

President George Bush, in his inaugural address, called for a kinder face of the nation and a gentler face of the world (see *Investor's Daily*, 23 Jan. 1989, p. 11). Let it begin by a kinder and gentler television throughout the world.

### A simple test

The prophet Mormon said that each of us is given the Spirit of Christ to know good from evil; everything that invites us to do good is of God. On the other hand, anything that persuades us to do evil is of the devil, for he and those who follow him persuade no one to do good. (See Moroni 7:16–18.) This simple test will guide us in judging television and other media programs.

May the Lord bless us and help us protect ourselves, our families, and the spirit of our homes, and help us improve our world through working for improved television programming.

I leave you my testimony that we have only one sure way to secure our homes and our families, and that is through learning and living the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless you and help you prevent anything of an evil nature from entering your homes, I pray humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### President Monson

We have just heard from Elder M. Russell Ballard, a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

## President Ezra Taft Benson

(Read by President Thomas S. Monson, Second Counselor in the First Presidency)

My dear brethren and sisters, how I have rejoiced in the messages I have heard delivered from this pulpit at this great general conference of the Church.

The messages are true. They are important. They are vital to our personal

Before hearing President Benson's concluding remarks, we express our sincere appreciation to the Mormon Youth Chorus, Brigham Young University combined choirs, Ricks College centennial priesthood choir, and the Tabernacle Choir and to their conductors and their organists for the beautiful and inspiring music during this conference.

We thank our city officials for the cooperation given the conference, the Relief Society and Church Health Unit nurses who have been on hand to render service, and the ushers and the interpreters.

We express appreciation to local and national press representatives for the coverage of the conference and to the owners and operators of the many radio and television stations and cable and satellite systems who have given time and made facilities available to carry sessions of this conference in many countries.

We shall now be pleased to listen to the closing remarks of President Ezra Taft Benson, our beloved prophet, which he has asked me to read. Following the presentation of his message, we shall see a delightful video clip of President Benson singing to the youth whom he loves.

Following these remarks, the Tabernacle Choir will sing "I Am a Child of God." The benediction will then be offered by Elder Waldo P. Call of the Second Quorum of the Seventy, and then this conference will stand adjourned for six months.

salvation, and with all my heart I commend them to you.

### To the children of the Church

In previous general meetings of the Church, I have spoken specifically to the mothers and to the fathers, to the young men and to the young women, to the single adult sisters and to the single adult brethren.

For my closing message at this conference, I would now like to speak to the children of the Church — yes, to *you*, our precious children. And as you listen, I pray that you will know that this is a personal message just for you.

How I love you! How our Heavenly Father loves you!

Just like the beautiful Primary song you sing, each of you truly *is* a child of God. For you, rich blessings *are* in store, and if you learn to do His will, you *will* live with Him once more. I know this to be true. (See “I Am a Child of God,” *Hymns*, no. 301.)

Today I desire to teach you what our Heavenly Father wants you to know so that you can learn to do His will and enjoy true happiness. It will help you now and throughout your life.

### Read the Book of Mormon

First, may I say how thrilled I am to know how you children are learning about the Book of Mormon. This is one of the very important things Heavenly Father wants you to do.

I know you are reading the Book of Mormon all the way through. In family home evening and in Primary you have dramatized Book of Mormon stories, you have sung songs about the Book of Mormon, you have learned the names of the books in the Book of Mormon, you have played Book of Mormon games, you have learned about wonderful Book of Mormon prophets. Some of you have even earned money to send copies of the Book of Mormon around the world.

Many of you have read the Book of Mormon all the way through. In family home evening and in Primary you have dramatized Book of Mormon stories, you have sung songs about the Book of Mormon, you have learned the names of the books in the Book of Mormon, you have played Book of Mormon games, you have learned about wonderful Book of Mormon prophets. Some of you have even earned money to send copies of the Book of Mormon around the world.

How pleased I am to hear of your love for the Book of Mormon. I love it too, and Heavenly Father wants you to continue to learn from the Book of Mormon every day. It's Heavenly Father's special gift to you. By following its teachings, you will learn to do the will of our Father in Heaven.

I also hope your parents and leaders will give you opportunities to learn from the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Bible as well.

### Pray every day

Now, there are other important things Heavenly Father wants you to do.

He wants you to pray to Him every day. He wants to help you because He loves you, and He *will* help you if you pray to Him and ask Him for His help. In your prayers, also thank Him for your blessings. Thank Him for sending our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, into the world. He made it possible for us to return to our heavenly home. Thank Him for your family. Thank Him for the Church. Thank Him for this beautiful world you live in. Ask Him to protect you. In your prayers, ask Him to help you know what to do in your life. When you make mistakes, your Heavenly Father still loves you. So pray to Him, and He will help you try again to do right.

Pray to Heavenly Father to bless you with His Spirit at all times. We often call the Spirit the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is also a gift from Heavenly Father. The Holy Ghost helps you to choose the right. The Holy Ghost will protect you from evil. He whispers to you in a still, small voice to do right. When you *do* good, you *feel* good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you. The Holy Ghost is a wonderful companion. He is *always* there to help you.

### Be a true Latter-day Saint

My dear boys and girls, honor your fathers and mothers. They will help you make good decisions. Enjoy and respect your grandparents. Be a real friend to your brothers and sisters. Choose friends who have high ideals. Choose friends who will help you to be good.

