



Zina D. H. Young elected president of the new Deseret Silk Association.

Primary organization began.

The Relief Society established the Deseret Hospital.

*"The Relief Society . . . was first organized nearly half a century ago . . . to dispense temporal blessings to the poor and needy; and to give encouragement to the weak, and restrain the erring ones, and for the better development, and exercise of woman's sympathies, and charities, that she might have opportunity to attain spiritual strength, and power for the accomplishment of greater good in the work of the redemption of the human family."*⁸ — Zina D. H. Young

1875 Zina D. H. Young elected president of the new Deseret Silk Association.

1876 Emmeline B. Wells led the new grain storage program.

1878 Primary organization began.

1880 Second Relief Society General Presidency set apart.

1882 The Relief Society established the Deseret Hospital.

1887 Relief Society women organized Utah and Idaho chapters of the Woman Suffrage Organization in 1889.⁷

1888 ZINA D. H. YOUNG

1889 President Zina D. H. Young organized the first Relief Society general conference.

1890

1891 Relief Society was a charter member of the National Council of Women in the United States.

The
most long-lived
economic enterprise of the Relief Society was the grain storage program: 1876–1918. During a wheat shortage near the end of World War I, they sold it at the unrefusable request of the U.S. government. The interest from this wheat money was used to decrease maternal and infant mortality, fund clinics for pregnant women and young children, sponsor health-care education classes, and stockpile supplies for childbirth.

of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has counseled us: “Learn *for yourselves* who you really are. Ask your Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ how He feels about you and your mission here on earth. If you ask with real intent, over time the Spirit will whisper the life-changing truths to you. Record those impressions, review them often, and follow through with exactness.

“I promise you that when you catch even a glimpse of how your Heavenly Father sees you and what He is counting on you to do for Him, your life will never be the same!”⁵ Go to the temple and listen! Listen for who you are and what you will do.

3. How can women whose lives are terribly busy still enjoy the blessings of Relief Society?

Sister Stephens: It comes down to priorities. I recently spent time in West Africa, and I saw women carrying water from the

well on their head daily and then go to work to help provide for their families. At times I was overwhelmed with the poverty. Then I spent time with the members of the Church at the training meetings in their bright white shirts and homemade colorful dresses.

I was taught that they are rich in the things money can't buy. I learned that they put the most important things first. The gospel means everything



to them. They told me, “I don't need anything. I have everything I need—I have the gospel and my family.” When we put the most important things first, other things will naturally drop out of our lives.

4. What does Relief Society have to offer young women?

Sister Burton: Young women have the opportunity to help fulfill prophecy when they progress into Relief Society. In 1979, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) prophesied that good women of the world “will be drawn to the Church in large numbers . . . to the degree that the women of the Church are seen as distinct and different—in happy ways—from the women of the world.”⁶ We need the unique gifts, perspective, and talents that young women bring to help fulfill this prophecy.

Of President Kimball's prophecy, President Russell M. Nelson said in 2015 to women of all ages—including young