

responsibility for finding employment or improving your employment rests with you. Continued guidance comes from the Lord through regular fasting and prayer. Your quorum leaders, bishops, specialists, and employment resource center staff will help in your efforts. We fear, however, that often priesthood leaders are unaware of your situation. *Speak up!* Let them know you are looking for work. And bishops and priesthood leaders, *rise up* and let the brotherhood of the priesthood engage themselves in the wonderful opportunity to truly be a quorum, a brotherhood, a brother's keeper.

President Gordon B. Hinckley, while a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said:

"I am satisfied, my brethren, that there is enough of expertise, of knowledge, of strength, of concern in every priesthood quorum to assist the troubled members of that quorum if these resources are properly administered.

". . . It is the obligation of the priesthood quorum to set in motion those forces and facilities which will equip the needy member to provide on a continuing basis for himself and his family."³

"Go and bring in those people"

In October 1856, during a general conference, President Young learned that two handcart companies, the Martin company and the Willie company, were traveling late in the season and would face harsh winter weather on the plains of the western United States. He stood at the pulpit as a prophet of God and declared:

"Many of our brethren and sisters are on the plains with hand-carts, . . . and they must be brought here, we must send assistance to them. . . . This community is to send for them and bring them in. . . .

"That is my religion; that is the dictation of the Holy Ghost that I possess, it is to save the people. . . .

"I will tell you all that your faith, religion, and profession of religion, will never save one soul of you in the celestial kingdom of our God, unless you carry out just such principles as I am now teaching you. Go and bring in those people now on the plains."⁴

As a result of President Young's call to action, wagons with teams of mules, men to drive them, and flour and other supplies were immediately sent to rescue the people stranded on the plains.

Brethren, this is your phone call. This is our phone call. May the Lord bless us all with the same sense of urgency to answer the call today to bring in our people from these economic challenges as He did in the case of the handcart companies is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, "A Gospel Vision of Welfare: Faith in Action," in *Basic Principles of Welfare and Self-Reliance* (booklet, 2009), 1.
2. Thomas S. Monson, in Conference Report, Apr. 2001, 65; or *Ensign*, May 2001, 50.
3. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Welfare Responsibilities of the Priesthood Quorums," *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 85–86.
4. Brigham Young, *Deseret News*, Oct. 15, 1856, 252.

Elder Claudio R. M. Costa

Elder Andersen, in behalf of the Seventies, I would like to say to you that we love you and we sustain you with our hearts and faith.

Priesthood responsibilities

My dear brethren, it is a sacred privilege to be part of the royal army of the Lord.¹ I

am humbled as I stand before you, imagining you assembled in locations throughout the world.

In the worldwide leadership training meeting held on June 21, 2003, President Gordon B. Hinckley taught us that as priesthood holders we have a fourfold responsibility. He said: “Each of us has a fourfold responsibility. First, we have a responsibility to our families. Second, we have a responsibility to our employers. Third, we have a responsibility to the Lord’s work. Fourth, we have a responsibility to ourselves.”²

The four areas of responsibility are vitally important.

Family obligations

President Hinckley said: “It is imperative that you not neglect your families. Nothing you have is more precious.”³

It is our responsibility as fathers to lead our families in daily family prayer, daily study of the scriptures, and in family home evening. We must prioritize and preserve these opportunities to build and strengthen the spiritual underpinnings of our families. President Hinckley said: “Try not to let anything interfere. Consider it sacred.”⁴

Concerning family home evening, he said, “Keep Monday night sacred for family home evening.”⁵

Our children, just like their parents, have time demands on them in every aspect of their lives. They have activities involving church and school and friends. Many of our children are attending schools where they are the minority. Frequently the schools schedule events on Monday evenings—activities like sports, rehearsals or practices, choirs, and other events. We need to keep Monday nights free of other commitments so that we can have our family home evenings. No other activity is more important for our family.

It is during the family home evening and in other family settings that we prepare our children to receive the blessings

of the Lord. Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve said: “Ours is the responsibility to ensure that we have family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening. Ours is the responsibility to prepare our children to receive the ordinances of salvation and exaltation.”⁶

Family home evening is a very special time for us to strengthen ourselves and each family member. It is important to include the whole family in assignments for family home evening. A child could share the Primary lesson that he or she had last Sunday. Family home evening strengthened the faith and testimony of my own family.

Daily study of the scriptures is another important family activity. I remember when my son was seven years old. He was taking a shower one night during a storm when we lost the power in our home. My wife called to him and told him to hurry to finish his shower and to then take a candle and come slowly downstairs for our family prayer. She warned him to be careful to not drop the candle on the carpet because it could start a fire and the house could burn down. Several minutes later he came down the stairs struggling to hold the candle in one hand, and with his other arm he was carrying his scriptures. His mother asked him why he was bringing his scriptures. His answer to her was, “Mom, if the house burns down, I must save my scriptures!” We knew that our efforts to help him to love the scriptures had been planted in his heart forever.

