YOUTH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS | NOVEMBER 2019



## THE CONFERENCE ISSUE



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#### THE MONTHLY YOUTH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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"REVELATION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH AND WILL CONTINUE UNDER THE LORD'S DIRECTION UNTIL 'THE PURPOSES OF GOD SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND THE GREAT JEHOVAH SHALL SAY THE WORK IS DONE."

#### 8 temples announced:

- Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Orem, Utah
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- Bentonville, Arkansas
- Bacolod, Philippines
- McAllen, Texas
- Cobán, Guatemala
- Taylorsville, Utah

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## MISSED IT?

No big deal! Get it at **conference. churchofJesusChrist.org**, on the Gospel Library app, or in the Ensign magazine.









Changes to the Young Women and Young Men organizations! See pp. 30, 34, 48.







**OCTOBER 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE** 

### MESSAGES FROM HEAVENLY FATHER

We heard inspiring messages—and exciting announcements for youth! President Russell M. Nelson emphasized your role in the Lord's youth battalion and announced changes to strengthen quorums and classes.

As you read the excerpts in these pages, consider how you can follow the words of the prophets. How can you step up in your class or quorum to lead and minister as a disciple of Christ? And what blessings are promised as you make and keep covenants?

November 2019 3



## President RUSSELL M. NELSON

#### Women's Session SPIRITUAL TREASURES

Every woman and every man who makes covenants with God and keeps those covenants, and who participates worthily in priesthood ordinances, has direct access to the power of God....

... I invite you to study prayerfully section 25 of the Doctrine and Covenants and discover what the Holy Ghost will teach *you*....

Part of this endeavor will require you to put aside many things of this world....

... You will need to say no to some things, even though they may seem harmless....

Satan and his minions will constantly contrive roadblocks to prevent you from understanding the spiritual gifts with which you have been and can be blessed....

... My dear sisters, your ability to discern truth from error, to be society's guardians of morality, is crucial in these latter

days. And we depend upon you to teach others to do likewise. Let me be very clear about this: if the world loses the moral rectitude of its women, the world will *never* recover. . . .

I entreat you to study prayerfully *all* the truths you can find about priesthood power.... As your understanding increases and as you exercise faith in the Lord and His priesthood power, your ability to draw upon this spiritual treasure that the Lord has made available will increase....

... We regard a temple as *the* most sacred structure in the Church.... You sisters are vital to the work of the temple, and the temple is where you will receive your highest spiritual treasures.

## Your ability to discern truth from error, to be society's GUARDIANS OF MORALI TV is crucial in these latter days.

PRESID<mark>ent</mark> Russell M. Nelson

New Era

# Giving help to others.

#### Saturday Afternoon Session WITNESSES, AARONIC PRIESTHOOD QUORUMS, AND YOUNG WOMEN CLASSES

#### President Russell M. Nelson

Earlier this week, announcements were made to members of the Church about changes in policy regarding who may serve as witnesses to baptism and sealing ordinances....

... These changes should greatly enhance family participation in these ordinances.

I also wanted to speak with you at this time to introduce adjustments that pertain to our youth and their leaders.

You will remember that I have invited the youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the Lord's youth battalion to participate in the greatest cause on earth today—the gathering of Israel [see "Hope of Israel" (worldwide devotional for youth, June 3, 2018), HopeofIsrael. ChurchofJesusChrist.org]. I issued this invitation to our youth because they are unusually gifted in reaching out to others and sharing what they believe in a convincing fashion. The cause of the gathering is an essential part of helping to prepare the world and its people for the Second Coming of the Lord....

The adjustments we will now announce are intended to help young men and young women develop their sacred personal potential. We also want to strengthen Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes and provide support to bishops and other adult leaders as they serve this rising generation....

The First Presidency and the Twelve are united in endorsing these efforts to strengthen our youth. Oh, how we love them and pray for them! They are the "hope of Israel, Zion's army, children of the promised day" ["Hope of Israel," *Hymns*, no. 259]. We express our complete confidence in our youth and our gratitude for them.

# HEES CULLES

Sunday Morning Session
THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT

President Russell M. Nelson

Latter-day Saints, as with other followers of Jesus Christ, are always looking for ways to help, to lift, and to love others....

They truly seek to live the first and second great commandments. When we love *God* with all our hearts, He turns our hearts to the well-being of *others* in a beautiful, virtuous cycle....

