

our view of what matters most clear and sharp, focused crisply, and free from the dust of the world.

Testimony

I testify that the windows of heaven are indeed open. President Gordon B. Hinckley is the Lord's living prophet today. Joseph Smith is the Prophet of the Restoration. Jesus is the Christ, the Lord and Savior of all mankind. Our Heavenly Father lives and loves each of His children. The Lord has restored the network of eternal truth. We can open the windows of heaven to our personal view. Through these divine windows we can gaze with the Savior "upon the wide expanse of eternity,"²⁸ a universe without horizons, "worlds without end."²⁹ I so testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. Articles of Faith 1:9.
2. Amos 3:7.
3. Deuteronomy 29:4.
4. Doctrine and Covenants 123:12.
5. Doctrine and Covenants 121:36.
6. Ezra Taft Benson, mission presidents' seminar, 21 June 1988; see *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988), p. 26. See also S. Dilworth Young, in Conference Report, Apr. 1952, p. 29; Bruce R. McConkie, *The Promised Messiah* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1978), p. 126; and *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966), p. 539.
7. Alma 7:23; italics added.
8. Doctrine and Covenants 64:34.
9. Doctrine and Covenants 1:18.
10. Doctrine and Covenants 4:2.
11. Doctrine and Covenants 1:4, 5.
12. 3 Nephi 5:13.
13. Doctrine and Covenants 1:5, 2; italics added.
14. Alma 5:14, 19.
15. Doctrine and Covenants 4:6.
16. Matthew 5:16.
17. Matthew 5:15; italics added.
18. Malachi 3:10.
19. In Conference Report, Apr. 1982, p. 60; or *Ensign*, May 1982, p. 40; italics added.
20. Doctrine and Covenants 89:1, 4.
21. See "Milestones," *Time*, 24 July 1995, p. 19.
22. See Doctrine and Covenants 89:18–21.
23. See Russell M. Nelson, in Conference Report, Oct. 1986, pp. 87–88; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, p. 69. See also James E. Enstrom, "Health Practices and Cancer Mortality among Active California Mormons," *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 6 Dec. 1989, pp. 1807–14; Edward Norden, "How to Live As Long As They Do," *Longevity*, Sept. 1990, pp. 72–73.
24. Doctrine and Covenants 89:19.
25. Doctrine and Covenants 8:2.
26. Moses 6:61.
27. In Conference Report, Apr. 1989, p. 41; or *Ensign*, May 1989, pp. 32–33; italics added.
28. Doctrine and Covenants 38:1.
29. Doctrine and Covenants 76:112.

Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen

Man is that he might have joy

President Hinckley, I feel that I can speak for the Saints throughout the world, that we were profoundly stirred by your prophetic charge to move the work forward with greater energy. We pledge our lives and our obedience to accomplish that purpose.

While teaching at BYU in 1978, Brother Dennis Rasmussen applied and was selected to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In the opening session, as he gave his name and university, Rabbi Muffs boomed, "You're the Mormon! . . . Do you pay your tithing?"

"Yes," he answered.

"Do you pay it with a joyful heart?"

"Yes," he said.

"I believe," the rabbi said, "that joy is the essence of religion. There is nothing more fundamental to religious living than joy. . . . I am working on a book about joy."

Brother Rasmussen responded, "There's a passage in the Book of Mormon that you might like. It says, 'Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.'"¹

Rabbi Muffs was profoundly touched and exclaimed, "I've found the text I've searched for all my life . . . in the Book of Mormon." Turning to Brother Rasmussen he said, "Say it again, but not so fast." As he repeated the familiar words, the rabbi's eyes glowed in appreciation of this great truth he understood but had not heard so succinctly expressed.²

How important it is to know the purpose of our existence. Man *is* that he might have joy, and that joy will come to us as we keep God's commandments!³

Joy in the Basuare family

Last February I saw this joy personified as I accompanied the missionaries in Santiago, Chile, to visit some of their converts. At the Basuare home, eight-year-old twin boys, Nicolas and Ignacio, met us at the door, dressed in white shirts and ties, just like missionaries. Their father had been baptized three weeks earlier, and the following week he baptized his wife and sons. We talked of their conversion. They shared their feelings of love for the missionaries and the joy they were experiencing in living the gospel and keeping the commandments. They proudly showed us the picture of the Santiago temple displayed in their living room, a symbol of their goal to become an eternal family one year from the date of their baptism.

I asked Nicolas if he would like to be a missionary when he grew up. He answered yes, and we shook hands on the

promise that he would prepare for the day. Then I asked Ignacio the same question. He hesitated and replied, "I'm not sure I can make that promise. I'm only eight years old."

I persisted, "Nicolas made the promise. Wouldn't you like to do the same?"

He still hesitated and said, "I don't know if I could be ready."

I could see I had taken on more than I could manage, so I said, "Perhaps you'd better talk this over with your father."