Obligations outside the home

Regarding our responsibility to our employers, President Hinckley said: “You have an obligation. Be honest with your employer. Do not do Church work on his time.”⁷

He also reminded us that our employment enables us to take care of our family as well as allowing us to be effective servants in the Church.

Priesthood holders have many responsibilities and assignments. We have opportunities to visit, interview, teach, and serve people. It is our sacred responsibility to edify Church members and to help strengthen their faith and testimony of our Savior Jesus Christ. We have opportunities to take care of the families whom we serve as home teachers and to teach members to provide for themselves, their families, and the poor and needy in the Lord's way. Priesthood holders have the responsibility to motivate the youth to prepare to serve honorable full-time missions and to be married in the temple.⁸

President Ezra Taft Benson taught, "Priesthood holders need to provide watchcare over quorum members and their families through organized home teaching."⁹

We need to be concerned about each member of the Church for whom we have responsibility. Home teaching is one of our great responsibilities.

Setting an example of service

As fathers, we also have the sacred responsibility to set a worthy example for our children to help them to become better parents and leaders in their own homes. Quoting Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve: "May we ask all priesthood leaders, especially you fathers, to help prepare your sons. Prepare them both spiritually and temporally, to look and to act as servants of the Lord."¹⁰

When we receive the priesthood, we make an eternal covenant to serve others.¹¹ As priesthood holders, we can be a powerful influence in the lives of others.

President Thomas S. Monson reminded us: "How fortunate and blessed we are to be holders of the priesthood of God. . . .

"... Always remember that people are looking to you for leadership and you are

influencing the lives of individuals either for good or for bad, which influence will be felt for generations to come."¹²

Our example will always speak loudly. During my years as a Church member, I have been influenced by the examples of many leaders and Church members. I remember a wonderful couple who were great examples to our family and to the entire ward. They were baptized in 1982. I was their bishop.

Celso and Irene lived quite far from the chapel. They walked 40 minutes each way to the church, and they never missed a meeting. They were always present with big smiles on their faces. It was their disposition to serve others. Celso and Irene have a son, Marcos, who was born mentally and physically handicapped. I remember well how they took such loving care of their son. In 1999 Celso had a cerebral brain hemorrhage that left his lower body paralyzed. Celso continued to come to church faithfully with his family. They were faithful in the payment of their tithing and paid generous fast offerings. Our son Moroni is now their bishop, and he shared with me that Celso and Irene continue to serve faithfully. Not only do they serve in their ward callings; they also serve faithfully as ordinance workers in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. They serve every Friday from early morning until night. They always contribute so willingly of their time and resources in faithfully fulfilling their Church responsibilities.

President Monson counseled: "Most service given by priesthood holders is accomplished quietly, without fanfare. A friendly smile, a warm handclasp, a sincere testimony of truth can literally lift lives, change human nature, and save precious souls."¹³

That is the kind of quiet service rendered by Celso and Irene.

Spiritual growth

As we consider the wise use of our time and resources to meet the needs of our families, our employment, and our Church callings, it is important to remember that every priesthood holder needs to grow spiritually. This is a responsibility we have to ourselves. And it is important to remember that we all have helpers.¹⁴ The counsel from our prophets, seers, and revelators is the most precious help that we receive.

Our Savior extended this invitation to each and every one of us individually:

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”¹⁵

When we do His work and His will, rather than our own will, we will realize that the yoke is easy and the burden is light. He will be with us always. He will reveal to us the exact portion that we need for success with our families, our career, and every responsibility that we have in His Church. He will help us to grow individually and as brethren in the priesthood.

I know that the Church is true. I know that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. I know that Thomas S. Monson is the living prophet on the earth today. I know that Jesus is the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. See “Behold! A Royal Army,” *Hymns*, no. 251.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, June 21, 2003, 22.
3. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” 22.
4. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” 22.
5. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” 23.
6. Russell M. Nelson, in Conference Report, Apr. 1999, 53; or *Ensign*, May 1999, 40.
7. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” 23.
8. See First Presidency letter, Sept. 25, 1996, “Leadership Training Emphasis.”
9. Ezra Taft Benson, “Strengthen Thy Stakes,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1991, 5.
10. M. Russell Ballard, in Conference Report, Apr. 1985, 55; or *Ensign*, May 1985, 43.
11. See M. Russell Ballard, “The Greater Priesthood: Giving a Lifetime of Service in the Kingdom,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1992, 72.
12. Thomas S. Monson, in Conference Report, Apr. 2008, 65–66; or *Ensign*, May 2008, 65–66; see also N. Eldon Tanner, in Conference Report, Oct. 1975, 112; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1975, 74.
13. Thomas S. Monson, in Conference Report, Oct. 2008, 64; or *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 62.
14. See Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoicing in the Privilege to Serve,” 23.
15. Matthew 11:29–30.

President Monson

Thank you, brethren.

The choir and congregation will now sing “High on the Mountain Top.” President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, will then address us. He will be followed by President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency.

The choir and congregation sang
“High on the Mountain Top.”