The Church's humanitarian outreach was launched in 1984....

Since that time, Latter-day Saint Charities has provided more than *two billion* dollars in aid to assist those in need throughout the world. This assistance is offered to recipients regardless of their church affiliation, nationality, race, sexual orientation, gender, or political persuasion.

That is not all. To assist members of the Lord's Church in distress, we love and live the ancient law of the fast. . . . ... How grateful we are for your contributions. Thanks to your heartfelt generosity, millions throughout the world will receive much-needed food, clothing, temporary shelter, wheelchairs, medicines, clean water, and more...

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON

Regardless of where we call home, members of the Church feel passionately about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Thus, *our* greatest joy comes as we help our brothers and sisters, no matter where we live in this wonderful world.

Giving help to others . . . is our joy. . . . *Living* that second great commandment is the *key* to becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ.



## Become happier and holier with each passing day.

lew Era

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON



## Sunday Afternoon Session CLOSING REMARKS

*President Russell M. Nelson* The crowning jewel of the Restoration is the holy temple....

All requirements to enter the temple relate to personal holiness. To assess that readiness, each person who wants to enjoy the blessings of the temple will have two interviews.... In those interviews, several questions will be asked.

Some of those questions have recently been edited for clarity. . . .

Now, for just a moment, I would like to speak to our youth. We encourage you to qualify for limited-use temple recommends. . . . We are very grateful for your worthiness and willingness to participate in that sacred temple work. We thank you!

... Individual worthiness requires a total conversion of mind and heart to be more like the Lord, to be an honest citizen, to be a better example, and to be a holier person.

I testify that such preparatory work brings innumerable blessings in this life and inconceivable blessings for the life to come . . .

Now I would like to turn to another topic: plans for the coming year. In the springtime of the year 2020, it will be exactly 200 years since Joseph Smith experienced the theophany that we know as the First Vision...

Thus, the year 2020 will be designated as a bicentennial year. General conference next April will be different from any previous conference. In the next six months, I hope that every member and every family will prepare for a unique conference that will commemorate the very foundations of the restored gospel....

Now in closing, I leave with you my love and my blessing that each of you may become happier and holier with each passing day. Meanwhile, please be assured that revelation continues in the Church and will continue under the Lord's direction.



## President DALLAN H. OAKS FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

#### Saturday Morning Session TRUST IN THE LORD

From letters I have received, I know that others are troubled by questions about the spirit world...

... We know from the scriptures that after our bodies die we continue to live as spirits in the spirit world. The scriptures also teach that this spirit world is divided between those who have been "righteous" or "just" during life and those who have been wicked. They also describe how some faithful spirits teach the gospel to those who have been wicked or rebellious (see 1 Peter 3:19; Doctrine and Covenants 138:19–20, 29, 32, 37). Most important, modern revelation reveals that the work of salvation goes forward in the spirit world (see Doctrine and Covenants 138:30–34, 58), and although we are urged not to procrastinate our repentance during mortality (see Alma 13:27), we are taught that some repentance is possible there (see Doctrine and Covenants 138:58)....

Resurrection for all in the spirit world is assured by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:22), though it occurs at different times for different groups. Until that appointed time, what the scriptures tell us about activity in the spirit world principally concerns the work of salvation. Little else is revealed...

... For all questions about the spirit world, I suggest two answers. *First,* remember that God loves His children and will surely do what is best for each of us. *Second,* remember this familiar Bible teaching ...:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).



## Women's Session TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

#### President Dallin H. Oaks

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

"This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" [Matthew 22:37–39].

This means we are commanded to love everyone. . . . But our zeal to keep this second commandment must not cause us to forget the first, to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. We show that love by "keep[ing] [His] commandments" [John 14:15]. . . .

... The laws that apply most significantly to the issues relating to those identifying as LGBT are God's law of marriage and its companion law of chastity. Both are essential in our Father in Heaven's plan of salvation for His children...

The work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is ultimately concerned with preparing the children of God for the celestial kingdom, and most particularly for its highest glory, exaltation or eternal life...

... We must never persecute those who do not share our beliefs and commitments.... We must all strive to be kinder and more civil....

