

a loving and yet chastening hand of correction, to refine my soul, deepen my feelings, grant a remission of my sins, and fill my soul with the love of God.

Let no trial or affliction, my brothers and sisters, ever separate us from the love of God and the true love of Christ (see Romans 8:31, 35–39).

May we “seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be and abide in [us] forever” (Ether 12:41). May the grace of God always be with you (see Romans 16:20). I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

#### **President Monson**

We have just heard from Elder Gene R. Cook of the Seventy. Thank you, Elder Cook, for that message.

### **Elder Neil L. Andersen**

#### **A prayer for support**

My dear brothers and sisters, words are so inadequate to express how humble and overwhelmed I feel at receiving this special calling. Throughout my life, as I have heard the General Authorities speak and felt the power of their messages, I have gained a great reverence for the sacred role they perform in the Church. Now to be invited to sit with them and assist them in building the kingdom of God is a privilege I feel faint in accepting. I pray for your support, for your faith and prayers that I might measure up. I ask for your patience and for the patience of my Brethren who will be my tutors. More than anything, I pray for the help of our Heavenly Father and his Son, for without their help and direction I will surely fail.

#### **Thanks for family and Saints**

I am grateful for my wonderful companion, Kathy. She makes goodness look

On Saturday, March 13, 1993, following a four-stake regional conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Elder Marvin J. Ashton experienced a nasal hemorrhage requiring medical attention. It has been deemed wise at this time not to burden him with delivery of his conference message. Our prayers are with you, Brother Ashton, and our suggestion is that you keep the message you prepared in a handy place for October conference.

We shall therefore be pleased to hear testimonies from our new General Authorities—Elder Neil Linden Andersen, who will first speak to us, followed by Elder David Todd Christofferson—who were sustained yesterday as members of the Seventy. Elder Andersen and Elder Christofferson, if you will take that first long walk now.

easy, and the purity of her spirit keeps our family focused on the simple yet saving truths of the gospel. I’m so thankful for the valiant and precious children that have been entrusted to us. I love them dearly and appreciate so much their willingness to support me in this new calling. I have been blessed with goodly parents. My parents are now serving as proselyting missionaries in the Georgia Macon Mission. Even before I knew the Church was true, I knew that they knew. I am so appreciative of Kathy’s parents and their example of unselfish giving and for our brothers and sisters who live the gospel in quiet yet dedicated ways.

Our family returned nine months ago from a mission in southern France. I want to express my great love for the members in France. It was in France twenty years ago that I began to glimpse what seeking first the kingdom of God really meant. And living among these French Saints during the last three years has motivated

our family to a much greater consecration. I am so grateful for the tremendous missionaries who served there with us and taught us that uncompromising faith will always prevail in a doubting and cynical world.

Finally, I am thankful for the good Saints and members in our home state of Florida, who have strengthened us through our many years there together.

### **Pledge and testimony**

I have heard President Monson say, "Whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies." I know this is true, and it gives me hope looking beyond my own inadequacies. I know that when we are on the Lord's errand, he will be with us, he will strengthen us, he will build our capacities. I have experienced it. I have felt his lifting Spirit. In the months and years ahead, I will need him so very much.

## **Elder D. Todd Christofferson**

Knowing that I might be invited to speak today, my daughter left me a kind note this morning, and at the end she added, "P.S. Don't trip." So far so good.

### **Serving the Lord sanctifies us**

Not long after I was ordained a deacon, my bishop, Leon Walker, asked me into his office to give me an assignment. He handed me a bright key, the key to the chapel, and charged me with responsibility to help look after the building. I considered myself one of the most fortunate boys in the world to have an assignment from my priesthood president. I thought this would not be a difficult task. My home was just a one-minute bicycle ride away from the building. But I soon learned what I suppose all bishops know, and that is that everybody in the ward seems to have a key to the building. As

I pledge all that I am to this sacred calling. I promise to be teachable, and I pray that I can be sufficiently meek that the Lord can mold and strengthen my spirit to accomplish his purposes. I commit to you and to the Lord that I will consecrate myself to advancing the cause of the Restoration and to loyally following his chosen leaders.

I know that our Heavenly Father lives and that he loves each one of us. I know that Jesus is the Christ and that he lovingly offers the way to our forgiveness. I know that through the Prophet Joseph Smith the Church of Jesus Christ was restored to the earth and that the true priesthood authority of God is in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I pray that I may always be valiant in that testimony and to these eternal truths, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

soon as I had the building locked up on an evening, someone came along behind me and opened a door. As soon as I had opened a Primary classroom, some diligent soul was there behind me to lock it up again. I could hardly stay on top of that job.

But I began to learn then, as I have come to understand since, that any call, any service in our Lord's cause sanctifies us. Whether it is performed in the glare of the public eye or in a quiet corner known only to God is of no consequence. What matters is that we do serve, for by serving we keep our covenants with Deity, and in those covenants is the promise of salvation.

### **Thanks to family and mentors**

Today I honor and express my love to those who taught me the covenants and