Attend sacrament meeting. Listen carefully to what your bishop says. He is an important spiritual leader who has a special calling from Heavenly Father to help you.

Enjoy Primary, and attend every week. Bring your member and non-member friends to Primary. Learn the Primary songs well. They are wonderful. Memorize the Articles of Faith and earn the Gospel in Action Award.

Be honest. Do not lie nor steal. Do not cheat. Do not use profanity, but be clean in your thoughts and speech.

Be a *true* Latter-day Saint. Stand up for your beliefs. One of my favorite Primary songs is "Dare to Do Right." Some of the words are:

Dare to do right! dare to be true!  
 You have a work that no other can  
 do;  
 Do it so bravely, so kindly, so well,  
 Angels will hasten the story to tell.  
 (*Sing with Me*, B-81)

Remember, Satan does not want you to be happy. He does not want you to dare to do right. He wants you to be miserable, as he is. He has captured the hearts of wicked men and women who would have you participate in bad things such as pornography, drugs, profanity, and immorality. Stay away from these evils. Avoid books, magazines, videos, movies, and television shows that are not good. As the scriptures tell us, avoid the *very appearance* of evil (see 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Dress modestly. Choose clothing that covers your body properly. Behave in a courteous and polite way. Live the Word of Wisdom. Keep the Sabbath day holy. Listen to good music. Do your best to be good.

Do well in your school work and strive to be a good student.

With help from your parents, begin your own library of favorite tapes, books, and pictures which are available at Church distribution centers. Enjoy reading each month in your home the *Friend* magazine or the international magazines.

Love the country in which you live. Be a good citizen. Be patriotic. Fly your country's flag on special holidays. Pray for your country's leaders.

Primary boys, plan and look forward to serving a full-time mission for the Lord. Young girls, be prepared for mis-

sionary service if you are called. But also, young girls, learn from your mothers the important homemaking skills you will use in your own home.

### To children who do not feel safe

Now I want to say something to you children who do not feel safe and who are frightened or hurt and do not know what to do. Sometimes you may feel all alone. You need to know that even when it seems that no one else cares, your Heavenly Father does. He will always love you. He wants you to be protected and safe. If you are not, please talk to someone who can help you—a parent, a teacher, your bishop, or a friend. They will help you.

### Angels will minister unto you

I am sure each of you has favorite stories from the scriptures. One of my favorite stories is found in the seventeenth chapter of 3 Nephi in the Book of Mormon. It tells about the visit of Jesus to the people on the American continent after His resurrection. It tells about Jesus healing the sick and teaching the people and praying to Heavenly Father for them.

Now, this is one of my favorite parts of that story:

"And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying unto the Father, he arose; but so great was the joy of the multitude that they were overcome.

"And it came to pass that Jesus spake unto them, and bade them arise.

"And they arose from the earth, and he said unto them: Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold, my joy is full.

"And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bare record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.

"And when he had done this he wept again;

"And he spake unto the multitude, and said unto them: Behold your little ones.

“And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them” (3 Nephi 17:18–24).

I promise you, dear children, that angels will minister unto you also. You may not see them, but they will be there to help you, and you will feel of their presence.

Favored little ones were they,  
Who towards him Jesus drew!  
Who within his arms he took  
Just as loving parents do,  
Christ the Lord “Our living head.”  
This of little children said,  
“Such shall of my kingdom be,  
Suffer them to come to me.”  
Listen to the Savior’s plea,  
“Let the children come to me.”  
 (“Let the Little Children Come,”  
*Sing with Me*, B–14)

### Walk in the light

Dear children, our Heavenly Father sent you to earth at this time because you are some of His most valiant children. He knew there would be much wickedness in the world today, and He knew you could be faithful and obedient.

Dear child, you are God’s gift to your parents, and the gift your parents can give God is to bring you back to Him sweet and pure and faithful.

He expects your parents and leaders to teach you, to walk beside you, and to be shining examples to you so that you will know the way you should go. They must spend time with you and love you and pray *with* you and *for* you.

Your leaders must call faithful men and women to teach you in Primary. We must provide experiences for you early in your life that will help you know how to live the gospel.

God bless the children of this Church. How I love you! How Heavenly Father loves you! And may we, as your parents, teachers, and leaders, be *more* childlike — more submissive, more meek, and more humble.

I close my message to you this day with the prayer that we may ever respond to your plea as *you* so sweetly sing,

Teach me to walk in the light of his  
love;  
Teach me to pray to my Father  
above;  
Teach me to know of the things that  
are right;  
Teach me, teach me to walk in the  
light.

And then, as your parents, *we* sing to you,

Come, little child, and together we’ll  
learn  
Of his commandments, that we may  
return  
Home to his presence, to live in his  
sight —  
Always, always to walk in the light.

And *together* we sing:

Father in Heaven, we thank thee this  
day  
For loving guidance to show us the  
way.  
Grateful, we praise thee with songs  
of delight!  
Gladly, gladly we’ll walk in the light.  
 (“Teach Me to Walk in the Light,”  
*Hymns*, no. 304)

For this I fervently pray for the children of the Church, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

---

A video presentation was shown of President Benson singing “I Am a Mormon Boy” to a group of children.

The choir sang “I Am a Child of God.”

Elder Waldo P. Call offered the benediction.

---