He went to his father, who took him in his arms and said, "Ignacio, Jesus was a missionary. He walked the streets like Elder Sheets and his companion and made the people happy by teaching them to keep the commandments. Wouldn't you like to be like Jesus?"

"Yes, Papi, I would."

"Do you think if we work together, you can be ready to be a missionary when you are nineteen years old?"

"I think so."

"Wouldn't you like to make the promise to Elder Mickelsen that you will do that?"

He came to me, and we shook hands to confirm the promise. I marveled that this young father, a convert of just three weeks, could be so sensitive in helping his family follow the Savior and how he emulated the missionaries in teaching his son. Their goal of becoming an eternal family will surely be reached under the guidance of this faithful father.

Teaching the Ten Commandments to children

Since the beginning of creation such family happiness has been central to our Heavenly Father's plan. Having been cast out of the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve began to multiply and replenish the earth. As their family increased, they called upon the Lord for help. He gave them commandments and told them to teach them to their children.⁴ These eternal laws were reiterated to Moses on Si-

nai, summed up by the Savior in the two great commandments,⁵ and repeated to Joseph Smith in a revelation known as the "law of the Church."⁶ We also must teach these commandments to our children. Our happiness in this life and joy in the future as eternal families depend on how well we *live* them. I believe we can teach the Ten Commandments to our children in a positive way so they will reflect the higher law the Savior has given us.

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."⁷ Teach them that God lives, that He really does exist, and that He is the literal Father of our spirits. We are created in His image. We have all of His attributes in embryo.⁸ He loves us and wants us to be like Him. He wants us to communicate with Him. *Teach them to pray.*

2. Thou shalt not bow to any graven image.⁹ *Our Father in Heaven must come first. Nothing in this world can take His place.* Teach your children to recognize His hand in all things, to respect and honor Him.¹⁰ Show them how to worship Him through selfless service to others. Worship Him in family prayer and family home evening. We fail to worship Him when we give preeminence to sports, academics, entertainment, wealth, vanity, or anything else of this world.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."¹¹ Prepare your children to take upon themselves the name of Christ through the covenant of baptism. When we make this covenant, we become known as His children and promise to keep His commandments.¹² When we break the promises and covenants we make to Him and do not repent, we take His name in vain.¹³

4. Thou shalt honor the Sabbath day to keep it holy.¹⁴ Teach your children to set apart one-seventh of their time to learn of Him, to take their minds from the burdens of daily work, and to remember Him. As we dedicate this time to

Him, it concentrates our hearts and our minds on the *real purpose* of our existence and takes us out of the world. It is a day to become as He is, to worship Him, and to minister to others as He did. We don't need rules for the Sabbath day when we understand and live its purpose.

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother."¹⁵ Teach your children obedience; train them up in the way they should go.¹⁶ Our children learn to obey their Father in Heaven through honoring, respecting, and obeying their earthly parents. Teach them family ethics and establish the parameters of their conduct. The Lord gave the children of Israel the promise that their days would be long upon the land the Lord had given them. The same promise is valid today. For them it was the land of Canaan; for us it is eternal life with our families.¹⁷

6. "Thou shalt not kill."¹⁸ We are created in the image of God.¹⁹ The union of the flesh with the spirit can bring us a fulness of joy.²⁰ Teach your children to respect the sanctity of human life, to revere it and cherish it. Human life is the precious stepping-stone to eternal life, and we must jealously guard it from the moment of conception.²¹

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."²² Teach your children that our bodies are temples of God, wherein the Spirit of God can dwell.²³ Teach them the sacred nature of the family, the beauty of marriage, and the godlike nature of procreation, which our Father in Heaven has given us. We enter into a partnership with Him in the creation of life. This power must be respected, protected, and exercised only within the sacred bonds of marriage.²⁴ It is a celestial power that, if abused, will be taken away.

8. "Thou shalt not steal."²⁵ Teach your children to be honest and to respect that which belongs to others, especially that which belongs to our Father in Heaven. Teach them by example to pay a full tithing and give generous offerings.

As they stamp their actions with honesty, they will be filled with the Spirit and power of God.²⁶ Teach them the joy of giving and sharing.²⁷

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness."²⁸ Teach your children to always tell the truth, to tell things as they really are, to build, to find the good in others, and to be positive and complimentary. Truth is more precious than any earthly possession. Truth is the essence of our existence.²⁹ As we tell the truth, our confidence will wax strong in the presence of God and our fellowman.³⁰

10. "Thou shalt not covet."³¹ We must love our children and teach them they are children of a Heavenly Father, who loves them. As they feel our love, they will feel His love and will be grateful for their good name and for the name of Christ, which they bear. As they feel our love and the love of their Heavenly Father, they feel no need for the possessions of others. Help them to measure personal progress and not compare themselves to others. Teach them to love others and to rejoice with their achievements.

