

it would feed us and always provide us a livelihood.”

How fortunate and privileged we are to be today in the presence of the prophets of God and to receive their loving influence. Due to the worldwide growth of the Church, a large number of our good members have never had the privilege to be near one of these wonderful leaders at any time during their lives. But I testify to you that they love the General Authorities, that they are following their teachings, and that they await humbly and patiently the day in which they can be at the feet of the prophets.

### **Let us keep the faith**

The conditions of peoples and of nations change due to progress in the world; nevertheless, in many such places, be it in the frosty mountain heights, in the warm valleys, at the rivers' edges, or in the desert places, wherever members of our church are found, there will always be those who live these basic principles, and by so doing they bless the rest of the people. Let us face our earthly challenges courageously in spite of where we live or whatever difficult circumstances we may be called to endure. Let us keep the faith.

## **Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr.**

### **Seeing ourselves as Jesus sees us**

As I express my appreciation for the privilege of being with you in this historic conference and for the opportunity to sustain our beloved prophet and his associates, I must also express gratitude—first, to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in this holy calling; and second, to all who have nurtured, tutored, and supported me. My family, particularly my wife, Sharon, has always been willing to provide what I have needed. Many

We are fortunate this day to be able to sustain a new prophet and his counselors, whom we love and support. In the coming days, in nearly all the nations of the earth, even in the most remote towns and villages, our members will also have the privilege of raising their hands joyfully to sustain them as we have done today.

Someday our journey here on the earth will end, and we will return to the presence of our Heavenly Father. I pray that on that day we may have the same courage and give the same testimony given by the Apostle Paul to Timothy: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

May the Lord bless us to continue being valiant, humble, and faithful. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### **President Faust**

We have just listened to Elder Eduardo Ayala of the Seventy.

Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr., who was sustained as a Seventy at October conference, will be our next speaker. He will be followed by Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

friends and colleagues, both in and out of the Church, have tried to understand what this assignment means to me and have been most thoughtful and encouraging. The Brethren have been particularly patient and kind, and I will ever be grateful to those who have lovingly helped me through these many weeks of self-evaluation and adjustment.

During this recent process of self-examination, I confess I have wondered what others might think about this appointment which has come to me. I have

reflected on the words of the poet Robert Burns, which I modernize with no disrespect intended: "Oh, what . . . a gift to give us, to see ourselves as others see us" ("To a Louse"). If it is of interest and of importance to recognize how we are viewed by others, particularly those about whom we care the most, then what a gift it must be to understand how the Savior sees us.

### **Become like the Savior**

And how are we to know how we are perceived by Jesus Christ? By how closely we conform to the standards that he has established for us and by the purity of the intents of our hearts. He is the one who has provided the perfect pattern and the perfect standard for all mankind not only by all that he is and did but with his compellingly clear question and invitation: "What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am" (3 Nephi 27:27). To do as he asks and to be what we should assures us of his approval. But to do otherwise invites his disappointment.

He who not only knows us best but loves us most has provided through the grandeur of his atonement all that we need to compensate for our failings, mistakes, sins, and disappointments if only we accept his invitation to come to him by way of the narrow gate and the strait path identified by his prophets (see 2 Nephi 31) and obtain the blessings made available to all who seek them through his authorized agents.

For those of us who love the Savior and strive to please him, President Gordon B. Hinckley in an earlier day has reminded us:

"As his followers, we cannot do a mean or shoddy or ungracious thing without tarnishing his image. Nor can we do a good and gracious and generous act without burnishing more brightly the symbol of him whose name we have taken upon ourselves" (*Be Thou an Ex-*

*ample* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1981], p. 90).

### **Minister to the many and to the one**

In his parable of the good Samaritan, the Son of God clarified his expectations for all people who would want to be like him (see Luke 10:30-37). Not only did he model and teach the attitudes and actions that he expects and requires from each of us, but he also provides the ordinances and covenants whereby we, through his duly appointed servants, might obtain all the blessings he has promised, both proximate and timeless.

With his magnificent compassion and power, the Savior was able to miraculously feed the multitudes of thousands when conditions required it (see Luke 9:10-17), but he was also willing to take the time to provide "living water" with its guidance to eternal life to the solitary sinner of professedly low status (see John 4:7-26). He graciously preached the gospel to large congregations but also was inclined to take time for a seemingly insignificant Nathanael and his individual questions (see John 1:45-51).

### **Be involved in the Savior's ministry**

He who under the direction of the Father had created the world and literally could do it all himself involves others in his ministry. At the time of his crucifixion he asked his beloved John to care for his mother, Mary, as if she were John's own mother (see John 19:25-27). During our time, Jesus Christ himself, together with his Father, appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and yet Moroni was given the privilege and honor to be his agent in bringing forth the Book of Mormon. This is the Savior's church, and yet he has called President Gordon B. Hinckley to preside over us during our day. I certify with gratitude, but also with some hopefully appropriate trepidation, that the Lord has called you and

me to represent him in various important ways and duties, whether they seem large or small to us.

As we strive to better understand how Jesus sees us and contemplate our own attempts to live as the Redeemer would have us live, let us remember his instructing observations and their uni-

versal applications in literally all that we do: "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15) and "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## Elder Russell M. Nelson

### Children of the covenant

The title of my message is the scriptural phrase "children of the covenant."<sup>1</sup> In introducing this topic I will reflect on recent events as a colleague of President Howard W. Hunter and as a father and on earlier experiences as a doctor of medicine.

These past weeks have been challenging for Sister Nelson and me. Not only have we bid farewell to our beloved President Hunter, but thirty-three days earlier we suffered the demise of our precious daughter Emily. A mother of five young children, Emily had just celebrated her thirty-seventh birthday when called to the other side.

President Hunter influenced Emily's life in a real way. She welcomed his invitation for all adult members of the Church to hold a temple recommend. She and her husband, Bradley Wittwer, regarded their regular time in the temple as a sacred privilege. They viewed "the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of their membership and the supernal setting for their most sacred covenants."<sup>2</sup> She strived to emulate the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even though illness brought intense suffering to President Hunter and Emily, an angry word never fell from their lips. Instead they chose to endure with loving faith. When well-meaning friends and family expressed concern for Emily, she cheerfully replied, "Don't worry; I'll

be OK!" Even when she concluded a telephone call, she did not close with the customary "good-bye." She would say, "I love you!"

When President Boyd K. Packer and I last visited President Hunter, he beckoned for Sister Hunter, reached for her hand, and said with a smile, "I feel better when you are near me."

My tears of sorrow have flowed along with wishes that I could have done more for our daughter and for our President. If I had the power of resurrection, I would have been tempted to bring them back. Though one of the ordained Apostles, each of whom is entrusted with all the keys of the kingdom of God, I do not hold keys of the Resurrection. Jesus Christ holds those keys and will use them for Emily, for President Hunter, and for all people in the Lord's own time.<sup>3</sup>

Emily and President Hunter had no fear of death. They had made and honored sacred covenants with the Lord, and they knew that his covenants to them will be kept with equal fidelity.<sup>4</sup> They lived nobly as "children of the covenant."

### Identification and indoctrination

Years ago as a young medical student I saw many patients afflicted with diseases that are now preventable. Today it is possible to immunize individuals against conditions that once were disabling—even deadly. One medical method by which acquired immunity is