Meanwhile, we must try to keep both of the great commandments. To do so, we walk a fine line between law and love—keeping the commandments and walking the covenant path, while loving our neighbors along the way. . . . Our walk demands that we not compromise on commandments but show forth a full measure of understanding and love. . . . In all of this we remember that God promises hope and ultimate joy and blessings for all who keep His commandments.

PHOTOGRAPH FROM GETTY IMAGE

# AND MENTS

#### TO DO SO, WE WALK A FINE LINE BETWEEN LAW AND LOVE.

PRESIDENT DALLIN H. OAKS

**WE MUST TRY TO** 



## President HENRY B. EVRNG SECOND COUNSELOR

IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

#### Women's Session COVENANT WOMEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

Every daughter of God listening to my voice has received a call from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your call began when you were placed into mortality.... In the spirit world, [Heavenly Father] knew you and taught you and placed you where you would have the opportunity... to be invited into a baptismal font....

When you came out of the water, you had accepted another call to serve.... You covenanted with God to take upon yourself the name of Jesus Christ, to keep His commandments, and to serve Him.

For each one who makes these covenants, the service that the Lord calls him or her to do will be suited perfectly to that person. The covenant daughters and sons of God, however, all share one important and joyful call. It is to serve others for Him. . . . You cannot know when, or for what length of time, your personal mission will be focused on service in calls such as mother, leader, or ministering sister.... Yet you know from scripture and living prophets that all of these assignments will come, either in this life or in the next, to every daughter of God. And all of them are preparation for eternal life in loving families—"the greatest of all the gifts of God" [Doctrine and Covenants 14:7]....

... I promise that you will find joy in your journey to your heavenly home as you return to Him as a covenant-keeping daughter of God.

# SERVE OTHERS

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING

## **GREATER HAPPINESS** COMES FROM GREATER PERSONAL HOLINESS.

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING

New Era

#### Sunday Afternoon Session HOLINESS AND THE PLAN OF HAPPINESS

#### President Henry B. Eyring

Only by faith in Jesus Christ, continuing repentance, and keeping covenants are we able to claim the lasting happiness we all yearn to experience and retain....

... Greater happiness comes from greater personal holiness....

... The Holy Ghost speaks in a still, small voice. I can hear Him when there is spiritual peace in my heart. He brings a feeling of happiness and assurance that I am becoming more holy....

You have observed in your own life and in the lives of others the miracle of happiness coming from growing holiness....

After Job repented and so became more holy, the Lord blessed him beyond all he had lost. But perhaps the greatest blessing for Job was to have increased in holiness through adversity and repentance. He was qualified to have greater happiness in the days he had yet to live.

Greater holiness will not come simply by asking for it. It will come by doing what is needed for God to change us....

Whatever our personal circumstance, wherever we may be on the covenant path home, may our prayers for greater holiness be answered. I know that as our petition is granted, our happiness will increase. It may come slowly, but it will come. I have that assurance from a loving Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

## Find JESUS at the CENTER of it all.

ELDER JEFFREY R. Holland



## Elder JEFFRERR HOLLAND OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

#### THE MESSAGE, THE MEANING, AND THE MULTITUDE

To set the stage for a discussion of the meaning of these twice-a-year gatherings, I invoke this scene from Luke's New Testament account:

"It came to pass, that as [Jesus] was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

"... Hearing [a] multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

"... They told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

"And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

Startled at his boldness, the crowd tried to silence the man, but "he cried so much the more," it says. As a result of his persistence, he was brought to Jesus, who heard his faith-filled plea for the restoration of his sight and healed him [Luke 18:35–43; emphasis added]...

As in our New Testament story, those blessed with sight will recognize that, in spite of everything else this conference tradition may offer us, it will mean little or nothing unless we find Jesus at the center of it all. To grasp the vision we are seeking, the healing that He promises, the significance we somehow know is here, we must cut through the commotion—joyful as it is—and fix our attention on Him....

Sisters and brothers, through the incessant din and drumbeat of our day, may we strive to see Christ at the center of our lives, of our faith, and of our service. That is where true meaning lies.



## Brother STEPHEN W. OWEN YOUNG MEN GENERAL PRESIDENT

#### **BE FAITHFUL, NOT FAITHLESS**

Modern technologies bless us in many ways. They can connect us.... However, they can also distract us from the most important connection: our connection with heaven....

