

Pres. M. Russell Ballard

Acting president, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“In an orderly way we have now begun a new chapter in our Church history. This is a precious gift from God.”

By sustaining President Russell M. Nelson as prophet and President of the Church, “we stood as witnesses before God and acknowledged that he is President (Thomas S.) Monson’s rightful successor. With our raised hands we promised to hearken unto his voice as he receives direction from the Lord.”

When individuals have faith as small as a mustard seed, the Lord can help remove the mountains of discouragement and doubt as they serve with God’s children.

“Too many allow themselves to almost live online with their smart devices – screens illuminating their faces day and night and ear plugs in their ears blocking out the still small voice of the Spirit. ... Now there is nothing wrong with taking advantage of the advances in the technologies inspired by the Lord, but we must be wise in their use.”

The Lord Jesus Christ is the most precious of all gifts from God. “We must keep Christ as the center of our lives at all times and in all places.”



Elder Brian K. Taylor

General Authority Seventy

Satan attempts to make God’s children question their divine heritage. “This great war over divine identity rages fiercely, as Satan’s proliferating arsenal aims to destroy belief in and knowledge of our relationship with God.”

Thanks to the scriptures and guidance of living prophets, “we have been blessed with clear vision and understanding of our true identities from the beginning.”

Efforts to seek to know Christ and Heavenly Father lead to knowledge of a divine heritage without question. It is through Christ and His “every word and deed” that each person can come to know the “true nature of God and our relationship with Him.”

Each person has a central role in God’s plan. Open the pages of the Book of Mormon and learn that God does “all things for our welfare and happiness,” that He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, long-suffering and full of goodness,” and that “all are alike unto (Him)” (2 Nephi 26:33).

“When you feel hurt, lost, scared, upset, sad, hungry, or hopelessly abandoned in ‘life’s extremities’ – open the Book of Mormon, and you will come to know God will never desert us, He never has, and He never will. He cannot do it.”



Elder Larry J. Echo Hawk

General Authority Seventy

Elder Echo Hawk’s brother Tommy and his wife, Joan, were killed by a 20-year-old drunk driver on a December night in 1982.

During a court sentencing hearing held for the driver, Elder Echo Hawk’s parents and sister Katy offered words of comfort and forgiveness to the driver’s parents.

“Mom, Dad and Katy led the way with their quiet strength and courage, and showed our family what forgiveness looks like.”

While individuals must be held accountable for their criminal acts and civil wrongdoings, sons and daughters of God who follow Jesus Christ “are to be forgiving even when it seems others may not warrant our forgiveness.”

All can receive unspeakable peace by partnering with the Savior “as we learn to freely forgive those who have ‘trespassed against’ us. This partnering brings the Savior’s power into our lives in an unmistakable, never-to-be forgotten way.”

Forgive completely and let healing occur from within. “And even if forgiveness does not come today, know that as we desire it and work for it, it will come – just as it eventually did for me after my brother’s death.”



Elder Gary E. Stevenson

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

It is natural to feel a sense of sorrow at the death of a beloved prophet. “But our sadness is tempered by the joy and hope that comes as we experience one of the great blessings of the restoration: the calling and sustaining of a living prophet on the earth.”

This current “divine process” began with the death of President Thomas S. Monson on Jan. 2, 2018, and the dissolution of the First Presidency. It ended on Sunday, Jan. 14, when the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met in the upper room of the Salt Lake Temple and first raised their hands to sustain the reorganization of a First Presidency and then President Russell M. Nelson as President of the Church. After the sustaining, the Brethren gathered in a circle and, placing hands upon President Nelson’s head, ordained and set him apart.

“This was a deeply sacred experience with an outpouring of the Spirit. I offer to you my absolute witness that the will of the Lord, for which we fervently prayed, was powerfully manifest in the activities and events of that day.”

All can rejoice “that the Lord’s mouthpiece ... is in place and that the Lord is pleased that His work is being done in the way that He has divinely prescribed.”



Elder Lynn G. Robbins

Presidency of the Seventy

“Hopefully, each mistake we make becomes a lesson in wisdom, turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones.”

