

stake conf.

notes from calgary stake conference



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LEADER- SHIP MEETING

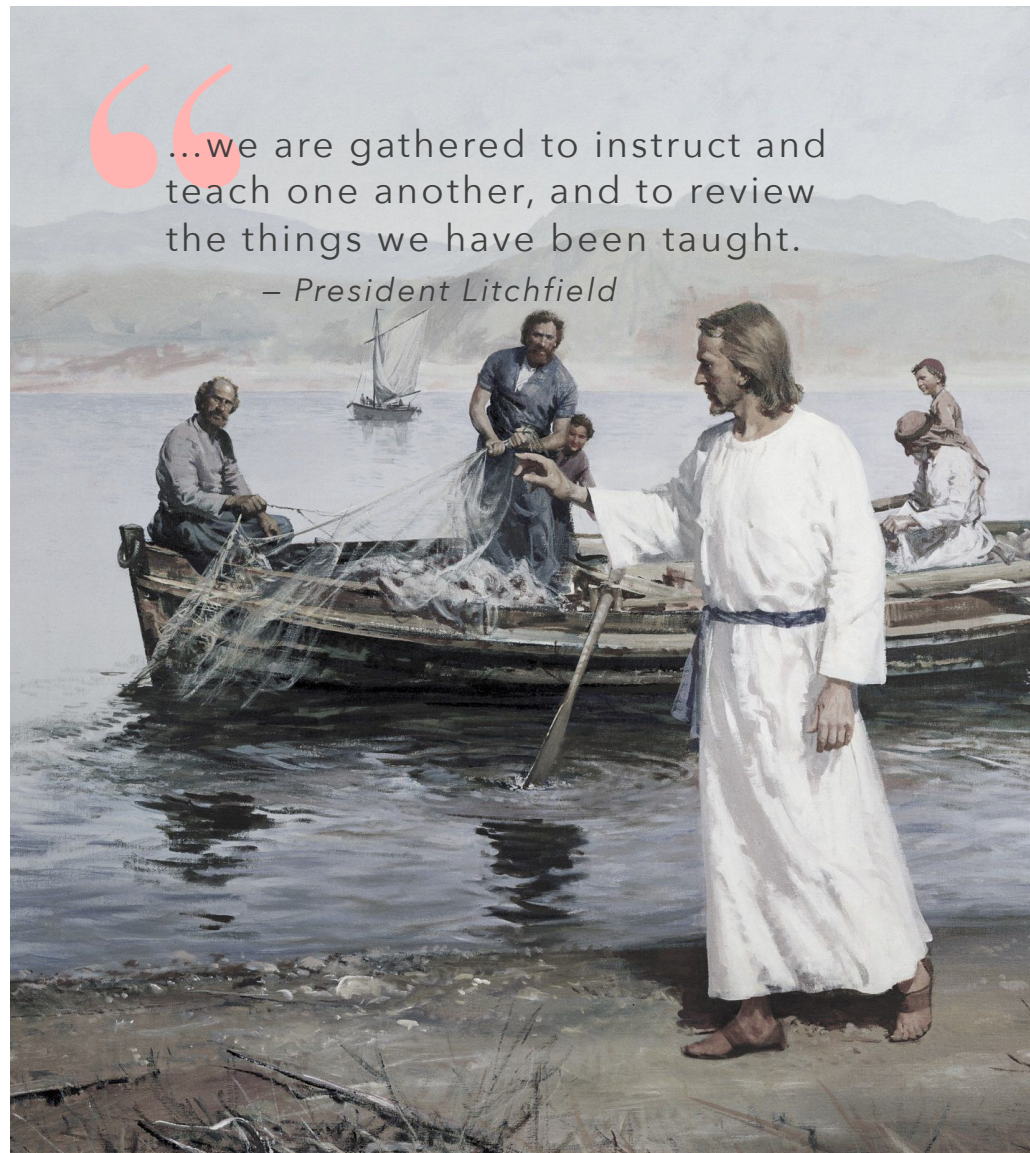
Saturday, January 11th,
2020

PRESIDENT DAVID M. LITCHFIELD

As leaders, it is our responsibility to seek to understand the will of the Lord. This may seem overwhelming the world – and the church – continues to change rapidly. But as we focus on the big picture, we will be directed by God on how to move forward to accomplish the work of the Lord and care for members of our wards. As the ninth article of faith reminds us, “we believe in all that God has revealed, all that he does yet reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

BROTHER PAUL BARBEAU

President Russel M. Nelson has said, “everything that we do in the church converges in the holy temples.” As members worship within the temple, many of their challenges will fall away and they



...we are gathered to instruct and teach one another, and to review the things we have been taught.

