

Teach sacrifice in every home

The principle of sacrifice should be taught in every Latter-day Saint home and should be practiced in many simple yet important ways. We can do this by setting an example of reverence that will bring the true spirit of worship into our meetings and by guarding against murmuring and complaining about the challenges of the Sunday worship schedule. We can contribute a generous fast offering, find joy in supporting missionaries, and pay an honest tithing. We can accept Church callings and serve with a happy and grateful heart, do temple work regularly, offer family and personal daily prayers, and teach one another each week in well-planned family home evenings. Both younger members and those who are older can prepare early and make themselves worthy to accept calls to serve as missionaries. We all can be good neighbors and can take care of widows, the poor, and the less fortunate. We can reach out to others in our service as home and visiting teachers. Brethren, we must be clean and worthy to bless others with the priesthood we hold.

Today we are not called to pull handcarts through the snow-swept

plains of Wyoming. However, we are called to live, foster, and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our privilege to invest our means and our time to bless others. Each one of us must do all we can to preserve our Latter-day Saint way of life. A vital part of this preservation is a willingness to set aside personal desires and replace them with unselfish sacrifice for others.

God bless you, brothers and sisters, to know as I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, and that being a member of His Church, the only true and living Church, is never a burden but always a great blessing. That we may be grateful for this blessing I pray humbly in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Monson

We have just heard from Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Council of the Twelve.

Sister Ardeth G. Kapp, who was released yesterday as Young Women General President, will now address us. She will be followed by Sister Janette C. Hales, sustained yesterday as General President of the Young Women.

Ardeth G. Kapp

My dear brothers and sisters, today my heart is filled with joy because of the deep love and respect I feel for the newly called Young Women Presidency. I also feel heartfelt gratitude for my counselors and the Young Women board members I have served with. We rejoice in the opportunities that have come through our callings. I'm grateful to my eternal companion, who has been my constant support.

A mighty force for righteousness

As we have inquired of the Lord in earnest prayer and sought Him diligently, we have felt His Spirit and witnessed His guiding hand. I bear testimony of the wisdom, inspiration, and guidance of our priesthood leaders directing this great work.

At the time of my calling, President Hinckley spoke of this as a time when the young women of the Church would become a mighty force for

righteousness. We are witnessing this around the world.

A young fifteen-year-old from Zaire, Africa, wrote, "I know my Heavenly Father loves me because I have asked."

Another young woman wrote: "I am almost fourteen. I want to know if you think it is all right to go to the school dances. If you don't answer my letter in time for the Halloween dance, I won't go. I don't want to disobey."

Behind these righteous young women are loving parents and faithful leaders who sense the sacred trust to teach, to love, to hold a hand, and, when appropriate, to hold the line.

Knowing who we are

In *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye speaks to his daughters and says: In Anatevka "everyone here knows who [she] is and what God expects [of her]" (Jerry Bauch, "Tradition," *Fiddler on the Roof* [New York: Sunbeam Music, 1971]).

It is important for all of us to know who we are and what God expects of us.

After Jesus had fasted forty days, the tempter came to Him and attempted to plant seeds of doubt about who He really was. "If thou be the Son of God," he began his evil ploy (Matthew 4:3). Jesus knew who He was. He has declared that message clearly to each of us: "Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God!" (D&C 6:21). He is our Savior, our advocate with the Father.

The young women of the Church have a personal statement which declares their identity: "I am a daughter of a Heavenly Father who loves me, and I will have faith in his eternal plan, which centers in Jesus Christ, my Savior" (*Young Women Handbook* [1989], p. 3).

Each of us, young and older, through the ordinance of baptism has covenanted to take upon us the name

of Jesus Christ, to love, to care, and to serve our brothers and sisters wherever they may be.

A few weeks ago I was speaking at a missionary fireside where members had brought their nonmember friends. I noticed a young girl sitting by her mother on the front row. I learned later that she was only twelve years old. I asked her if she would come up. She could hardly see over the pulpit. Unrehearsed, this young girl, with great feeling and conviction in her tender yet clear voice, repeated from memory:

"We are daughters of our Heavenly Father who loves us, and we love him. We will 'stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places'" (*Young Women Handbook*, p. 3).

She continued to the end of the Young Women Theme, including the Young Women Values, while the audience listened in awe.

Knowing and remembering who we are and whose we are, we become guided by a force affecting our attitude and our conduct. We draw close to our Father in Heaven through sacred ordinances and covenants available only through His restored Church.

Making and keeping covenants

I had the privilege of visiting with a faithful family of Latter-day Saints in a small nipa hut in the Philippines. In this humble setting a beautiful young woman, fourteen years old, listened intently while her father explained that by saving all the money they could and selling everything they owned, the family would one day have enough to go to the temple, where they could be sealed as a family forever.

It is our faith in the importance of making covenants with God and coming to understand our immense possibilities that the temple, the house of the Lord, becomes the focus for all that really matters. In the temple we

participate in ordinances and covenants that span the distance between heaven and earth. They prepare us to one day return to God's presence and enjoy the blessings of eternal families and eternal life.

I have heard young women around the world repeat in many languages their commitment: "We will be prepared to make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation" (*Young Women Handbook*, p. 3). Those blessings can be available to all of us—to all our Father's children. When our faith is centered in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we begin to understand our identity and our tender rela-

tionship to Him as expressed in the song:

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His,
And He is mine forever.

[Henry W. Baker, "The King of Love," in *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* (New York: Harper, 1948), no. 783]

It is through the ordinances and covenants available in the temple that our Father in Heaven has provided the way for us to return to Him rejoicing. To these eternal truths I bear my testimony in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Janette C. Hales

You are not alone

How I love Ardeth Kapp and Jayne Malan and the recently released board members. And what a wonderful feeling came over me when President Monson called to tell me that my counselors had been called. He said, "You shouldn't be alone." And then he quickly added, "You are not alone."

I have a testimony of those words and what comfort they give. Four years ago, when I found myself quite suddenly a widow with the youngest of my five children leaving for a mission, I felt alone. I did a lot of walking at that time, and one day I told a neighbor I found myself thinking about youth. She said, "Really? I wonder why?" I concluded that perhaps I was trying to remember who I was before I was married. I said, "If I ever have a chance to work with young people again, I will be so much more patient, so much more gentle, and so much more loving." And I have since added, "I will do all in my power to encourage young people to prepare for the future."

Study, pray, and listen

There are times when we are growing up when we feel alone or left out. Times of change are growing-up times: things like moving, changing schools, going on a mission, having a baby, having your baby go on a mission, a serious illness, losing someone you love. I believe that there are some things that help in these growing-up times so we don't feel so alone. Spend more time talking to Heavenly Father and reading the scriptures. Listen to the still, small voice. In the words of a young woman of Beehive age: "At first when I would say my prayers and read scriptures, I would never get a good feeling about it. But after about two months of my scriptures and prayer, I began to feel very happy, and I loved my family, and I felt like being nice to everyone."

When the prophet Enos listened to the words of the Lord, he began to feel a desire for the welfare of others (see Enos 1:9). When we start to think of others, we feel less alone.