To err is part of human nature and millions of “second chances” are required through the mercy of the Savior.

“The Savior paid an infinite price to give us as many chances as it would take to successfully pass our mortal probation. He doesn’t leave us without hope.”

Repentance is God’s ever-accessible gift that allows and enables individuals to go from failure to failure without any loss of enthusiasm. “Repentance isn’t His backup plan in the event we might fail. Repentance is His plan knowing that we will.”

But endless forgiveness and “second chances” aren’t a license to sin. Repentance requires real intent and effort to change.

“Change” is the principal word the *Guide to the Scriptures* uses to define repentance: “A change of mind and heart that brings a fresh attitude toward God, oneself, and life in general.”

That kind of change “results in spiritual growth.”



Elder Neil L. Andersen

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“Our heaven-directed assembly is not in this Conference Center alone, but across the world; in chapels in Asia, Africa, and North America; in homes in Central and South America and Europe; on covered patios in the Pacific and the islands of the sea; this assembly is in whatever part of the world you might be, even if your connection is no more than the audio of your smart phone. Our raised hands were not counted by our bishops, but they were surely noted in heaven, as our covenant is with God, and our action is recorded in the Book of Life.”

While there are many logical reasons to follow President Nelson – his brilliance, wisdom, good judgment and life experiences – it is his calling from the Lord that designates him as “a watchman on the tower” for the world today.

“A prophet does not stand between you and the Savior. Rather, he stands beside you and points the way to the Savior. A prophet’s greatest responsibility and most precious gift to us is his sure witness, his certain knowledge, that Jesus is the Christ.”

For those who are diligently seeking eternal life, the prophet’s voice brings spiritual safety in very turbulent times.



Elder David A. Bednar

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Meekness is “distinguished by righteous responsiveness, willing submissiveness and strong self-restraint.”

This quality is often misunderstood by the world. “Meekness is strong, not weak; active, not passive; courageous, not timid; restrained, not excessive; modest, not self-aggrandizing; and gracious, not brash. A meek person is not easily provoked, pretentious, or overbearing and readily acknowledges the accomplishments of others.”

A distinguishing characteristic of meekness is a spiritual receptivity to learning from the Holy Ghost and from people who may seem less capable, experienced or educated. “Meekness is the principal protection from the prideful blindness that often arises from prominence, position, power, wealth and adulation.”

Meekness is both an attribute developed through the exercise of moral agency and a spiritual gift “for which we appropriately can seek. Meek is what we become as disciples of the Master and not just something we do.”

The most “majestic and meaningful examples” of meekness are found in the life of the Savior. “Meekness is an essential aspect of the divine nature and can be received and developed in our lives because of and through the Savior’s Atonement.”



Elder Taylor G. Godoy

General Authority Seventy

“I wonder what it would mean, what effect it would have in my life to know that I had only one more day to live. How would I treat my wife, my children and others? How patient and polite would I be? How would I take care of my body? How fervently would I pray and search the scriptures? I think that in one way or another we all, at some point, will have a ‘one more day’ realization — a realization that we must use wisely the time we have.”

The key to making each day successful is to be willing to sacrifice. “In what ways will sacrifice make our days meaningful and blessed? First, personal sacrifice strengthens us and gives value to things we sacrifice for.”

Second, sacrifice results in blessings for givers and receivers.

Third, “any sacrifice we make is small compared to the sacrifice of the Son of God.”

“The plan of redemption is possible thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And it is because of this sacrifice, after following the process of sincere repentance, that we can feel the weight of our mistakes and sins lifted.”

At the same time, “we can receive in great measure the intense desire to be better children of God, to stay away from sin and to keep the commandments like never before.”



Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson

Former Young Women general president

“Our young women are amazing. They have talents, unlimited enthusiasm and energy, and they are compassionate and caring. They want to be of service. They need to know they are valued and essential in the work of salvation.”

Each person should know he or she is needed. “Every young woman in the Church should feel valued, have opportunities to serve and feel that she has something of worth to contribute to this work.”