– *President Litchfield*

will be blessed with strength to face their challenges that remain. Because of these great blessings, it is important that ward councils take responsibility for leading the ward’s temple and family history efforts. A committee – comprised of church members with specific callings – should work collaboratively to execute the plan set out by the ward council. For instance, a youth temple activity may require secretaries to proactively check recommend expiry dates, bishops and councillors may invite the ward to prepare names, youth leadership may help the youth prepare through indexing activities, and so forth.

BROTHER CHRIS KNEELAND

Within the church, word of mouth marketing is decreasing; the church is experiencing its smallest growth rate. This may be due to the following reasons: not enough members are excited enough about our church to share it, not enough members are fostering close relationships with people of a different faith, not enough members know how to have effective conversations about the church, and finally, not enough ward councils are focussed enough to organize effective missionary efforts. The Stake has designated



“...as members worship in the temple, many of their challenges will fall away and they will have greater strength to deal with those that remain.

– Paul Barbeau

several priorities to help, but every one of these initiatives can be improved on if we work more collaboratively and utilize ward council for its intended purpose.

PRESIDENT AND SISTER KEUNG

2020 is a commemorative year which celebrates the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the church. Now, we have access to more tools to share the gospel than ever before, including social media. It is easy to share messages

with people in our lives who could benefit from hearing a gospel message. When pondering who this may be, we should consider this message from Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “pray with a commitment to act upon the inspiration you receive, promising the Lord that if He will inspire you to speak to someone about the gospel, you will do it.”

PRESIDENT DAVID M. LITCHFIELD

In recent years, there have been many changes introduced within the church. Children, youth, missionaries and adults are all affected by these changes. Furthermore, all serve to accomplish our goals of hastening the work of the Lord, strengthening individuals, children, youth and families, and making the Gospel available to everyone.



SATURDAY EVENING ADULT SESSION

Saturday, January 11, 2020

PRESIDENT W. ALAN COPITHORNE

The church has recently updated its first four temple recommend questions as the following: First, Do you have faith in and a testimony of God, the Eternal Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost? Second, Do you have a testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and of His role and your Saviour and Redeemer? Third, Do you have a testimony of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Fourth, Do you sustain the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, set, and elevator as the only person on the earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys? These questions may be used to help us reflect on our testimonies and take stock of the things we need to improve on.

BROTHER COLBY GAGE

The sixth temple recommend interview question reads: do you follow the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ in your private and public behaviour with members of your family and others? This teaches that there should be no difference

between the way we treat our families and the way we treat others. One way to prepare for the eternities is by practicing authenticity, consistency, and improving our private and public selves. As Alma 34:32 reads, "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors."

SISTER EVA GONZALEZ

the eighth temple recommend interview question reads: Do you strive to keep the Sabbath day holy, both at home and at church; attend your meetings; prepare for and worthily partake of the sacrament; and live your life in harmony with the laws and commandments of the gospel? There are always opportunities to improve the way we observe the Sabbath. Love, loyalty, reverence, and adoration are a few things we can increase to acknowledge and to know Him, align our lives with His plan for us, reflect on all he has given us and worship him in gratitude. By improving the way we observe the Sabbath, we will become closer to Christ and, in turn, become more like him.

“these questions may be used to help us reflect on our testimonies and take stock of the things we need to improve on.
– President Copithorne

SISTER CHERI LITCHFIELD

The seventh temple recommend interview question reads: Do you support or promote any teachings, practices, or doctrine contrary to those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? This updated wording provides clarity and allows us to answer with greater confidence. Still, we may become uncomfortable when people we love do support or promote any teachings, practices, or doctrine contrary to those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When this occurs, we must take the responsibility to love them upon ourselves, and leave the responsibility to judge them up to God.

BROTHER FRASER TINGLE

The newly revised young women's theme uses the word "strive" twice. Strive means to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something, or to struggle or fight vigorously. We must consider this when addressing the fifth temple recommend interview question, Do you strive for moral cleanliness in your thoughts and behaviour? Thus, we should be vigilant in making sure our digital trees are bringing forth good, digital fruit, actively ensuring that television and social media is our servant, not a distraction or worse, a master. Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith and meekness are the feelings we may use as indicators that we are using the media for good.

“Galatians 5 concludes with a verse that seems tailor-made for the era of social media, “Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.””

– *Fraser Tingle*

SISTER CATHY SWENSON

The Lord wants to attend the temple so that we may receive its blessings!

