

seeking for honor, competition, and lying. All of these are of the natural man, and not of the man of Christ.

12. See 1 John 4:19.
13. See Doctrine and Covenants 138:13. My friend knew the suffering would help her prove herself (see Abraham 3:24–25; D&C 98:13–14); learn to choose between good and evil (see 2 Nephi 2:18); learn that blessings come after the trials (see D&C 58:2–4); learn obedience, patience, and faith (see D&C 105:6; Mosiah 23:21; Romans 5:3–5); obtain a forgiveness of sin (see Helaman 15:3; D&C 132:50, 60; 95:1).
14. See 2 Peter 1:1–8.
15. Doctrine and Covenants 88:125.
16. Moroni 7:48.
17. See Moroni 8:25–26; Romans 5:5; 2 Nephi 26:13.
18. See Moses 6:63; Alma 30:44.
19. See 1 John 4:8.
20. See Doctrine and Covenants 88:33.
21. See Alma 5:26.
22. See Alma 26:16; Moroni 10:3.
23. See Doctrine and Covenants 133:52–53.
24. See Alma 34:38.
25. See 1 John 2:15–17.
26. See Mosiah 4:11–12.
27. See Alma 38:12.
28. See Doctrine and Covenants 93:12–13, 20.
29. See 1 John 3:1–3.
30. See John 13:34; Doctrine and Covenants 112:11.
31. “Beware of pride, and not seek to excel one above another, but act for each oth-

er’s good” (Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 155).

32. See 1 Corinthians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 10:5.
33. “That man is most truly great who is most Christlike. What you sincerely in your heart think of Christ will determine what you are, will largely determine what your acts will be. . . . By choosing him as our ideal, we create within ourselves a desire to be like him, to have fellowship with him” (David O. McKay, in Conference Report, Apr. 1951, 93, 98). If you think about Him long enough, you will begin to act like Him. If you act like Him long enough, you’ll truly become like Him.
34. Alma 37:36.
35. Alma 33:23.

### President Monson

The choir and congregation will now sing “How Firm a Foundation.” Following the singing, we will hear testimonies from Sister Bonnie D. Parkin, the new general president of the Relief Society, and Elders Gerald N. Lund and William R. Walker, newly called members of the Seventy. We will then be pleased to hear from Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

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The choir and congregation sang  
“How Firm a Foundation.”

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## Sister Bonnie D. Parkin

### Expressions of gratitude

Brothers and sisters, there is a saying: “Welcome the opportunity that takes you beyond your ordinary self if you would grow.” And I’m sure I’m going to grow. May I express our thanks to Sister Smoot, Sister Jensen, and Sister Dew for the great service they’ve given to all of us as members of the Church. I express my gratitude

to my counselors, Kathleen Hughes and Anne Pingree, for their willingness to serve. They are women of faith.

I am so grateful this day for my mother and father, for the teachings they gave me, for their love, for teaching me to work. I do know how to work. I am grateful for my husband. Jim is a wonderful companion. I love him, and I’m grateful for his support. He’s a man of integrity.

I'm grateful for sons and for their wives, who have helped them become better men. I'm grateful for grandchildren. The other evening we drove down to the home of one of our sons to tell him about this calling. They had their children tucked in bed. I said to Brett and Angie, "I've been called to be the general Relief Society president." And Brett said, "You? The president of the Relief Society for the whole Church?" Aren't your children wonderful? He said what I have been feeling for the past few weeks.

Yesterday when we arrived home, I had a fax from our son David and his wife, Jennifer, in Belgium. David said, "Mother, I know you can do it. You may not remember, but you used to have a scripture on the fridge that said, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:15)." He said, "I was in and out of the fridge a lot, and I knew that you and Dad meant that." I'm so grateful for our children.

I'm grateful to the women of the Church who have mentored me, who have loved me, who have taught me, who have believed in me. I'm grateful for the missionaries in the England London South Mission, for their goodness, for the way they keep their covenants. I'm grateful for the British Saints who loved me and helped me be part of that great land.

Now, brothers and sisters, I do not know why I was called, but I do know that I was called. I pledge to you my love, my support, and I ask that you be patient as I learn.

I invite the young adult women of the Church, wherever you are, to look at Relief Society and know that you are needed there, that we love you, that together we can have a grand time. Please come and be with us.

### Feel the love of the Lord

As Wallace Stegner wrote of the Mormons, "Their women were incredible."<sup>1</sup> And they are today! I know that the Lord loves the women of the Church. If I could have one thing happen for every woman in this Church, it would be that they would feel the love of the Lord in their lives daily. I have felt the love of the Lord in my life, and I am so thankful for that. I'm thankful for the peace that I have felt.

I testify of my Savior Jesus Christ. I know He lives. I have felt His love; I have felt His forgiveness. I think of a sister missionary as she departed the mission. In her final testimony she said, "I came on a mission to let Heavenly Father know I loved Him, to express appreciation to Him, and to pay Him back," and she said, "I'm leaving more in His debt than I ever was before I came."

I give testimony of the power of a prophet of God, President Gordon B. Hinckley, and I'm thankful for him and for his love and for all prophets who have had confidence in me. I testify of these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### NOTE

1. *The Gathering of Zion: The Story of the Mormon Trail* (1964), 13.

## Elder Gerald N. Lund

### Fulfilling the Lord's desires, not our own

After 34 years in the Church Educational System, my wife and I decided about three years ago to retire and set our feet on some different paths in life. At that point we began to make plans. We changed

our residence to be closer to children and grandchildren. I began to develop what I thought were some wonderful projects. Some were absolutely brilliant, I thought. And then one of those pivotal moments in life happened.