Young men have Aaronic Priesthood duties clearly described in the Doctrine and Covenants. It “may be less obvious” to young women in the Church that from the time they are baptized, they “have covenant responsibilities ‘to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that (they) may be in, even until death’” (Mosiah 18:9).

“Just as our Aaronic Priesthood holders have been invited to labor with their fathers and other men of the Melchizedek Priesthood, our young women can be called upon to provide service and minister to the needs of ward members with their mothers or other exemplary sisters. They are capable, eager and willing to do so much more than merely attend Church on Sundays.”



Elder Taniela B. Wakolo

General Authority Seventy

“I promise that participating in ordinances and honoring the associated covenants will bring you marvelous light and protection in this ever-darkening world.”

A saving ordinance is a sacred, formal act performed by the authority of the priesthood. Every person must take important steps — be baptized, confirmed, ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood for men, the temple endowment and the marriage sealing.

“Like two sides to a coin, all the saving ordinances are accompanied by covenants with God. God promised us blessings if we faithfully honor those covenants.”

Although all need the ordinances of the gospel, those ordinances will neither redeem nor exalt. “In fact, we need not only the ordinances and covenants to return to our Father, but we also need His Son, Jesus Christ, and His Atonement.”

After the Savior received the ordinance of baptism, He was still subjected to the temptations of Satan. Like the Savior, “our temptations do not end after baptism or sealing, but receiving the sacred ordinances and honoring the associated covenants fill us with marvelous light and give us strength to resist and overcome temptations.”



Brother Devin G. Durrant

Sunday School general presidency

Parents have a joyful and sacred responsibility to teach their children. “We never stop being their parents. We never stop being their teachers. We are never released from these eternal callings.”

Family home evening offers many opportunities for parents to teach their children the gospel. Make family home evening a priority. “And make fun a key ingredient.”

Families can’t ever pray too much. “When families gather in humble prayer, powerful and lasting lessons are taught.”

Not every opportunity to teach children can come in planned circumstances. Being a parent can be similar to being an “on-call physician.” Sometimes parents need to be ready to react to circumstances and teach their children without planning.

“Family scripture study is an ideal forum for teaching the doctrine in the home.” And parents have a “divine mandate” to teach their children the doctrine.

Parents’ example is the most impactful way for them to teach their children.

“That’s how the Savior teaches. As parents cherish each other and offer righteous examples, children are eternally blessed.”



Elder Dale G. Renlund

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Family relationships “can be some of the most rewarding yet challenging experiences we encounter. Many of us have faced a fracture of some sort within our families.”

Temple and family history work bless the lives of the living. “When God directs us to do one thing, He often has many purposes in mind.” Family history and temple work is “not only for the dead, but blesses the living as well.”

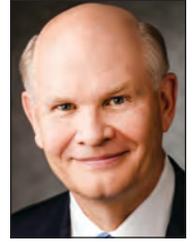
Church members have a divinely appointed responsibility to seek out their ancestors and perform the ordinances necessary to redeem the dead.

“[As] we participate in family history and temple work today, we also lay claim to ‘healing’ blessings promised by prophets and apostles.”

These include increased understanding of the Savior, feeling a greater influence of the Holy Ghost, strengthened faith, the ability and motivation to learn and repent, protection from temptations and other incredible blessings.

“If you have prayed for any of these blessings, participate in family history and temple work. As you do so, your prayers will be answered.”

Through His atoning sacrifice, Jesus Christ offers blessings to all, both the dead and the living.



Bro. Douglas D. Holmes

Young Men general presidency

The young men of the Aaronic Priesthood don't sit, figuratively, on "children's chairs." Instead, they have been given a "sacred trust" from God, and "a vital work" to do. The purpose of the priesthood is to provide God's children access to the atoning power of Jesus Christ.

"To receive Christ's atoning power in our lives we must believe in Him, repent of our sins, make and keep covenants through ordinances, and receive the Holy Ghost."

The keys of the Aaronic Priesthood — the keys of the ministering of angels and of the preparatory gospel — play essential roles in helping individuals access Christ's atoning power.

"In much the same way that angels are authorized messengers sent by God to declare His word and thereby build faith, we who hold the Aaronic Priesthood have been ordained to teach and invite all to come unto Christ. To preach the gospel is a priesthood duty. And the power associated with this duty is not just for prophets or even just for missionaries. It is for you."



Pres. Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

"Tonight, we announce a significant restructuring of our Melchizedek Priesthood quorums to accomplish the work of the Lord more effectively. In each ward, the high priests and the elders will now be combined into one elders quorum. This adjustment will greatly enhance the capacity and ability of men who bear the priesthood to serve others."

Prospective elders will be welcomed in and fellowshipped by that quorum.

In each stake, the stake presidency will continue to preside over the stake high priests quorum — "but the composition of that quorum will be based on current priesthood callings."

The modifications have been under study for "many months." "We have felt a pressing need to improve the way we care for our members and report our contacts with them. To do that better, we need to strengthen our priesthood quorums to give greater direction to the ministering of love and support that the Lord intends for his saints."



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"Members of elders quorums and high priests groups will now be combined into one Melchizedek Priesthood quorum with one quorum presidency. This quorum, increased in numbers and unity, will be designated the 'elders quorum.'"

"High priests groups are discontinued. The elders quorum includes all elders and prospective elders in the ward as well as high priests who are not currently serving in the bishopric, in the stake presidency, on the high council, or as functioning patriarchs."

"The high priests quorum in the stake will be composed of those high priests who are serving in the stake presidency, in bishoprics, on the high council and as functioning patriarchs."

The stake presidency will release current high priests group leaderships and elders quorum presidencies and will call a new elders quorum president and counselors in each ward.

"We expect elders and high priests to work together in any combination in the quorum presidency and in quorum service."



Elder Ronald A. Rasband

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The modifications made to the Melchizedek Priesthood quorums are the will of the Lord.

"As stated by President (Russell M.) Nelson, this is a matter that has been prayerfully discussed and considered by the senior Brethren of the Church for a long time. The desire was to seek the Lord's will and strengthen the quorums of the Melchizedek Priesthood. Inspiration was received and this evening our prophet made known the will of the Lord. 'Surely, the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants, the prophets!'"

The adjustments to priesthood quorums will help elders quorums and Relief Societies harmonize their work. "They will also simplify the quorum's coordination with the bishopric and ward council. And they allow the bishop to delegate more responsibilities to the elders quorum and Relief Society presidents so the bishop and his counselors can focus on their primary duties — particularly presiding over the young women and the young men who bear the Aaronic Priesthood."



Pres. Henry B. Eyring

Second counselor, First Presidency

"President Nelson has announced an inspired step forward in the Lord's organized plan for His Church. That plan includes a new structure for priesthood quorums in wards and stakes so that we may better fulfill our priesthood responsibilities. Those responsibilities all have to do with our priesthood care of our Father's children."

The Lord's plan for His saints to provide loving care has taken many forms over the years. In the early days of Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph Smith organized geographical "wards" to care for the members by geography. Later, saints moving across the plains were organized in "companies" to care for one another at a time of great difficulty.

"Now He has blessed us with strengthened and unified quorums at the ward and stake levels — quorums that work in coordination with all ward organizations."

Municipal wards, companies and strengthened quorums "succeed when the saints feel the love of Christ for each other above their self-interest."



Pres. Dallin H. Oaks

First counselor, First Presidency

Fundamental governing principles define the priesthood.

The Melchizedek Priesthood is the divine authority God has delegated to accomplish His work "to bring to pass the ... eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39). It is sacred and powerful beyond description.

"The Melchizedek Priesthood is not a status or a label. It is a divine power held in trust to use for the benefit of God's work for His children. We should always remember that men who hold the priesthood are not 'the priesthood.' It is not appropriate to refer to 'the priesthood and the women.' We should refer to 'the holders of the priesthood and the women.'"

The offices in the Melchizedek Priesthood have different functions. A high priest officiates and administers in spiritual things. An elder is a minister of Jesus Christ and is commissioned to stand in the Lord's place as an agent. He is a shepherd.

