of the Book of Mormon. It was one of the first editions of the book printed in Europe, he said.

Murray also recounted the advice President Hinckley had received from his father during a discouraging time on his mission for the LDS Church in Preston, England.

In a 1933 letter, Bryant Stringham Hinckley advised his son to forget himself and go to work.

Woodworth pointed to President Hinckley's humanitarian efforts in Central and South America, Asia and Africa as proof he had taken that advice to heart.

He praised President Hinckley's encouragement of community service by LDS missionaries, as well as church welfare and employment agencies.

Woodworth said to those in attendance to follow President Hinckley's example and find new ways to combat global poverty.

"If not now, when? If not us, who?" Woodworth asked.