

ASIA AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

The Blessings of Going to the House of the Lord

By Elder Hoi Seng Leonard Woo

Of the Seventy

One of the most beautiful doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is that families can be together forever. Combining this with the promises of Elijah “of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers” (D&C 27:9) makes the temple, or the house of the Lord, so important and precious to all Latter-day Saints.

The first blessing of going to the house of the Lord is receiving the endowment and sealing ordinances essential for one’s own salvation. This is a matter of the highest priority. It is of such importance that the Church has established a temple patron assistance fund to help faithful members who need financial assistance to go to the temple to receive their own ordinances and to be sealed to their families.

Worthy members can enjoy several other blessings as they go to the house of the Lord. These blessings include:

1. A deeper understanding of the plan of salvation, especially principles and doctrine related to the Creation of the earth and the Fall of Adam. In the endowment ordinance, a member is also endowed with greater light and knowledge which enable him/her to see more clearly

Satan’s efforts in obstructing our path back to our Heavenly Father. President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95) has taught, “The temple is a place of instruction where profound truths pertaining to the Kingdom of God are unfolded.”¹

2. We live in a noisy, turbulent, and chaotic world where Satan has vast influence and dominion. Besides our homes and chapels, the temple is the best place for faithful Church members to remove themselves from the world. The quiet, peaceful, and reverent atmosphere in the temple is ideal for reflecting on personal issues and for receiving personal revelation.
3. For members who are burdened with the pressures of life or facing great



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personal trials, going to the house of the Lord can provide the needed break or solace. This allows them to gain a clearer perspective of their trials or to regain their perspective of life. Most challenges in life can be handled better if we can take a long-term, even eternal, perspective of them. Almost all the teachings, covenants, and ordinances performed in the temple point to the eternities.

4. The youth of today face challenges and temptations greater than any prior generations. Active involvement in baptism for their ancestral dead as proxy is a powerful way to fortify our youth. Even greater blessings will flow to our youth if they combine proxy work of baptism in the temple with their own personal efforts in family history work. As youth perform temple ordinances together, it will also strengthen their bond with each other.
5. Temple prayer roll is a unique privilege given to members attending the temple. Members may call upon the collective faith and prayers of those attending the temple to assist their families or friends who need special blessings.
6. Another great blessing happens when ward members attend the

temple together. They will return to their ward with greater unity and love for one another. Members should make every effort to participate in ward temple excursions or ward temple night activities.

President Russell M. Nelson, after being set apart as the 17th President of The Church on January 14, 2018, delivered these remarks during a live broadcast from the annex of the Salt Lake Temple. He said, “As a new Presidency, we want to begin with the end in mind.

For this reason, we’re speaking to you today from a temple. The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life. The ordinances of the temple and the covenants you make there are key to strengthening your life, your marriage and family, and your ability to resist the attacks of the adversary. Your worship in the temple and your service there for your ancestors will bless you

with increased personal revelation and peace and will fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path.”²

Anyone who attends the temple will leave with a greater desire to do good, to be a better parent, to be a more loving and forgiving individual, and to have a greater desire to resist worldly temptations. We will always be a better person after attending the temple. ■

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Howard W. Hunter* (2015), 179.
2. Russell M. Nelson, “As We Go Forward Together,” *Liahona*, Apr. 2018, 7.

LOCAL PAGES

A Temple in India

Bishop Jonas Akilula
Bengaluru India Stake

One of the first doctrines that I heard when I joined the Church was about the temples. Missionaries taught about the temples using a picture of the Salt Lake Temple. Being a Christian from my childhood, I was excited to learn about the temples as I already have a fair idea of the holy places that God used to dwell. I learned about the tabernacle that Moses built in the wilderness and the temples built by Solomon and the one built during the time of Herod.

On my mission, I understood something interesting and amazing. In the

early days of the Restoration, members around the globe immigrated to Utah, which some people used to refer to as Zion. But Church leaders later emphasized the need to establish Zion wherever we live.

After our marriage, Asha and I had to spend our entire bonus amount which we got from our company in buying our plane tickets to Hong Kong. We had to spend a considerable amount of money towards the travel, stay, and other expenses. Though it was possible for us to do this then, we know that it is the most challenging thing that most of the members will do.

After understanding this doctrine on my mission, I was yearning to hear the announcement of a temple

in India. That day came much before the time I anticipated, filling my heart with unspeakable joy and happiness. My wife and I were happy that we no longer have to travel a long distance to be in the Lord’s temple.

Much before the announcement of the temple came the good news to Bangalore that President Nelson and Elder Holland were going to visit Bengaluru. While many of us were not sure about the purpose of his visit, we knew that something was going to happen as a result of his visit. One member in our ward told the congregation on the fast and testimony Sunday that she strongly felt that the prophet was going to announce about a temple in India. To our surprise came that good news



and flooded social media during the wee hours of Monday.

The prophet's visit became even more exciting, and my family with several other families waited for his visit to see what he would counsel

us. I was excited to get an opportunity to pray in that meeting and listen to his message from just a few feet away. His words strengthened my testimony significantly. He helped us realize how we should be

preparing ourselves for the temple.

He counselled us that we should stop contentions, love one another, and be honest and fair. He told us to remember to follow the ABCs, in which "A" stands for ancestors and antiquity, "B" stands for being worthy, and "C" stands for teaching children the gospel. After uttering these things, he invoked a powerful blessing on all of us. Without a speck of doubt, I know that he is the prophet and living witness of Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ■

A Prophet in Our Native Land



I was so happy to meet President Nelson. When tickets became available for the event to meet the prophet, I made a phone call to our district president for a ticket, but he told me to wait. Later I prayed to God for a ticket and made a phone call to the district president again the next day and I got a ticket. I travelled with three other brothers by car to meet President Nelson in Bengaluru. On the way we stopped our car to have lunch in a village, where we met family members who were sad because their son had died, so we shared our testimony and told them that we were travelling to meet the living prophet, and later they felt so happy. When I met our prophet, I was so happy to hear the words which God instructed him to speak to us. I felt so blessed to hear God's words. I was

thankful to God for helping me to meet living prophet.

—Prakash Prince (Chennai 1st Branch)



It's different looking at him in person—he was radiant.

It's a very wonderful feeling.

It was beyond description and so wonderful.

—Binitha Babu (Chennai 3rd Branch)



I cannot really express my feeling on meeting the prophet of the world face to face. I felt like shedding happy tears.

The entire room was filled with the strong and sweet Spirit of the Lord. If I had not made the effort to come to Bengaluru, I would have missed this

wonderful experience, comfort, and peace which this meeting brought into my life.

—Priya (Chennai 1st Branch)



It was really wonderful to me. I loved the moments the prophet arrived and spoke the words which God has revealed.

—Manju Babu (Chennai 3rd Branch)



I was really happy and excited to see the prophet. When I saw him, he looked so young and he did not look like he was 93 years old. I can see the humbleness, and he is very meek. I always wanted to meet the prophet, and this experience was a dream come true for me. ■

—Rosy Pannerselvam (Chennai 1st Branch)

The Temple: a Great Blessing to India



When our prophet announced temple in India, I was so excited. I could not hold my tears back because we experienced the temple

ordinances and blessings at Taiwan Taipei Temple. Participating in temple ordinances is wonderful and important to follow Jesus Christ. It is an essential step towards life which we are to live with our Heavenly Father someday.

As Latter-day Saints, let us all prepare ourselves to enter into to the holy temple. I am eagerly waiting for the Bengaluru India Temple, because it is a gift from our Heavenly Father. I am very much grateful for our Heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ, and for our living prophet, President Russell M. Nelson. I strongly believe that the temple is a holy place where we perform our sacred covenants and ordinances. I humbly testify of the above in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

—Siddharth Raja (Chennai 3rd Branch)

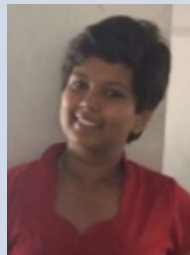


It was a wonderful news, and I was very happy to listen to the announcement about the temple in India. The rumour was

already in the air even before the conference. A friend of mine informed me

about the announcement. So, overall it was not surprising, but it was really a glad and happy news to everyone.

—Sister Sabitha Isaac (Chennai 2nd Branch)



I woke up with the surprising news saying that we were going to have our own temple in India, that too in Bengaluru. My

heart was filled with thanks and tears rolled from my eyes because it's not easy for the members of India to afford to visit the temple in Hong Kong. All the faithful prayers were answered by President Nelson as he announced the temple. Still I couldn't come out of the shock that we are going to have our own temple. I feel so blessed and proud of being a Mormon. A special thanks to President Nelson. Couldn't wait any longer to see the temple.

—Divya Sunderrajan (Chennai 1st Branch)



When the prophet was telling the list of places where temples are going to come, everyone expected him to say India

for sure. We couldn't control our tears when he said Bengaluru, India. It was a pleasure to hear those words. I once read a scripture saying, "Thou art not called to go into the eastern countries,

but thou art called to go to the Ohio" (D&C 39:14). At that time I didn't understand that scripture. But when prophet said Bengaluru, and I too got to serve in the India Bengaluru Mission, tears were rolling down where I realized that the Lord reveals it to His servants at the right time. Many of us can't financially help ourselves go to temple, but this announcement made us all, especially me, get a feel of eternity that I will one day, surely live with my Eternal Father with my entire earthly family. I'll surely go inside, get married, and be sealed there. Oh what a most awaited announcement from the prophet's voice. ■

—Sowmiya Babu (Chennai 3rd Branch)

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