In the important function to minister in the sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, there is no distinction between the offices of high priest and elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood.



Pres. Russell M. Nelson

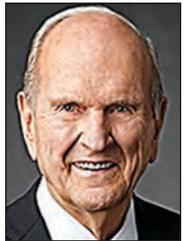
President of the Church

It is a "remarkable blessing" to serve in the Lord's "true and living Church" with authority and power. "The restoration of the priesthood of God, including the keys of the priesthood, opens to worthy Latter-day Saints the greatest of all spiritual blessings. We see those blessings flowing to women, men and children throughout the world."

Too many do not fully understand the concept of priesthood power and authority. Too many men and women do not grasp the privileges that could be theirs. Some of the brethren, for example, act as if they do not understand what the priesthood is and what it enables them to do. They pass up opportunities to utilize the priesthood to bless others.

"Priesthood power has been restored to this earth, and yet far too many brothers and sisters go through terrible trials in life without ever receiving a true priesthood blessing. What a tragedy! A tragedy that we can eliminate."

Holders of the priesthood have the privilege to act in the name of Jesus Christ to bless God's children according to His will for them.



Elder Larry Y. Wilson

General Authority Seventy

“It is an extraordinary privilege to have the Holy Spirit for our guide.”

Ensign Frank Blair, who served on a troop transport ship stationed in Japan during the Korean War, listened to the Spirit and saved his entire crew during a huge typhoon.

“While we may be unlikely to face such dire circumstances, this story contains important guidelines about how we can receive the Spirit’s guidance more frequently.”

1. When it comes to revelation, “we must properly tune our receiver to heaven’s frequency.”

“Had [Ensign Blair] not been obedient, he would not have had the spiritual confidence necessary to pray as he did ... and to receive such specific guidance. We must each be making the effort to align our lives with God’s commandments in order to be directed by Him.”

2. Be part of the solution. Instead of just listing problems in prayer and asking the Lord to solve them, seek more proactive ways of receiving the Lord’s help, and then commit to act according to the Spirit’s guidance.

3. Follow the pattern of listening to the Holy Ghost. “The arrival of a typhoon is no time to dust off the gift of the Holy Ghost and figure out how to use it.”



Sister Reyna I. Aburto

Relief Society general presidency

Though delicate and fragile, monarch butterflies are master navigators that find their way from Canada to Mexico every year. Each butterfly that forms the group, or kaleidoscope, is unique and has been designed to survive, travel, multiply and spread life. “And, although each butterfly is different, they work together to make the world a more beautiful and fruitful place.

“Like the monarch butterflies, we are on a journey back to our heavenly home.”

In order to reach “our sublime destiny, we need each other, and we need to be unified.”

Christ is the ultimate example of unity with His Father. “They are one in purpose, in love and in works, with ‘the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father’ (Mosiah 15:7).

“How can we follow the Lord’s perfect example of unity with His Father and be more unified with them and with each other?”

As individuals work in unity, “our purpose should be to look for and do the Lord’s will; our incentive should be the love we feel for God and for our neighbor; and our greatest desire should be to ‘labor diligently’ so we can prepare the way for the glorious return of our Savior.”



Elder Massimo De Feo

General Authority Seventy

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is centered on the love of the Father and the Savior and our love for them and for one another.”

Pure love is a requirement for every true disciple of Jesus Christ.

True disciples love the Lord more than the world and are steadfast and immovable in their faith. “True disciples love to listen to the voice of the Spirit and of the prophets, and are not confused by the voice of the world. [They] love to stand in holy places and love to make holy the places where they stand.”

Learning to serve, forgive, submit to the Lord, remain steadfast and immovable in faith, listen to the Spirit and the voice of the prophets, stand in holy places, and obey the commandments of the Lord are all key parts of becoming true disciples. “Through such acts of humility and love for the Savior, we can come to understand what pure love really is.”

Trusting in the Atonement and recognizing the pure love that Christ has for each individual is key to becoming a true disciple, and recognizing that forgiveness can be difficult at times. “If you are struggling to find the strength to forgive ... think of what the Lord has done for you, and you will find peace in the redemptive blessings of His Atonement.”