Where do we find true spiritual nourishment? Most often, it is not trending on social media.... We must deliberately take time each day to disconnect from the world and connect with heaven....

... I believe that the prophet's recent call for a home-centered church, supported by what we do in our buildings, is designed to help us survive—even thrive—in this day of spiritual malnutrition....

Regardless of your circumstances, you can make your home the center of gospel learning and living. It simply means taking personal responsibility for your conversion and spiritual growth.... ... Our experiences at church can reinforce the spiritual nourishment that happens at home....

... Never underestimate the strength that comes from gathering with others who are also trying to be strong....

... Jesus Christ is at the head of this Church. He is inspiring our leaders and guiding us to the spiritual nourishment we need to survive and thrive in the latter days. That spiritual nourishment will help us be faithful and not faithless.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE STRENGTH THAT COMES FROM GATHERING WITH OTHERS WHO ARE ALSO TRYING TO BE STRONG. Stephen W. Owen

## ) JOYS OF F SAINTS ${}_{\bigcirc}$ Keeping the commandments of $\,$ -<sup>3</sup>Serving as 2 Overcoming through



## Elder D. DDD CHRSTOFFERSON OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

#### **THE JOY OF THE SAINTS**

There is much to be learned from Enos's experience, but today what stands out in my mind is Enos's memory of his father speaking often of "the joy of the saints" [Enos 1:3]....

Saints are those who have entered into the gospel covenant through baptism and are striving to follow Christ as His disciples. Thus, "the joy of the saints" denotes the joy of becoming Christlike....

We live in a hedonistic age when many question the importance of the Lord's commandments or simply ignore them.... Some begin to wonder if the effort and sacrifices are worth it....

... The wicked may "have joy in their works for a season," but it is always temporary [3 Nephi 27:11]. The joy of the Saints is enduring....

... The Lord's commandments are our guide to better choices and happier outcomes....

Even when we are found faithfully keeping the commandments, there are trials and tragedies that could interrupt our joy. But as we strive to overcome these challenges with the Savior's help, it preserves both the joy we feel now and the joy we anticipate. . . . It is in turning to Him, obeying Him, binding ourselves to Him that trial and sorrow are turned to joy. . . .

... The joy "set before us" is the joy of assisting the Savior in His work of redemption....

The fruits of our service to one another in the Church are part of the joy "set before us." Even in times of discouragement or stress, we can minister patiently if we are focused on the joy of pleasing God and bringing light, relief, and happiness to His children, our brothers and sisters....

May your joy be full.

Saturday Morning Session



## Sister MCHELLE CRAIG

IN THE YOUNG WOMEN GENERAL PRESIDENCY

#### **SPIRITUAL CAPACITY**

My desire . . . is to speak to you from my heart about four ways to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation.

#### 1. BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT CREATING TIME AND SPACE TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

As you use your agency to carve out time every day to draw close to God's voice, especially in the Book of Mormon, over time His voice will become clearer and more familiar to you....

. . . Pick a time and place, and listen for God's voice every day. And keep this sacred appointment with exactness, for so very much depends on it!

#### **2. ACT WITHOUT DELAY**

When you receive promptings and then act with intention, the Lord can use you. The more you act, the more familiar the voice of the Spirit becomes...

#### **3. GET YOUR ERRAND FROM THE LORD**

The prayer Heavenly Father seems eager to answer is our plea to be led to someone who needs our help....

... He can use your ordinary skills to accomplish His extraordinary work....

#### **4. BELIEVE AND TRUST**

... As [Jesus Christ's] faithful disciple, you can receive personal inspiration and revelation, consistent with His commandments, that is tailored to you....

... Each one of us ... can strive to *seek, receive, and act*. As you follow this eternal pattern ordained for our day, you will draw nearer to Jesus Christ.

Just imagine what would happen if we were as intent on staying connected with heaven as we are on staying connected to Wi-Fi!

SISTER MICHELLE CRAIG

## Elder DALE GL RENLUND of the quorum of the twelve apostles

## A HALF-HEARTED COMMITMENT TO OUR COVENANTS WILL NOT GUARANTEE US anything.

ELDER DALE G. RENLUND

#### **UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST**

Being "converted unto the Lord" means leaving one course of action, dictated by an old belief system, and adopting a new one based on faith in Heavenly Father's plan and in Jesus Christ and His Atonement. . . .

