

Ezra Taft Benson, sing praises to your name and to the name of your late husband, Eddie. I'm sure he would wish me to express that again today.

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elders Kwok Yuen Tai and Lowell D. Wood, who were called as members of the Seventy since last April conference.

Elder Kwok Yuen Tai

The view from Victoria Peak

There is a popular tourist spot in Hong Kong known as Victoria Peak. On a clear day one can stand on the peak and enjoy a panoramic view of the bustling harbor together with the beautiful waterfront lined with skyscrapers and ferry piers. From that peak, if one looks carefully, it is possible to see the distant airport with its busy air traffic and its runway extending to the sea. At night the view from the peak is even more breathtaking. The harbor is ablaze with countless lights glittering like diamonds. It is a glorious scene!

The picture, however, is not always the same. On a foggy day the scene can be dark, gloomy, and quite a disappointment. Life is so much like that for many of us. At times it can be glorious but other times gloomy.

Growing up with Aunt Gu Ma

In my early childhood I lost both my parents. Aunt Gu Ma, a spinster sister of my father, kept my brother and me together. She brought us up in a little farming village where she grew vegetables for a living. Every morning she would carry the produce to the market in two big baskets, one on each end of a long pole resting on her shoulders. Then she would bring home rice and meat purchased with the proceeds of her vegetable sales.

I can remember cooking rice in a huge wok on top of a reed-burning stove. I was then six years old. The wok was so big that my brother and I had to lift it together, each standing on a stool while grasping a handle on opposite sides. Our

occasional dinner special was either half-cooked or burnt rice, or both.

Aunt Gu Ma was a wonderful person. Although she had no formal education, she had a noble philosophy of life. She instilled in us correct principles, stern self-reliance, and the value of hard work. We are forever grateful for her love and sacrifice in our behalf.

Seek divine guidance

I remember especially one occasion. My brother and I were returning from school during the aftermath of a severe tropical storm. The trail that we usually followed had been covered by a mud slide. Being the resourceful young boys that we were, we decided that nothing could keep us from going home. On a nearby steep hillside was a drainage pipe situated quite high above the rocky ground. If we were to get to our village, we would need to walk along that pipe. The pipe was suspended over a stream which, although normally small, had turned into a rushing torrent of mud and water. Carrying our school bags, we went up the hill and continued our expedition.

We both began cautiously treading along the narrow, slippery drainage pipe. As I approached the other side, I looked back to see how my brother was doing. I was startled to see that he had made his way only halfway and had come to a complete stop. He, being older and wiser, had realized what a precarious perch we were on and had instinctively frozen in his tracks, unable to continue. It was a terrifying moment for us as we realized the danger he was in, paralyzed by fear and perched there on a slippery, narrow

drainage pipe suspended above a torrential river.

Then I got a big surprise. I heard the loudest scream for help I have ever heard in my life. His incredible bellow echoed through the hills and valleys. Luckily, Aunt Gu Ma was working in the fields below and heard us. She came quickly to his rescue. She lovingly guided him along and led us both home to safety.

Oftimes we become anxious and fearful as we confront the complexities of life. If we seek divine guidance and follow the gospel path, we will be led to our final destination. Sometimes adversity may seem so overwhelming that we feel powerless to continue. If we appeal for help with humility and faith, our Heavenly Father will provide a way to lovingly help us through.

Conversion and marriage

One day when I was seventeen years of age, I came across a former neighbor of mine. He invited me to attend his church the next Sunday because he was to be a speaker in the meeting. It was there that he gave his two-and-one-half-minute talk and I met the missionaries for the first time. One year later I was baptized in the swimming pool of the Hong Kong Mission Home and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Conditions in China during the 1940s were very difficult. One family with a three-month-old child left mainland China and returned to their home in Taiwan. Twenty years later, in 1963, that small child, now a young woman, arrived in Hong Kong for her studies. She responded to the invitation of the missionaries during their tracting and became a member of the Church in 1964.

A year later I returned from my university studies in Sydney, Australia, and became acquainted with that beautiful young woman, Hui Hua, in the Kowloon City branch in Hong Kong. We were married one year later at the Kom Tong Hall

in Hong Kong. The chance of our meeting instills in our minds the idea of a miracle in our lives.

President of the Hong Kong Mission

Little did we know what the Lord had in store for us. Exactly thirty years to the month after my baptism (and also on my birthday), I returned with my wife to the very location of my baptism to preside as mission president of the Hong Kong Mission.

During that three-year term we experienced inexpressible joy in watching people's lives change as they embraced the gospel. The gospel brightened up their lives. Through the gospel, hatred can turn into love, pride into humility, wickedness into righteousness, sorrow into happiness, and fear into peace. The gospel promises us hope of returning to the presence of our Heavenly Father.

The gospel has also given me, an orphan boy, unshakable hope that someday I can be together with my family forever. I may even have a father-and-son outing with my dad to make up for my lost childhood!

"The Lord is my shepherd"

As a special witness of the Lord Jesus Christ, I share the feelings of the Apostle Paul: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8).

I express my gratitude for all the opportunities that have come to me in serving our Heavenly Father. He has blessed me with a loving wife and three wonderful children, all of whom are returned missionaries. I am grateful to them for their unflinching support.

The Twenty-third Psalm says in part: "The Lord is my shepherd. . . . He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters" (Psalm 23:1-2). I know God lives. The

Lord is my Shepherd. He has, indeed, made me lie down in green pastures and has led me beside the still waters. Jesus

is the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. I so testify in His holy name, amen.

Elder Lowell D. Wood

Coming unto Christ is a process

"The Lord declared that it is his work and his glory 'to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man' (Moses 1:39). He has established his Church to help in this great work. Accordingly, the Church's mission is to 'invite all to come unto Christ' (D&C 20:59) and 'be perfected in him' (Moroni 10:32)" (*Melchizedek Priesthood Leadership Handbook* [1990], p. 3).

I would like to discuss at least in part what The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints asks people to do when inviting them "to come unto Christ" (D&C 20:59).

It should be understood that this invitation is not a request to participate in a single event, but to participate in a process. This process leads individuals to eternal life, which "is the greatest of all the gifts of God; for there is no gift greater than the gift of salvation" (D&C 6:13).

"Hear ye him"

How do we begin this most exciting and important process? The Book of Mormon records the events that occurred when Christ, following his resurrection, visited the people of Nephi in the land Bountiful. So important was this event that his Father introduced him, saying, "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—*hear ye him*" (3 Nephi 11:7; italics added).

From this introduction we learn the first required action: "*hear ye him*." If we are to come unto Christ, we must first listen to him. We must learn who he is.

Following his Father's introduction, he told the people:

"Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world.

"And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning" (3 Nephi 11:10-11).

He then invited them to come forth one by one and "see with their eyes and . . . feel with their hands" (3 Nephi 11:15). These people experienced personal knowledge of who he was. However, Jesus reminded them that coming to him through faith is even more desirable.

"And again, *more blessed* are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words" (3 Nephi 12:2; italics added).

We are fortunate to have the scriptures, which contain the words of ancient Apostles and prophets, and to have the privilege of listening to modern-day Apostles and prophets testify of Christ.

Repent and be baptized

What were the next words Jesus gave to the people in Bountiful? Think of all he could have said. He is the creator of this earth and countless others; he had just wrought the infinite atonement; he had just broken the bonds of death; he had just visited with his Father in Heaven. He could have discussed many, many