Elder Claudio D. Zivic

General Authority Seventy

“Jesus Christ assured us that ‘He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.’”

Just as Christ asked His apostles, “Will ye also go away?” (John 6:66-67), Christ asks the same from those who have made covenants with Him. “Let us be faithful to what we have believed and know. If we have not been living according to our knowledge, let us change.”

Many people who have fallen away from the covenant path often make excuses or justifications for why they have left.

A simple formula can help members resist temptations and endure to the end.

1. Daily, pray and read scriptures.
2. Weekly, partake of the sacrament with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.
3. Pay tithing and monthly fast offerings.
4. Every two years — every year for youth — renew temple recommends.
5. Throughout life, serve in the work of the Lord.

“Heavenly Father is constantly saying, ‘I love you, I sustain you, I am with you. Do not give up. Repent and endure in the path that I have shown you.’”



Pres. Henry B. Eyring

Second counselor, First Presidency

The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead and a person of spirit.

The conditions for receiving this “supernal blessing” are spoken every week but perhaps do not always sink in.

“To have the Spirit sent to us we must ‘always remember’ the Savior and ‘keep his commandments’” (Doctrine and Covenants 20:77).

“More precious than a memory or a picture ... is the memory of the Holy Ghost touching our hearts and His continuing affirmation of truth. More precious than seeing with our eyes, or remembering words spoken and read, is recalling the feelings that accompanied the quiet voice of the Spirit. Rarely, I have felt it exactly as the travelers on the road to Emmaus did — as a soft but clear burning in the heart. More often, it is a feeling of light and quiet assurance.”

Heavenly Father “is at this moment aware of you, your feelings, and the spiritual and temporal needs of everyone around you. I bear testimony that the Father and the Son are sending the Holy Ghost to all who have that gift, ask for that blessing, and seek to be worthy of it. Neither the Father, nor the Son, nor the Holy Ghost force Themselves into our lives. We are free to choose.”



Pres. Dallin H. Oaks

First counselor, First Presidency

Like a tree root cracking a concrete sidewalk, small and simple things over time can have great power.

“The thrusting power that cracked these heavy concrete sidewalks was too small to measure on a daily or even a monthly basis, but its effect over time was incredibly powerful.

“So is the powerful effect over time of the small and simple things we are taught in the scriptures and by living prophets. ... Though each of these practices may seem to be small and simple, over time they result in powerful spiritual uplift and growth. This occurs because each of these small and simple things invites the companionship of the Holy Ghost, the testifier who enlightens us and guides us into truth.”

Ongoing repentance, even of seemingly small transgressions, is another source of spiritual uplift and growth. “Our own inspired self-evaluations can help us see how we have fallen short and how we can do better. Such repentance should precede our weekly partaking of the sacrament.”

Ongoing repentance, even of seemingly small transgressions, is another source of spiritual uplift and growth.



Pres. Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

“The Lord will assist us in all our righteous pursuits.”

The world is complex, increasingly contentious and has a constant availability of social media and news. “If we are to have any hope of sifting through the myriad of voices and the philosophies of men that attack truth, we must learn to receive revelation.”

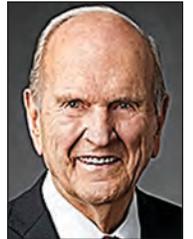
As a person receives the Holy Ghost, learns to discern and understand His promptings, he or she will be guided in matters large and small.

“Imagine the miracle of it. Whatever our Church calling, we can pray to our Heavenly Father and receive guidance and direction, be warned about dangers and distractions, and be enabled to accomplish things we simply could not do on our own.”

All have the ability to receive personal revelation.

“Follow the example of the Prophet Joseph. Find a quiet place where you can regularly go. Humble yourself before God. Pour out your heart to your Heavenly Father. Turn to Him for answers and for comfort.”

Pray about concerns, fears, weaknesses and “the very longings of your heart.”



Elder Gerrit W. Gong

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“Words — at least my words — cannot express the overwhelming feelings since President Russell M. Nelson lovingly took my hands in his, with Susan at my side, and extended this sacred call from the Lord that took my breath away and has left me weeping many times these past days.”