God invites us to cast our old ways completely out of reach and begin a new life in Christ. This happens as we develop faith in the Savior....

As our faith in Jesus Christ grows, God invites us to make promises with Him. These covenants, as such promises are known, are manifestations of our conversion....

Covenants anchor us to the Savior and propel us along the path that leads to our heavenly home.... A half-hearted commitment to our covenants will not guarantee us anything. We may be tempted to equivocate, throw our old ways in calm water, or bury our weapons of rebellion with the handles sticking out. But an ambivalent commitment to our covenants will not open the door to the sanctifying power of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ....

... Each week we partake of the sacrament and make a covenant with our Heavenly Father. We promise to link our identity with the Savior's by pledging our willingness to take upon us His name, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments....

... Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, making covenants with a real intent to reliably honor them will bless your life forever.



### Elder BEDNAR OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

#### WATCHFUL UNTO PRAYER CONTINUALLY

behavior of African wildlife....

stalking a large group of topis, Africa's most common and widespread antelopes....

the other cheetah crouched low to the ground and slowly crept closer to the unsuspecting topis. Then the cheetah that had been sitting upright disappeared in the grass at exactly ing forward while the other cheetah sat upright in the grass continued for a long time. The stealthy subtlety of the strategy was intended to distract and deceive the topis and thereby divert their attention away from the approaching danger....

Positioned between the large group of topis and the

... The pattern of pursuit continued.... [The cheetahs] were relentless in following their strategy of distraction and That night Susan and I had a memorable conversation about

#### LESSON #1—BEWARE OF EVIL'S BEGUILING DISGUISES

... Spiritually dangerous ideas and actions frequently can appear to be attractive, desirable, or pleasurable.... Each of us needs to beware of beguiling bad that pretends to be good....

#### LESSON #2—STAY AWAKE AND BE ALERT

#### LESSON #3—UNDERSTAND THE INTENT OF THE ENEMY ....

Satan "is the enemy of righteousness and of those who seek to ChurchofJesusChrist.org].... His only intent and sole purpose are to make the sons and daughters of God miserable like unto himself....

conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

SPIRITUAL COMPLACENCY AND CASUALNESS MAKE US VULNERABLE TO THE ADVANCES OF THE ADVERSARY.

ELDER DAVID A. BEDNAR



## Elder OUENTIN L. COOK of the quorum of the twelve apostles

#### **ADJUSTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN YOUTH**

Our youth are being asked to take more individual responsibility at younger ages—without parents and leaders taking over what youth can do for themselves....

One of the scriptural duties of the bishop is to preside over the priests and to sit in council with them, teaching them the duties of their office. In addition, the first counselor in the bishopric will have specific responsibility for teachers and the second counselor for deacons.

... Young Men presidencies at the ward level will be discontinued....

It is our hope that bishoprics will give great emphasis and focus to the priesthood responsibilities of young men and help them in their quorum duties. Capable adult Young Men advisers will be called to assist the Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidencies and the bishopric in their duties. . . . ... A Young Women president [can take a greater role] in counseling with young women....

... Ward Young Women presidents will now report to and counsel directly with the bishop of the ward....

Additional organizational changes will be further explained in information sent to leaders....

Dear brothers and sisters, I promise and testify that these comprehensive adjustments, under the direction of an inspired president and prophet, Russell M. Nelson, will empower and strengthen every member of the Church. Our youth will develop greater faith in the Savior, be protected from the temptations of the adversary, and stand prepared to meet life's challenges.

## RISE TO THE Challenge

ELDER QUENTIN L. COOK

when we keep promises

to one



32 New Era

Keep promises to the Lord.

#### ELDER RONALD A. RASBAND

#### **STANDING BY OUR PROMISES AND COVENANTS**

The importance of making and keeping promises and covenants weighs heavy on my mind. How important is it to you to keep your word?...

another, we are mare itselves

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is our great Exemplar when it comes to making and keeping promises and covenants. . . . He has honored every one of His promises.

Can the same be said of each of us? . . . Keeping promises is not a habit; it is a characteristic of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. . . .

A covenant is a two-way promise between us and the Lord. ... We covenant at baptism to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, to live as He lived....

PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES

When we partake of the sacrament, we renew that covenant . . . and make additional promises to improve. . . .

My question today is, do we stand by our promises and covenants, or are they sometimes half-hearted commitments, casually made and hence easily broken? . . .

When we keep promises to one another, we are more likely to keep promises to the Lord. . . .

... I invite you to consider the promises and covenants you make with the Lord, and with others, with great integrity, knowing that your word is your bond.... I promise you, as you do this, the Lord will establish your words and sanction your deeds as you strive with unwearied diligence to build up your lives, your families, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day <u>Saints</u>.

Our classes must be SANCTUARIES FROM C THE STORMS, secure places of love and belonging.

SISTER BONNIE H. CORDON

New Era


## Sister BONNE CORDON YOUNG WOMEN GENERAL PRESIDENT

#### **BELOVED DAUGHTERS**

You are all remarkable young women. ...

President Russell M. Nelson . . . has asked that I share some inspired changes that will help you "develop [your] sacred personal potential" and increase your righteous influence. I will address four areas of adjustment tonight. . . .

Tonight, I would like to announce a revision to the Young Women theme. I pray you will feel the Holy Ghost testify of the truth of these words....

[See the new theme on page 49.]

The second area of change affects Young Women classes. ... Our classes must be sanctuaries from the storms, secure places of love and belonging. . . .

For over 100 years, young women have been divided into three classes. Beginning immediately, we invite Young Women leaders and bishops to prayerfully consider the needs of each young woman and organize them according to the ward's specific circumstances....

Third, with this new class organization, all classes will be referred to by the unifying name of "Young Women." We will retire the names of "Beehive," "Mia Maid," and "Laurel."...

The final area I wish to address is the importance of class presidencies....

The role and purpose of class presidencies have been strengthened and more clearly defined. The work of salvation is one of these significant responsibilities. . . . Yes, this is how we gather Israel. . . .

Class presidents, we need your wisdom, voice, and energy in the new ward youth council....

I pray that the same Spirit that has guided these adjustments will guide you as you press forward on the covenant path.

### HE NEVER HE NEVER HE NEVER HIS PORGES FAITH HIS PORCH LIGHT (\* ALVANAS ON.

ELDER GERRIT W. GONG



### Elder GERRIT M. GONG OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

#### **COVENANT BELONGING**

Covenant belonging is to make and keep solemn promises to God and each other through sacred ordinances that invite the power of godliness to be manifest in our lives. When we covenant all we are, we can become more than we are. Covenant belonging gives us place, narrative, capacity to become. It produces faith unto life and salvation...

To belong with God and to walk with each other on His covenant path is to be blessed by covenant belonging.

First, covenant belonging centers in Jesus Christ. . . . Every good and promised blessing comes to those who remain faithful to the end. . . .

Along life's path, we may lose faith in God, but He never loses faith in us. As it were, His porch light is always on. . . .

Second, the Book of Mormon is evidence we can hold in our hand of covenant belonging. The Book of Mormon is the promised instrument for the gathering of God's children, prophesied as a new covenant.... Restored priesthood authority and power to bless all His children is a third dimension of covenant belonging....

Priesthood can bless literally from cradle to grave—from an infant's name and blessing to a grave dedication. Priesthood blessings heal, comfort, counsel....

Finally, the blessings of covenant belonging come when we follow the Lord's prophet and rejoice in temple-covenant living, including in marriage. Covenant marriage becomes supernal and eternal as we daily choose the happiness of our spouse and family before our own...

... Everything good and eternal is centered in the living reality of God, our Eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and His Atonement...

With us at the beginning, He is with us, in all our covenant belonging, to the end.

#### Elder DETERF DET

### YOUR GREAT ADVENTURE

The story of Bilbo Baggins is about a most normal and unremarkable hobbit who is presented with a most remarkable opportunity—the wonderful chance at adventure, and the promise of a great reward....

Perhaps one of the reasons this story resonates with so many is because it is our story too.

Long, long ago, even before we were born, . . . we too were invited to embark on an adventure. It was proposed by God, our Heavenly Father. . . .

... If you stay on the path and trust in God, you will eventually find the way to your glorious destiny and back to your heavenly home....

First, you need to choose to incline your heart to God. Strive each day to find Him. . . .

Even when you fail, you can choose not to give up, but rather discover your courage, press forward, and rise up. That is the great test of the journey. . . .

... The only way for you to progress in your gospel adventure is to help others progress as well.

