

QUOTES FROM CONFERENCE

“Only through repentance do we gain access to the atoning grace of Jesus Christ and salvation.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Divine Gift of Repentance,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 38.

STANDING TOGETHER AS ONE



Nearly 2,000 young men and women from north Texas, USA, gathered for a three-day conference and Texas-sized jubilee themed “Standing Together as One for Truth and Righteousness.” After spending six months rehearsing the music and dance pageant in smaller groups, the youth were awestruck during dress rehearsal at the Garland Special Events Arena as they converged onto the convention center floor from every aisle, filling every inch of the performance space. This was a time for them to feel the power and influence of being among 1,800 Latter-day Saint youth rather than being just one of a dozen or so who attend their high schools.

Derik S. commented in his testimony, “Almost 2,000 kids in the jubilee was like the 2,000 stripling warriors. It gave us strength to be where we are supposed to be.”

Morgan E., a Laurel who also took part in the jubilee says, “I will never forget this moment in my life when my testimony was strengthened astronomically.”

Along with participating in the pageant, youth took part in other activities including service projects; conference workshops with topics chosen by youth including scripture study, personal worth, modesty, faith, and service; a dance and party; and testimony meetings.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOANNE POULSEN



WHAT WE REALLY THINK OF YOUTH

“Many young women and men in the Church today are blessed with spiritual strength and courage equal to or greater than that exemplified by Captain Moroni or the stripling warriors. They stand firm against the mocking and scorn of the world and live and defend principles of virtue, integrity, chastity, worthiness, and obedience.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Steadfast and Immovable, Always Abounding in Good Works,” *New Era*, Jan. 2008, 4.

IN A WORD

Exaltation: One of the seminary scripture mastery verses is Moses 1:39. In it, the Lord says, “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.” Immortality is to live forever as a resurrected being. This gift is given freely to everyone through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Eternal life, or exaltation, is to inherit a place in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, where we will live in God’s presence and continue as families (see D&C 131:1–4). Exaltation is also made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ; however, it requires our “obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel” (Articles of Faith 1:3).



STRENGTH OF YOUTH MEDIA 2012

Have you seen any of the videos from the DVD *Strength of Youth Media 2012: Arise and Shine Forth* yet? Well if you haven’t seen them, you can go to youth.lds.org and watch them anytime you want. Just follow the link to “Youth Theme 2012” to find videos and more.

You’ll be inspired as you watch 15 videos about other Latter-day Saint youth like you who are striving to let their examples shine forth to their friends and family. There are also 3 short messages from Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Young Women general president Elaine S. Dalton, and Young Men general president David L. Beck.

And there’s more. Additional materials will be available online, such as downloadable MP3 songs, a music video of the 2012 theme song, “Arise,” and downloadable graphics centered on the theme that can be used to create posters and T-shirts.

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

2 Nephi 11 I like this chapter because it shows that Nephi read his scriptures and liked them. It reminds you that people in scriptures were people just like you, reading their scriptures too.

Christopher K., 14, Pennsylvania, USA

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER K.



Tell us about your favorite scripture in a paragraph or two. Send it to us, along with a photo, by going to newera.lds.org and clicking on “Submit Material.”

HYMN VOCABULARY

Do you know the meaning of that hymn you just sang? Choose the correct definition for each of the following words that can be found in one or more of our hymns.

1. Intercede (*Hymns*, no. 185)
 - a. To accelerate one’s progress
 - b. To intervene on behalf of another
 - c. To plant between existing rows
 - d. To control or command
2. Verdant (*Hymns*, no. 33, 109)
 - a. Showy, loud, or ostentatious
 - b. Covered or hidden from view
 - c. Built on a solid foundation
 - d. Green with grass or vegetation
3. Contrite (*Hymns*, no. 80, 141, 145, 245)
 - a. Constructed to exacting standards
 - b. Feeling anger or annoyance
 - c. Feeling sorrow or remorse
 - d. Obedient
4. Precept (*Hymns*, no. 14, 125, 273, 325)
 - a. A command or principle
 - b. The edge of a cliff
 - c. A forerunner of something that follows
 - d. A devoted follower or believer
5. Rills (*Hymns*, no. 33, 87, 337, 339)
 - a. Small streams
 - b. Foothills at the base of a mountain
 - c. Edicts or decrees
 - d. Undulating meadows

Answers: 1b, 2d, 3c, 4a, 5a

5 WAYS TO SHARE THE BOOK OF MORMON

- Write your testimony in the book and give it to a friend.
- Give it as a gift to a friend or family member for a birthday or holiday.
- Donate a copy to your local or school library.
- Read the Book of Mormon in public locations and have one on hand to give out.
- When you find a scripture in the Book of Mormon that impacts you, think of a friend you could share it with.



WE'VE GOT MAIL

Help from October Articles

Thank you for the article "Speaking in Sacrament Meeting" (Oct. 2011). The day the issue arrived, I was asked to give a talk, and what a help it was.

Jared H., Arizona, USA

The story "Racing for Two" in the October 2011 *New Era* inspired and encouraged me to be more involved in helping the deacons in my quorum.

Thank you.

Caleb H., California, USA

Fulfilling Our Duty to God

I appreciated the article "Fulfilling Our Duty to God" (Sept. 2011). I'm the deacons quorum president in my ward, and it taught me not to take my duty to God for granted. It showed me the significance of sharing and listening to the accomplishments of my quorum members. Even in a small ward like mine, it's important for the young men to share their thoughts and experiences each week as we teach each other about priesthood duties.

Elijah M., Texas, USA

WALK TO ZION

Inspired by Sister Elaine S. Dalton's talk "Guardians of Virtue" from the general Young Women meeting last year (see *Ensign*, May 2011, 121–24), youth of the Eastern Cape province in South Africa decided to carry out a similar activity to demonstrate their commitment to "lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better" (D&C 25:10). On a windy morning 45 youth and leaders met outside a dance club, symbolizing the world and its values, and walked 22.6 km (14 miles) to the chapel, symbolizing Zion and their commitment to the Lord and His standards.

These young men and women happily marched their way up and down hills, across highways and the town. The youth relied on each other to keep walking despite fatigue and aching muscles. They sang songs, talked about their challenges, and even held onto each other as they crossed roads and climbed steep hills.

"This is very exhausting," said Zukhanye M., a Laurel, during the walk. "But it is very enjoyable as it helps us bond with our fellow brothers and sisters. This has definitely taught me to try exercise more!"

Whilst their goal was achieved to walk to Zion symbolically, the ultimate goal is to all hold firm to the gospel standards and obtain exaltation, not alone, but together as a ward family.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREN WAINWRIGHT