Eternal laws of happiness

As we keep the Ten Commandments, we express our love to God, and with the active application of these eternal principles, we express our love to our fellowmen. These are eternal laws of happiness that, if followed, will lead us back to our Father in Heaven.³² I pray that we may be able to teach them by example and precept. May we all feel the joy the Ba-sua-re family felt as they came to know the truth of the gospel and are now teaching the commandments to their children.

With a positive understanding of the commandments, our children will have a greater desire to follow them and a better comprehension of the power of the Atonement for forgiveness when they make mistakes. As they understand His sacrifice for us, they will repent and go

forward with a perfect brightness of hope, knowing that Christ will pay for their sins if they follow Him.³³

May we teach and live the commandments so that together with our families we may fill the measure of our creation³⁴ and obtain the joy our Father in Heaven desires for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. 2 Nephi 2:25; compare Moses 5:10; 6:48.
2. Dennis Rasmussen, "An Elder among the Rabbis," *Brigham Young University Studies*, Summer 1981, pp. 344-45.
3. See Jacob 5:75; Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1939), pp. 276-77.
4. See Moses 5:1-5; 6:57-62; Doctrine and Covenants 20:19.
5. See Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:33.
6. See headnote to and text of Doctrine and Covenants 42.
7. Exodus 20:3.
8. See James E. Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, 12th ed. (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1924), p. 487.
9. See Exodus 20:4-5; Matthew 19:16-22; 2 Nephi 27:25; Acts 17:29; Doctrine and Covenants 93:19.
10. See Doctrine and Covenants 59:21; Alma 31:5.
11. Exodus 20:7.
12. See Alma 19:35; Mosiah 5:7; Moses 5:1-9; Doctrine and Covenants 20:37; Moroni 6:1-8.
13. See Proverbs 30:9; Doctrine and Covenants 136:21.
14. See Exodus 20:8-11; Doctrine and Covenants 59:9-14.
15. Exodus 20:12.
16. See Proverbs 22:6; *Discourses of Brigham Young*, ed. John A. Widtsoe (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1941), p. 207; Hebrews 12:9.
17. See Doctrine and Covenants 132:19.
18. Exodus 20:13; see also Doctrine and Covenants 42:18; Matthew 19:18.

19. See Genesis 1:27; Moses 1:13; Mosiah 7:27; Ether 3:16–17.
20. See Doctrine and Covenants 93:33.
21. See James E. Faust, Brigham Young University devotional address, 15 Nov. 1994.
22. Exodus 20:14; see also Doctrine and Covenants 42:24.
23. See 1 Corinthians 6:19.
24. See Doctrine and Covenants 49:15–17.
25. Exodus 20:15; see also Matthew 19:18; Doctrine and Covenants 42:20; Doctrine and Covenants 119; Malachi 3:8–11.
26. See *Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 43.
27. See Matthew 5:42; Acts 20:35.
28. Exodus 20:16; Matthew 19:18.
29. See *Hymns*, no. 272; Doctrine and Covenants 93:24; John 8:32.
30. See Doctrine and Covenants 121:45.
31. Exodus 20:17; see also Doctrine and Covenants 19:25.
32. See 2 Nephi 9:18–24.
33. See 2 Nephi 31:20.
34. See Doctrine and Covenants 88:19; John Taylor, *The Government of God*

(Liverpool: S. W. Richards, 1852), pp. 32–46.

President Monson

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has spoken to us, followed by Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen of the Seventy. We sent Brother Mickelsen and Sister Mickelsen to South America for a three-year call. They stayed five years. I'm amazed that his English is as proficient as it is. He could have given the same sermon in Spanish equally as well.

The choir and congregation will now join in singing that favorite hymn of President Spencer W. Kimball, "I Need Thee Every Hour." Then Sister Anne G. Wirthlin, first counselor in the Primary general presidency, will address us.

The choir and congregation sang "I Need Thee Every Hour."

Sister Anne G. Wirthlin

Scriptures pertaining to children

Brothers and sisters, just one year ago Sister Susan Warner and I were sustained as counselors to Sister Patricia Pinegar in a new Primary general presidency. Having reared twenty-four children between us, we might have had reason to feel quite confident in our ability to understand the needs of children. However, the responsibility of representing the children of the Church in today's world weighed heavily upon us. Our greatest desire was to know the will of our Father in Heaven and to seek His direction. In counseling with Elder Robert D. Hales at the time of our call, he suggested that as we read our scriptures, we mark the passages that pertain to children. We found there are many. In

fact it seems that the scriptures were written for families. The prophets have left no doubt as to the desires of the Lord regarding His little ones:

Nephi began his record, "I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father" (1 Nephi 1:1).

Enos began his record, "Behold, it came to pass that I, Enos, knowing my father that he was a just man—for he taught me in his language, and also in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—and blessed be the name of my God for it" (Enos 1:1).

Our Primary theme is from the words of Isaiah: "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children" (3 Nephi 22:13).