To help others *is* the path of discipleship. . . .

The third thing we strive to master in this journey is to take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ and not be ashamed of being a member of the Church of Jesus Christ...

. . . We talk about our journey with others in normal and natural ways. . . .

... Today is the day to follow God's Son and our Savior on His path of service and discipleship....

To those of us already walking that path, take courage, exercise compassion, have confidence, and continue!

To those who have left the path, please come back, join again with us, make us stronger.

And to those who have not yet begun, why delay?

IF YOU STAY ON THE PATH AND IN GOD,

YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FIND THE WAY TO Your glorious destiny and back to your heavenly home.

ELDER DIETER F. UCHTDORF.



### Elder GARYESTEVENSON of the Quorum of the twelve apostles

#### **DECEIVE ME NOT**

Years ago, I arrived home from work and was startled to see white paint splattered everywhere—on the ground, the garage door, and our red-brick house. I inspected the scene more closely and discovered the paint was still wet. A trail of paint led toward the backyard, and so I followed it. There, I found my five-year-old son with a paintbrush in his hand, chasing our dog. Our beautiful black Labrador was splattered almost half white!

"What are you doing?" I asked in an animated voice

My son stopped, looked at me, looked at the dog, looked at the paintbrush dripping with paint, and said, "I just want him to look like the black-spotted dogs in the movie—you know, the one with 101 Dalmatians."

I loved our dog. I thought he was perfect, but that day my son had a different idea....

... Our young son had a beautiful dog as a pet; notwithstanding, he grabbed a gallon of paint and, with paintbrush in hand, determined to create his own imagined reality. . . . [This is a story] of mistaken identity—presuming the real thing to be something else. In [this] case, the consequences were minor.

However, many today grapple with these same issues on a much larger scale. They are either unable to see things as they truly are or are unsatisfied with truth....

Satan . . . has spent millennia calculating and practicing the ability to persuade God's children to believe that *good is evil* and *evil is good*. . . .

How might you find this heavenly help . . . and not be deceived or give in to temptation? . . .

The way is simple. Through His servants, God speaks to us, His children, and gives us commandments....

As we obey [the Lord's] commandments, we will always be led in the right way and will not be deceived.

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ELDER GARY E. STEVENSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES



Sunday Afternoon Session



### President NRUSSELL BALLARD ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE

#### **GIVING OUR SPIRITS CONTROL OVER OUR BODIES**

I suppose most of us fail to fully appreciate what others do for us until they are gone....

Brothers and sisters, please do not miss an opportunity to look into the eyes of your family members with love. Children and parents, reach out to each other and express your love and appreciation. Like me, some of you may wake up one day to discover that the time for such important communication has passed. Live each day together with hearts filled with gratitude, good memories, service, and much love. . . .

... One of the most important things we can learn in this life is how to emphasize our eternal spiritual nature and control our evil desires....

... This is who you and I really are and who you have always been: a son or daughter of God, with spiritual roots in eternity

and a future overflowing with infinite possibilities....

... Learning to choose the things of the Spirit over the things of the flesh is one of the primary reasons why this earthly experience is part of Heavenly Father's plan. It's also why the plan is built upon the solid, sure foundation of the Atonement of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that our sins, including the errors we make when we yield to the flesh, can be overcome through constant repentance and we can live spiritually focused. Now is the time to control our bodily appetites to comply with the spiritual doctrine of Christ.





### **TAKE UP OUR CROSS**

The Savior emphasized that all those who are willing to follow Him need to deny themselves and control their desires, appetites, and passions, sacrificing everything, even life itself if necessary, being entirely submissive to the will of the Father—just as He did. This is, in fact, the price to be paid for the salvation of a soul....

... We learn through the scriptures that those who wish to take their cross upon themselves love Jesus Christ in such a way that they deny themselves of all ungodliness and of every worldly lust and keep His commandments....

... As we continually strive to overcome our challenges, God will bless us with the gifts of faith to be healed and of the working of miracles. He will do for us what we are not capable of doing for ourselves....

... Taking upon us our cross and following the Savior requires us to follow His example and strive to become like Him, patiently facing the circumstances of life, denying and despising the appetites of the natural man, and waiting on the Lord....

... Following our Master's footsteps and waiting on Him who is the ultimate healer of our lives will provide rest to our souls and make our burdens easy and light.



### Ways We Take Up OUR OWN CROSSES



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PATIENTLY FACE the circumstances of life.

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and despise the appetites of the natural man.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES



### Elder DERSEN OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

46 New Era

# Every good tree BRINGETH FORTH Good Fuit.

MATTHEW 7:17

#### FRUIT

In a vivid dream that we all know well in the Book of Mormon, the prophet Lehi [sees] a beautiful tree with "fruit [that makes] one happy" [1 Nephi 8:4–12]....

This precious fruit symbolizes the wondrous blessings of the Savior's incomparable Atonement....

Partaking of the fruit of the tree also symbolizes that we embrace the ordinances and covenants of the restored gospel....

As we have all learned, even after savoring the precious fruit of the restored gospel, staying true and faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ is still not easily done....

Although we need not fear, we are to be on guard. At times, little things can upend our spiritual balance. Please don't allow your questions, the insults of others, faithless friends, or unfortunate mistakes and disappointments to turn you away from the sweet, pure, and soul-satisfying blessings that come from the precious fruit of the tree. . . .

If you have been without the fruit of the tree for some time, please know that the Savior's arms are always outstretched to you. He lovingly beckons, "Repent and come unto me" [3 Nephi 21:6]. His fruit is plentiful and always in season. It cannot be purchased with money, and no one who honestly desires it is denied.

If you desire to return to the tree and taste the fruit once again, begin by praying to your Heavenly Father. Believe in Jesus Christ and the power of His atoning sacrifice. I promise you that as you look to the Savior "in every thought" [Doctrine and Covenants 6:36], the fruit of the tree will be yours once again.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### **CHANGES IN YOUR CLASSES AND QUORUMS**

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Sister Bonnie H. Cordon, Young Women General President, announced important changes in the structures of the Young Men and Young Women organizations this conference. Instead of being organized into three classes, the Young Women program in each ward will now be organized according to the size and needs of the group. There might be several different classes or just one, and they will all be referred

to as "Young Women" rather than Beehives, Mia Maids, and Laurels.

There will no longer be ward Young Men presidencies. Instead, bishops will preside over the young men as instructed in the Doctrine and Covenants, assisted by quorum presidencies. Quorum and class presidencies in both Young Men and Young Women organizations will be in charge of leading in

the work of salvation by conducting and planning Sunday meetings, carrying out activities, and ministering to quorum and class members. These changes will allow more opportunity for youth to grow and "develop their sacred personal potential" (see Russell M. Nelson, "Closing Remarks" Oct

their sacred personal potential" (see Russell M. Nelson, "Closing Remarks," Oct. 2019 general conference [*Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 120]). Another purpose for these changes is to strengthen quorums and classes and help them to better plan for each ward's unique circumstances.

Other changes to youth programs include retiring the term "Mutual" ("youth activities" will be used instead) and implementing a new Young Women theme (see facing page).

#### **STAND AND WITNESS**

The First Presidency announced a change to the procedures for witnessing baptisms and sealings. "Any baptized member of the Church, including children and youth, may serve as a witness to the baptism of a living person" (First Presidency letter, Oct. 2, 2019). Any member with a current temple recommend can also serve as a witness to baptisms for the dead, and all adults with a current temple recommend who are endowed can witness temple sealings.

This policy change allows more members to help serve in sacred ordinances. This conference, President Russell M. Nelson also encouraged youth to qualify for a limited-use temple recommend (see "Closing Remarks," Oct. 2019 general conference [*Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 120]) to participate in baptisms and confirmations for the dead.





#### l am a BELOVED DAUGHTER

of heavenly parents, with a divine nature and eternal destiny.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I strive to become like Him. I seek and act upon personal revelation and minister to others in His holy name.

I will stand as a witness of God at all times and in all things and in all places.

As I strive to qualify for exaltation, I cherish the gift of repentance and seek to improve each day. With faith, I will strengthen my home and family, make and keep sacred covenants, and receive the ordinances and blessings of the holy temple.



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

### Don't miss the **Face to Face** event on **November 17, 2019**, with Elder Gerrit W. Gong! Elder Gong will be joined by Sister Joy D. Jones, Sister Bonnie H. Cordon, and Brother Stephen W. Owen. They will answer questions from youth and children around the world as they talk about the new

Children and Youth effort.





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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS