

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The first session of the 180th Annual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Conference Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, 2010. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf conducted this session.

Music was provided by the Tabernacle Choir, directed by Mack Wilberg, with Richard Elliott and Andrew Unsworth as the organists. To begin this session, the choir sang “Sweet Is the Work.” President Uchtdorf then made the following remarks.

### President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Brothers and sisters, we welcome you to the first session of the 180th Annual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and extend a very special and heartfelt welcome to members and friends participating here in the Conference Center and throughout the world, wherever you may be. President Thomas S. Monson, who presides at this conference, has asked that I conduct this session.

We also acknowledge with appreciation the General Authorities and the general auxiliary presidencies in attendance at this conference.

The music for this session will be by the Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Mack Wilberg, with Richard Elliott and Andrew Unsworth at the organ. The choir opened this session by singing “Sweet Is the Work” and will now favor us with “Come, Ye Children of the Lord.” The invocation will then be offered by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi of the Seventy.

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The choir sang “Come, Ye Children of the Lord.”

Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi offered the invocation.

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### President Uchtdorf

Brothers and sisters, we shall now be pleased to hear from our beloved prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. Following his remarks, the choir will sing “There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today.” After the choir has sung, we will hear from President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and he will be followed by Sister Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president. Following her remarks, Bishop Keith B. McMullin of the Presiding Bishopric will address us.

## President Thomas S. Monson

### Steady Church growth for 180 years

How good it is, my beloved brothers and sisters, to meet together once again. This conference marks 180 years since the Church was organized. How grateful we are for the Prophet Joseph Smith, who sought for the truth, who found it, and who, under the direction of the Lord, restored the gospel and organized the Church.

The Church has grown steadily since that day in 1830. It continues to change the lives of more and more people every year and to spread across the earth as our missionary force seeks out those who are searching for the truth. Once again we call upon the members of the Church to reach out to the new converts or to those making their way back into the Church, to surround them with love and to help them feel at home.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters, for your faith and devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for all that you do in your wards and branches, in your stakes and districts. You serve willingly and well and accomplish great good. May the Lord bless you as you strive to follow Him and to obey His commandments.

### **Humanitarian assistance**

Since last we met, the Church has continued to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance in various locations around the world. In the past three months alone, humanitarian assistance has been provided in French Polynesia, Mongolia, Bolivia, Peru, Arizona, Mexico, Portugal, and Uganda, among other areas. Most recently we have assisted in Haiti and Chile following devastating earthquakes and tsunamis in those areas. We express our love to our Church members who have suffered in these disasters. You are in our prayers. We express profound gratitude to all of you for your willingness to assist with our humanitarian efforts by sharing your resources and, in many cases, your time, your talents, and your expertise.

This year marks 25 years since our humanitarian program became part of our welfare effort. The number of individuals assisted by this program could never adequately be measured. We will always strive to be among the first on the scene of disasters, wherever they may occur.

### **Building of temples**

The Church continues to grow and to move forward. The building of temples is an indication of such growth. Recently we announced a new temple which will be built in Payson, Utah. We also announced major renovations which will be made to the Ogden Utah Temple. Within the next three months we will dedicate new temples in Vancouver, British Columbia; in the Gila Valley, Arizona; and in Cebu City in the Philippines. Later in the year other temples

will be dedicated or rededicated. We will continue to build temples throughout the world as our membership grows. Each year millions of ordinances are performed in the temples for our deceased loved ones. May we continue to be faithful in performing such ordinances for those who are unable to do so for themselves.

### **Frances Monson's recovery**

Many of you are aware that a short time after October conference, my dear wife, Frances, suffered a fall, which left her with a broken hip and a broken shoulder. After two successful surgeries and several weeks of hospitalization, she was able to return home. She is doing well and continues to make progress toward a full recovery. She was able to attend the general Young Women meeting last Saturday and plans to attend a session or two this weekend. In fact, at the last minute she said, "I'm going today!" And she's here! She joins me in expressing our deep gratitude to our Heavenly Father and to all of you for your prayers and your well wishes in her behalf.

### **A variety of messages to be given**

Now, brothers and sisters, we have come here to be instructed and inspired. We welcome those of you who are new in the Church. Others of you are struggling with problems, with challenges, with disappointments, with losses. We love you and we pray for you. Many messages, covering a variety of gospel topics, will be given during the next two days. Those men and women who will speak to you have sought heaven's help concerning the messages they will give.

It is my prayer that we may be filled with His Spirit as we listen and learn. That this may be so, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, amen.

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The choir sang "There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today."

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