

By President  
Thomas S. Monson



# Love at Home—

## COUNSEL FROM OUR PROPHET

### **Blessed Family Life**

“When we have sampled much and have wandered far and have seen how fleeting and sometimes superficial a lot of the world is, our gratitude grows for the privilege of being part of something we can count on—home and family and the loyalty of loved ones. We come to know what it means to be bound together by duty, by respect, by belonging. We learn that nothing can fully take the place of the blessed relationship of family life.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Sharing Our Love**

“Give your child a compliment and a hug; say, ‘I love you’ more; always express your thanks. Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved. Friends move away, children grow up, loved ones pass on. It’s so easy to take others for granted, until that day when they’re gone from our lives and we are left with feelings of ‘what if’ and ‘if only.’ . . .

“Let us relish life as we live it, find joy in the journey and share our love with friends and family. One day, each of us will run out of tomorrows. Let us not put off what is most important.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Showing Our Love**

“Brethren, let’s treat our wives with dignity and with respect. They’re our eternal companions. Sisters, honor

your husbands. They need to hear a good word. They need a friendly smile. They need a warm expression of true love. . . .

“To you who are parents, I say, show love to your children. You know you love them, but make certain they know it as well. They are so precious. Let them know. Call upon our Heavenly Father for help as you care for their needs each day and as you deal with the challenges which inevitably come with parenthood. You need more than your own wisdom in rearing them.”<sup>3</sup>

### **Expressing Our Love**

“To you parents, express your love to your children. Pray for them that they may be able to withstand the evils of the world. Pray that they may grow in faith and testimony. Pray that they may pursue lives of goodness and of service to others.

“Children, let your parents know you love them. Let them know how much you appreciate all they have done and continue to do for you.”<sup>4</sup>

### **What Is Most Important**

“What is most important almost always involves the people around us. Often we assume that they must know how much we love them. But we should never assume; we should let them know. Wrote William

Shakespeare, "They do not love that do not show their love." We will never regret the kind words spoken or the affection shown. Rather, our regrets will come if such things are omitted from our relationships with those who mean the most to us."<sup>5</sup>

### Bringing Heaven Closer

"May our families and homes be filled with love: love of each other, love of the gospel, love of our fellowman, and love of our Savior. As a result, heaven will be a little closer here on earth.

"May we make of our homes sanctuaries to which our family members will ever want to return."<sup>6</sup>

### A Prayer for Families

"Inasmuch as the family unit is under attack in the world today, and many things long held sacred are ridiculed, we ask Thee, our Father, to make us equal to the challenges we face, that we may stand strong for truth and righteousness. May our homes be havens of peace, of love and of spirituality."<sup>7</sup>

#### NOTES

1. "A Sanctuary from the World," *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Feb. 9, 2008, 29.
2. "Joy in the Journey" (Brigham Young University Women's Conference, May 2, 2008), <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/womensconference/archive/transcripts.cfm>.
3. "Abundantly Blessed," *Liahona*, May 2008, 112.
4. "Until We Meet Again," *Liahona*, May 2009, 113.
5. "Finding Joy in the Journey," *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 86.
6. "A Sanctuary from the World," 30–31.
7. Dedicatory prayer for The Gila Valley Arizona Temple, May 23, 2010; in "The Gila Valley Arizona Temple: 'Wilt Thou Hallow This House,'" *Church News*, May 29, 2010, 5.

### TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

"In a brainstorming activity, the teacher presents a question or situation and gives learners a short amount of time to freely suggest solutions or ideas" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 160). As you read this article with the family, ask them to listen for counsel or ideas that impress them. Family members could then brainstorm ways to increase love in their home. Consider inviting the family to review these ideas in an upcoming family home evening.

## YOUTH

### Mother Rescued Us

By Patricia Auxier

When I was six, my little sister and I were watching our older sister's basketball game. My dad left, and then we decided that we wanted to go home with him, so we ran after him in the rain. When we couldn't find him, we went back to the gym to go home with our mom, but by the time we entered the gym, everyone in the building was gone.

I remember huddling in a doorway, trying to get my little sister and me out of the rain, praying that someone would come. Then I remember hearing the door to our red van slam shut, and we went running toward the sound. Then came one of the most vivid childhood memories I have: our mother enfolding us in her arms "as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings" (3 Nephi 10:4). My mother had rescued us, and I never felt more secure than I did at that moment.

As I think of her influence on me, I see that my mother's life has pointed me toward the Savior and has shown me what it means to "lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees" (D&C 81:5). She relied on Jesus Christ, who gave her strength "beyond [her] own" ("Lord, I Would Follow Thee," *Hymns*, no. 220).

## CHILDREN

### Building a Happy Home

President Monson suggests ways we can build a happy home. Look through the article to find things you and your family can do to make a happy home.

Each time you find something you can do, write it down. Find at least five ways you can build a happy home and draw a house with your family in it.



Faith • Family • Relief

# A Society of Holy Women

*Study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life.*

Eliza R. Snow, second Relief Society general president, taught: “Paul the Apostle anciently spoke of holy women. It is the duty of each one of us to be a holy woman. We shall have elevated aims, if we are holy women. We shall feel that we are called to perform important duties. No one is exempt from them. There is no sister so isolated, and her sphere so narrow but what she can do a great deal towards establishing the Kingdom of God upon the earth.”<sup>1</sup>

Sisters, we are not isolated nor is our sphere narrow. By accepting the gift of activity in Relief Society, we become part of what the Prophet Joseph described as a society “separate from all the evils of the world—choice, virtuous, and holy.”<sup>2</sup>

This society helps us strengthen our faith and grow spiritually by giving us leadership, service, and teaching opportunities. In our service a new dimension is added to our lives. We progress spiritually, and our sense of belonging, identity, and self-worth increases. We realize that the whole intent of the gospel plan is to provide an opportunity for us to reach our fullest potential.

Relief Society helps prepare us to receive the blessings of the

temple, to honor the covenants we make, and to be engaged in the cause of Zion. Relief Society helps us increase our faith and personal righteousness, strengthen families, and seek out and help those in need.

The work of Relief Society is holy, and doing holy work creates holiness in us.

*Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency.*

## From the Scriptures

Exodus 19:5; Psalm 24:3–4;  
1 Thessalonians 4:7; Titus 2:3–4;  
Doctrine and Covenants 38:24;  
46:33; 82:14; 87:8; Moses 7:18

## From Our History

Speaking to the Female Relief Society of Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph emphasized holiness, explaining that as sisters became pure and holy, they would have a marked influence upon the world. He explained: “Meekness, love, purity—these are the things that should magnify you. . . . This Society . . . shall have power to command queens in their midst. . . . The kings and queens of the earth will come unto Zion, and pay their respects.” Relief Society sisters living

their covenants command the respect not only of noble people, but “if you live up to your privileges,” Joseph promised the sisters, “the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates.”<sup>3</sup>

As the sisters participated in the work of serving and saving others, they became personally sanctified. Lucy Mack Smith, the Prophet’s mother, shared the good Relief Society could accomplish: “We must cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another and gain instruction, that we may all sit down in heaven together.”<sup>4</sup>

## NOTES

1. Eliza R. Snow, “An Address,” *Woman’s Exponent*, Sept. 15, 1873, 62.
2. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 4:570.
3. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 4:605, 606.
4. Lucy Mack Smith, in Relief Society, Minute Book Mar. 1842–Mar. 1844, entry for Mar. 24, 1842, Church History Library, 18–19.

## What Can I Do?

1. How am I helping the sisters I watch over to cultivate and achieve “elevated aims”?
2. What am I doing to make my life “choice, virtuous, and holy”?

For more information, go to [www.reliefsociety.lds.org](http://www.reliefsociety.lds.org).