The song of the Savior’s redeeming love celebrates the harmony of covenants and the Atonement of Jesus Christ. “Together, our covenants and our Savior’s Atonement enable and ennoble. They help us hold on and let go. Together they sweeten, preserve, sanctify and redeem.”

On this day, “I humbly pledge all the energies and faculties of my soul, whatever they may be or whatever they may become, to my Savior, to my dear Susan and our family, to my brethren, and to each of you, my beloved brothers and sisters.”

On this Easter Sunday, “I reverently witness and solemnly testify of the living Christ — He who died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven. He is Alpha and Omega — with us in the beginning. He is with us to the end.”

The Lord’s kingdom is again established on the earth, preparatory to the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Elder Ulisses Soares

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“I would like to express my sincere and deep thanks for your sustaining vote yesterday. Though I feel ineloquent and slow of speech like Moses, I console myself in the Lord’s words to him: ‘Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say’ (Exodus 4:10-12).”



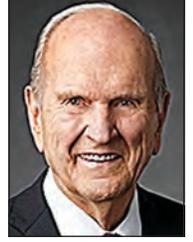
President Russell M. Nelson is the prophet of God on earth. “I have never seen anyone more kind and loving than he is. Though I felt so inadequate for this sacred call, his words and the tender look in his eyes as he extended this responsibility made me feel embraced by the Savior’s love. Thank you very much, President Nelson. We sustain and love you.”

Isn’t it a blessing to have prophets, seers, and revelators on earth in these days? “It is comforting to know that we are not alone in the world, despite the challenges we face in life. Having prophets is a sign of God’s love for His children. They make known the promises and the true nature of God and of Jesus Christ to their people. I have learned that through my own personal experiences.”

Pres. Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

“Brothers and sisters, we constantly seek direction from the Lord on how we can help our members keep the commandments of God, especially those two great commandments to love God and our neighbors.



“For months we have been seeking a better way to minister to the spiritual and temporal needs of our people in the Savior’s way.

“We have made the decision to retire ‘home teaching’ and ‘visiting teaching’ as we have known them. Instead we will implement a newer, holier approach to caring and ministering to others. We will refer to these efforts simply as ‘ministering.’

“Affected ministering efforts are enabled by the innate gifts of the sisters and by the incomparable power of the priesthood. We all need such protection from the cunning wiles of the adversary.”

Assigned brethren of the priesthood and assigned sisters of the Relief Society and Young Women will now function in serving and watching over members of the Church throughout the world.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

As the work of the Church matures institutionally, it follows that members should mature personally — “individually rising above any mechanical, function-without-feeling routine to the heartfelt discipleship articulated by the Savior at the conclusion of His earthly ministry.”



The Church will no longer use home teaching and visiting teaching language.

Church members will continue to visit homes as possible, but local circumstances such as large numbers, long distances, personal safety, and other challenging conditions may preclude a visit to every home every month.

The only report that will be made is the number of interviews leaders had with the ministering companionships in the ward that quarter.

Church members “have a heaven sent opportunity” to demonstrate pure religion undefiled before God, “to bear one another’s burdens that they may be light and to comfort those that stand in need of comfort, to minister to the widows and the fatherless, the married and the single, ... the downtrodden and the robust, the happy and the sad. ... We all need to feel the warm hand of friendship and hear the firm declaration of faith.”

Sister Jean B. Bingham

Relief Society general president

Service to others is a demonstration of discipleship, gratitude and love for God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

“Sometimes we think we have to do something grand and heroic to ‘count’ as serving our neighbors. Yet simple acts of service can have profound effects on others.”



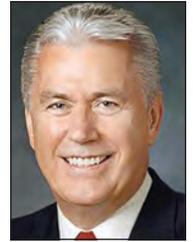
In addition to the Savior’s supernal gifts of the Atonement and Resurrection, “He also smiled at, talked with, walked with, listened to, made time for, encouraged, taught, fed and forgave. He served family and friends, neighbors and strangers alike, and He invited acquaintances and loved ones to enjoy the rich blessings of His gospel.”

