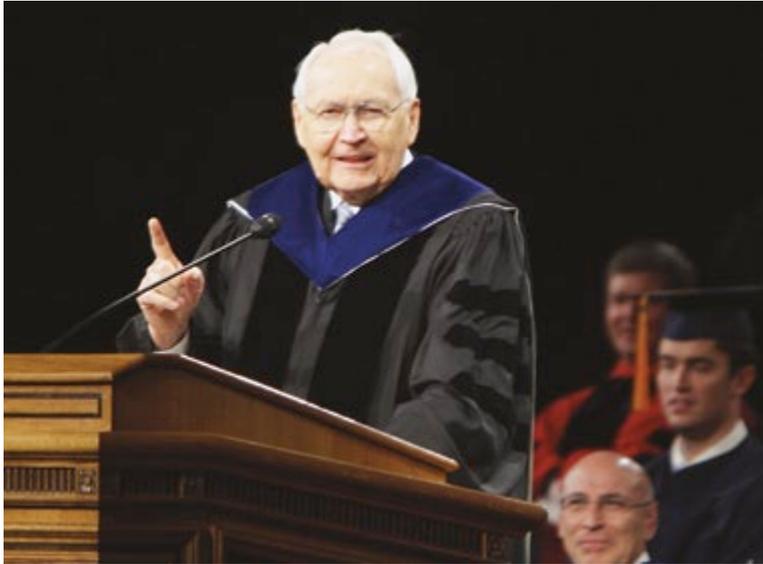


PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY D. ALBRED



Elder Perry Tells University Graduates to Keep Life Balanced

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles spoke at commencement exercises for Brigham Young University In Provo, Utah, USA, in April 2013. He spoke of the need for finding balance in life and emphasized the need to provide time for family, time for work, time for study, time for service, time for self, and especially time for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He counseled the graduates to live providently. "One of the most important lessons you will ever learn is the security and peace that comes from living within your means," he said.

He also stressed the importance of establishing a Christ-centered home. "Daily prayer and scripture study should be a part of every Latter-day Saint home," he said. "Make the gospel of Jesus Christ a vital, active part of your life."

Elder Nelson Visits Asia North Area

From February 23 to March 3, 2013, Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles visited the Asia North Area. Elder Nelson said that no matter where he goes in the world, his message is the same. "We are here to teach and testify of the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel restored," he told members in the area. "Ours is a message of peace and joy, of strengthening families, bonding husband and wife, children to their parents, and people to their ancestors . . . that they can all enjoy eternal life in the presence of God when their sojourn on earth is over."

In addition to meeting with priesthood leaders and members throughout the area and a special district for military personnel in Okinawa, Elder Nelson also met with two local government officials in Japan.

Conference Is Coming

General conference is approaching once more, the time when Church leaders share with members the word of the Lord. As the Lord said, "Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same" (D&C 1:38). Here is an experience from the April 2013 general conference:

Conference on the Sea of Galilee

Some 60 students from the Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies gathered on the shore of the Sea of Galilee last April to watch the Sunday morning session of general conference. A live Internet broadcast of the meeting was projected on the side of a shed located a short distance from the water. The students were in Galilee as part of a 10-day trip to the region. They recognized and appreciated the significance of the event.

Jennie Smithson, one of the students, said that it was a wonder "to be instructed by latter-day prophets and apostles while imagining ancient apostles being instructed on these exact same shores by Christ Himself." ■

View from the BYU Jerusalem Center.



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