

Hope in Challenging Times

By President Dallin H. Oaks

First Counselor in the First Presidency

*From a Brigham Young University-Idaho devotional address
given on February 7, 2017.*

You live in challenging times. Values and standards honored for thousands of years are now being denied or cast aside. Selfishness is replacing service. Evil is being called good, and good is being called evil.

Though men's hearts are failing them, you should take heart. There have always been challenging times. We, the generations of your predecessors, have survived daunting challenges, and so will you. The answer to all of these challenges is the same as it has always been. We have a Savior, and He has taught us what we should do. At the conclusion of His earthly ministry, He declared, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

What overcomes the world is the power of God, manifested through His Son Jesus Christ and given to us through the principles and doctrine of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the stressful circumstances that surround us, we must trust in God and His promises and hold fast to the vital gospel teaching of hope. As the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians:

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

"Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed"
(2 Corinthians 4:8–9).

When we trust in the Lord that all will work out, this hope keeps us moving. Hope is a characteristic Christian virtue. It will counter all current despairs. When you feel down, put faith and hope to work in your lives. While others may abandon progress, you of faith should hope on and press on with your education, your lives, and your families. As the Lord said to our early Church members, "Fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if you are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail" (Doctrine and Covenants 6:34). **NE**



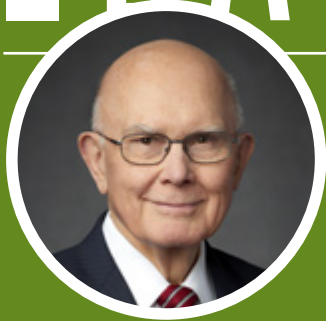
Born in **Provo, Utah**, on August 12, 1932.

Earned a **bachelor's degree in accounting** from **BYU** in 1954.



He graduated from **The University of Chicago Law School** in 1957 and taught law there for 10 years.

Pres. DALLIN H. OAKS



Met his first wife, June, while **announcing high school basketball games** as a college freshman.

When he was seven years old, his father died. He and his younger brother and sister were **raised by his mother.**

"I was blessed with an extraordinary mother," he says.



Became interested in radio while working his first job sweeping out a **radio repair shop.**



Before he was 16, he obtained a radio operator's license. He worked both as a **radio announcer and engineer.**



Sustained to the **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles** on April 7, 1984.



Married **June Dixon** on June 24, 1952, in the Salt Lake Temple. June passed away on July 21, 1998.

Set apart as **First Counselor** in the First Presidency on January 14, 2018.



Married **Kristen M. McMinn** on August 25, 2000, in the Salt Lake Temple.

He was a **justice on the Utah Supreme Court** from 1980 until his call to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1984.



He was the president of **BYU** from 1971 to 1980.



Has **6 children** and **29 grandchildren** and **53 great-grandchildren.**