Ministering can look “like going for a walk, getting together for a game night, offering service or even serving together. It looks like visiting in person or talking on the phone or chatting online or texting. It looks like sharing a scripture or quote from a conference talk. ... It looks like becoming part of someone’s life and caring about him or her. It also looks like a ministering interview in which needs and strengths are discussed sensitively and appropriately. It looks like the ward council organizing to respond to a larger need.”

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“To find the most important day in history, we must go back to that evening almost 2,000 years ago in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus Christ knelt in intense prayer and offered Himself as a ransom for our sins. It was during this great and infinite sacrifice of unparalleled suffering in both body and spirit that Jesus Christ, even God, bled at every pore.”



Out of perfect love the Savior gave all “that we might receive all.”

Many events throughout history have profoundly affected the destiny of nations and peoples. None “begin to compare to the importance of what happened on that first Easter morning.”

Because of Jesus Christ, all can live again. Because of Jesus Christ, all are able to live with God.

“Those who find a way to truly ‘behold the Man,’ find the doorway to life’s greatest joys and the balm to life’s most demanding despairs. So, when you are encompassed by sorrows and grief, ‘behold the Man.’ When you feel lost or forgotten, ‘behold the Man.’ When you are despairing, deserted, doubting, damaged, or defeated, ‘behold the Man.’”

Bishop Gérald Caussé

Presiding Bishop

While preparing for the construction of the Paris France Temple in 2010, the mayor and his team attended a sacrament meeting and met with the neighbors of a stake center to find out “what kind of people you Mormons are.”

Their conclusions? “We discovered that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the closest to Jesus Christ’s original church than any other church we know of.”

“Today, when I think about that miraculous experience, I feel grateful for the mayor’s wisdom and spirit of discernment. He knew that the key to understanding the Church is not to see it through the outward appearance of its buildings ... but through its millions of faithful members who strive each day to follow the example of Jesus Christ.”

The Church “is all about people. It is all about you, the Lord’s disciples — those who love and follow Him and who have taken His name upon them by covenant.”

“My dear brothers and sisters, are we active in the gospel, or are we merely busy in the Church? The key is to follow the example of the Savior in all things. If we do that, we will naturally focus on saving individuals rather than performing tasks and implementing programs.”



Elder Quentin L. Cook

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The Lord appeared “in a magnificent vision” to accept the Kirtland Temple when it was dedicated 182 years ago.

It was on that Easter Sunday that Moses, Elias and Elijah appeared and restored the priesthood keys necessary for the purposes of this dispensation.

“That purpose has been simply, but eloquently, defined as gathering Israel, sealing them as families, and preparing the world for the Lord’s Second Coming.”

On that day, three keys were restored. First, the keys of the gathering of Israel. Second, the keys of the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham. Third, the keys of the sealing power in this dispensation.

To oversee and direct these keys and responsibilities there are three executive councils at Church headquarters, each divinely appointed: the Missionary Executive Council, the Priesthood and Family Executive Council, and the Temple and Family History Council.

As individuals, “we would all do well to evaluate our effort in pursuing missionary, temple and family history work, and preparing to meet God.”



Pres. Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

The message of the Church is simple and sincere. “We invite all of God’s children on both sides of the veil to come unto their Savior, receive the blessings of the holy temple, have enduring joy, and qualify for eternal life.”

Construction of temples may not change a life, but time in the temple surely will. “In that spirit, I bless you to identify those things you can set aside so you can spend more time in the temple. I bless you with greater harmony and love in your homes and a deeper desire to care for your eternal family relationships. I bless you with increased faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a greater ability to follow Him as His true disciples.”

At the close of this historic conference, “I join with you in thanking the Lord for His direction and inspiring influence. The music has been beautiful and uplifting. Not only have the messages been edifying, but they have been life changing!”

Study the messages of conference frequently during the next six months. “Conscientiously look for ways to incorporate these messages in your family home evenings, your gospel teaching, your conversations with family and friends, and even your discussions with those not of our faith.”