PRESIDENT JOHN SWENSON

“This is not your father’s Buick” are words from a commercial encouraging younger people to stop seeing Buicks as cars only for older people, and start seeing it as cars for themselves. President Swenson says, “this is not your father’s temple.” While it is literally our Heavenly Father’s temple, the experience offers an experience that is especially for us. If we change our lives in the ways necessary for us to attend the temple, our hearts will be touched.

PRESIDENT DAVID M. LITCHFIELD

As a young adult, President Litchfield decided to serve a mission, but quickly realized he was sorely inadequate. He decided he wanted to improve, so he got up earlier than everyone else for two years to study the scriptures, the language, the lessons. This experience of striving toward a goal gave him the foundation from which he was to build the rest of his life. We can see other examples of striving in the stories of the Anti-Nephi Lehi's burying their weapons of war, or the dedication of the stripling warriors and their mothers, or the early saints who sacrificed everything they had to establish the church. These examples will help us accomplish the stake focus for 2020, which is to strive daily to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY MORNING GENERAL SESSION

Sunday, January 12, 2020

PRESIDENT DAVID M. LITCHFIELD

Christ extends an invitation to all to “Come Follow Me.” As we reflect upon this invitation, we understand the importance of this year’s stake focus, which is to strive daily to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. The sequence of discipleship is simple and straightforward.

PRESIDENT SERGIO O. RODRIGUEZ

When Joseph Smith chose to kneel in a grove of trees, “Oh How Lovely Was the Morning.” is an understatement of the excitement in the heavens that day. When it comes to receiving revelation, God is not a respecter of persons: everyone has the opportunity to hear the whisperings of the spirit. revelations can comfort us, assuring that we are forgiven when we repent; warn us, offering spiritual and temporal protection from harm; and inform us, teaching us exactly what needs to be done.

SISTER AMY MEJIA

We can seek to find answers to our life’s questions through the restoration. This event provides us

knowledge on how to make covenants and the blessings that come from keeping these covenants, helps us know we have a source to look to for the remission of our sins, we know who we are, why we are here, where we are going; we know that birth is not the beginning and death is not the end—allows us the opportunity to choose, for ourselves, to join the winning team of the war in heaven

BROTHER MATT CLARK

At an early age, Joseph learned that his “name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.” Joseph was a plain and untutored man, but revelation allowed him to accomplish amazing things that would revolutionize the world. Throughout his life, Joseph was harassed and hated, tarred and feathered, unjustly sued and imprisoned, and often on the fight for his life against many who sought to kill him. He faced the loss of 6 of his children, financial struggles, and many more challenges. When we consider this, it emphasizes the magnitude of his



personal sacrifice and the divinity of what he was able to accomplish. Joseph never sought to praise himself, everything he did was to accomplish the work of the Lord.

BROTHER RICHARD PALMER

One of Joseph Smith’s observers, Edward Stevenson, stated, “the prophet spoke simply, but with a power that was irresistible to all present.” We can have similarly powerful testimonies of the events of the restoration by striving to understand the basic messages of the gospel.



SISTER KATHLEEN CARTER

The doctrine and practice of how Priesthood power is held and exercised on earth is a contentious topic within the world and the church. While not all church members may directly hold priesthood keys, we can all enjoy the blessings from and exercise the priesthood in our lives. President Russel M. Nelson said, “the kingdom of God is not and cannot be complete without women who make sacred covenants and then keep them, women who can speak with the power and authority of God!”

SISTER RUTH OLSON

As women in the church, it is sometimes easy to feel that our value is based on our relationship status, our reproductive abilities, or the importance of the calling of our husbands, but that is not true.

He needs us for who we are, and his love for us is shown in the way we are given access to the temple, the Priesthood, and all spiritual gifts. We can see significant gospel contributions through the examples of the women of the restoration, like Lucy Mac Smith, Jane Elizabeth Manning James, and Eliza R. Snow. All of these women made great accomplishments within the church and have done so in spite of challenges.

PRESIDENT KEUNG

Primary children and youth are the “fruit” of the restoration and the future of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

PRESIDENT DAVID M. LITCHFIELD

“In the ushering in of the dispensation of the fullness of times; which dispensation is now

beginning to usher in, that a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories should take place, and be revealed from the days of adam even to the present time, and not only this, but those things which have never been revealed from the foundation of the world, but have been kept hid from the wise and prudent, shall be revealed unto babes and sucklings in this the dispensation of the fullness of times,” (Latter-Day Saints’ Millennial Star). Revelation continues in the church and will continue until the Great Jehovah shall say, “the work is done.” We can rely on this revelation to gain our own testimony of the scriptures and the truths of the gospel.



JOIN US
NEXT TIME:
JUNE 6-7,
2020



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2021 17th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB