

APRIL 2013 CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken; . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

As you review the April 2013 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.

STORIES FROM CONFERENCE

A Light in Africa

By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Some years ago, my wife, Harriet, and I had a memorable experience in which we saw this promise fulfilled. We were in West Africa, a beautiful part of the world where the Church is growing and the Latter-day Saints are delightful. However, West Africa also has many challenges. In particular, I was sorrowed by the poverty that I saw. In the cities there is high unemployment, and families often struggle to provide for their daily needs and for their safety. It broke my heart to know that many of our precious members of the Church live in such deprivation. But I also learned that these fine members help each other to lighten their heavy burdens.

We eventually arrived at one of our meetinghouses near a large city. But instead of finding a people burdened and absorbed by darkness, we discovered a joyful people who were



radiating with light! The happiness they felt for the gospel was contagious and lifted our spirits. The love they expressed for us was humbling. Their smiles were genuine and infectious.

I remember wondering at the time if there could possibly be a happier people on the face of the planet.

Even though these dear Saints were surrounded by difficulties and trials, they were filled with light!

The meeting began, and I started to speak. But soon the power went out in the building, and we were left in complete darkness.

For a while I could hardly see anyone in the congregation, but I could see and feel the brilliant and beautiful

smiles of our Saints. Oh, how I loved being with these wonderful people!

The darkness in the chapel continued, and so I sat next to my wife and waited for the power to be restored. As we waited, something remarkable happened.

A few voices began singing one of the hymns of the Restoration. And then others joined in. And then more. Soon, a sweet and overwhelming chorus of voices filled the chapel.

These members of the Church did not need hymnbooks; they knew every word of every hymn they sang. And they sang one song after another with an energy and spirit that touched my soul.

To read, watch, or listen to general conference addresses, visit conference.lds.org.

Eventually, the lights sparked back on and bathed the room with light. Harriet and I looked at each other, our cheeks wet with tears.

In the midst of great darkness, these beautiful, wonderful Saints had filled this Church building and our souls with light.

It was a profoundly moving moment for us—one Harriet and I will never forget.

From “The Hope of God’s Light,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 76.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- How can you open your eyes to the hope of God’s light?
- How can following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ help you to walk in His light?
- What changes do you need to make to feel the light of the gospel more fully?

Consider writing your thoughts in your journal or discussing them with others.

Additional resources on this topic: *Gospel Principles* (2009), “The Holy Ghost,” 31–33; Gospel Topics on LDS.org, “Hope,” “Holy Ghost”; Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Infinite Power of Hope,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 21–24.

PROPHETIC WORDS ON HUMAN FRAILTY

“In this Church, what we know will always trump what we do not know. And remember, in this world, everyone is to walk by faith.

“So be kind regarding human frailty—your own as well as that of those who serve with you in a Church led by volunteer, mortal men and women. Except in the case of His only perfect Begotten Son, imperfect people are all God has ever had to work with. That must be terribly frustrating to Him, but He deals with it. So should we. . . . So be patient and kind and forgiving.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Lord, I Believe,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 94.

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

“The commandment to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force today. Thus, marriage between a man and a woman is the authorized channel through which premortal spirits enter mortality. Complete sexual abstinence before marriage and total fidelity within marriage protect the sanctity of this sacred channel.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “We Believe in Being Chaste,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 42.

ANSWERS FOR YOU

Each conference, prophets and apostles give inspired answers to questions Church members may have. Use your conference issue or visit conference.lds.org to find answers to these questions:

- How do I stay strong when I am mocked for my beliefs? See Robert D. Hales, “Stand Strong in Holy Places,” 48.
- What can I do if someone I love is making bad choices? See Henry B. Eyring, “Come unto Me,” 22; and Richard G. Scott, “For Peace at Home,” 29.
- Why is marriage between a man and a woman so important? See David A. Bednar, “We Believe in Being Chaste,” 41; L. Whitney Clayton, “Marriage: Watch and Learn,” 83; and L. Tom Perry, “Obedience to Law Is Liberty,” 86.
- What is the purpose of the priesthood? See M. Russell Ballard, “This Is My Work and Glory,” 18.
- Why do we need a church? See Quentin L. Cook, “Personal Peace: The Reward of Righteousness,” 32; and D. Todd Christofferson, “Redemption,” 109.