

## ASIA AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

# The Gospel of Jesus Christ

By Elder Ting Tsung Chang

Of the Seventy



*Elder Ting Tsung Chang*

For each of us, this life is a unique and wonderful journey. We will go through different phases in our lives which are full of new things, new challenges, and new spiritual inspirations. Just like getting on a train with the destination to a far city

that we haven't visited before, we will view new scenes through the windows. There will be buildings in cities, fields, bridges, mountains, and seashores. Our lives are similar to that variety of views as we're bound to experience joy, hope,

success, distress, frustration, and disappointment.

I appreciate that we can experience this abundant life and have a successful journey back to our heavenly home through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus

***"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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" (Matthew 11:28–30).***



***“Making and keeping sacred covenants yokes us to and with the Lord Jesus Christ. As we trust in and pull our load with Him during the journey of mortality, truly His yoke is easy and His burden is light.” —David A. Bednar***

Christ is like the rail which leads the trains to its destination. Just as the train needs to stay on the rail to reach its destination, we too need to obey all the commandments of the Lord, receive all the ordinances, and keep all the covenants to return to our heavenly home.

We are the spirit children of God. We have inherited the potential to develop His divine qualities. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can become like our Heavenly Father and receive the fullness of joy. It is so vast in its reach and yet so intimate in its effect that it defies comprehension.

The Lord said, speaking of those who repent, “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18), “and I, the Lord, remember them no more” (D&C 58:42). Whatever the problem, it can be worked out through proper repentance. We can become clean once again.

The Savior said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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” (Matthew 11:28–30).

Elder David A. Bednar taught, “Making and keeping sacred covenants yokes us to and with the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . As we trust in and pull our load with Him during the journey of mortality, truly His yoke is easy and His burden is light. . . . We are not and never need be alone. We can press forward in our daily lives with heavenly help.”<sup>1</sup>

As the Lord declared, “Therefore, continue your journey and let your hearts rejoice; for behold, and lo, I am with you even unto the end” (D&C 100:12). Thus, the grace of Christ offers us not only salvation from sorrow, sin, and death but also provides us the strength we need to overcome every mortal pain and affliction.

The Lord said, “And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them” (Ether 12:27).

While Moroni pleads, “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him,

. . . love God with all your might, mind and strength, then . . . *by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ*” (Moroni 10:32; italics added).

President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) invited us, “Are we prepared for our journey through life? The pathway can at times be difficult. Chart your course, be cautious, and determine to *study diligently, pray fervently, and live righteously.*”<sup>2</sup>

In the document “the Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles,” the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles declared, “We offer our testimony of the reality of His matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.”<sup>3</sup>

I bear my witness that God lives. He loves us. He listens to our prayers whenever we are joyful, sad, distressed or frustrated. I testify that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He is the Redeemer. I know His Atonement will help us to have a successful journey back to our heavenly home. In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

#### NOTES

1. David A. Bednar, “Bear Up Their Burdens with Ease,” *Ensign*, May 2014, 88.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “Be Your Best Self,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 67, italics added.
3. “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” *Liahona*, May 2017, inside front cover.

## LOCAL PAGES

## A Temple-Attending Conversion

By Raja Munusamy, Chennai

India Bengaluru Mission

Isaiah 42:16 reads, “And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”

I am Raja Munusamy of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This is my testimony. Before joining this church, my family and I belonged to another religion. In August 2014, I had a cardiac arrest and was hospitalized for few days. Post the discharge I rested for 20 days from

my work, and during that time I was introduced to sister missionaries, Sister Shelly Arora and Sister Fernandez. They visited our family regularly and prayed for us to receive comfort and for me to recover soon.

I also felt the Spirit and peace of mind during their course of teaching about Heavenly Father and His son Jesus Christ, but soon I was thinking that they were planning to convert us. Thinking so I requested them not to come back to teach the gospel. Nevertheless they were so valiant in the gospel. They didn't want my family to lose the blessings. They constantly came to us. One time I felt the Spirit was strong when they asked me to pray and “ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true” (Moroni 10:4). That night we prayed as a family and went to bed.

Nearing midnight I suddenly woke up from my bed and asked my wife, “Are the missionaries teaching correct principles?” She replied that they were teaching correct principles and added more strength to it by affirming that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are living. This answer made me think, and I had faith. The next morning I asked her what she said last night. She replied that she don't know because she was in a deep sleep. Then I came to know this was



Taiwan Taipei Temple



*Raja Munuswamy and his family at the Taiwan Taipei Temple.*

the answer to our prayers that we received through the Holy Ghost.

That day we decided to join the church. On the 21 September 2014 we were baptized as a family: my wife, Usha Raja; son, Siddharth Raja; and daughter, Sangamitra Raja. My faith and character made my mother Kanaga Munusamy decide to be baptized on 7th December 2014.

I shared the gospel with my sister-in-law, Deena Balraj, and I baptized her in April 2015. Her faith caused her mother, Kanchana Balraj, and her younger sister, Priya Balraj, to come into the fold. Deena married a church member named Jerald Kesari on 7th November 2016.

In September 2015, I was called to serve in the branch presidency as a second counselor. I magnified my calling and now I have been called

as an Elders Quorum President in the Chennai 3rd Branch.

With the help of our beloved mission president, President Mortensen, our branch president, Joseph Anandraj, and Elder and Sister Smith, we prepared as a family for the temple and they taught us about temple ordinances and helped our family get temple recommendations. It is the blessing of our worthiness.

Malachi 4:6 reads, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Our family history consultant, Sister Elizabeth Chelladurai, helped us collect all our ancestor details and prepared us to do the temple ordinances. She also took efforts to get connected

to us while we were in the Taiwan Taipei Temple.

We went to the Taiwan Taipei Temple on 26th December 2017 and we did our temple ordinances. The next day, we were sealed as a family to obtain eternal life.

When we entered into the holy temple, we were excited and felt that this is the place where God dwells. The Holy Spirit guided us through the temple sessions and the temple workers helped us select the white temple clothing. My pants were too long and when I was busy tying my white tie somebody was folding my pants. When I looked down I was surprised to see that it was the temple president. That was indeed a great act of humility.

My son and daughter did lot of baptisms for our ancestors as well as

other Chinese. I thank my Heavenly Father for this opportunity.

While I stood as a proxy for my father in baptism, my mother saw my father's face. Myself and my son performed the baptism for my father-in-law and we felt his presence.

We also were sealed to our ancestors to obtain eternal life and to live with our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in the celestial kingdom.

While we were in the Taiwan Taipei Temple we enjoyed the fellowship of many other Church members. The temple president and his counselors and other temple workers helped us spiritually and physically to finish all our temple ordinances.

The patron house organizer, Sister Shoo, was so caring and humble. She took good care of our family all through the days we stayed in the temple patron housing.

Sister Joy Huang and Brother Kyle helped us physically and spiritually. They loved our family and they helped us go to the Taiwan Museum. They helped us travel in a public bus and to feel the life experience of Taiwan. My son and daughter accepted them like a mother and father because of their love and affection.

We also thank Elder and Sister Funk, Asia area president, for their wonderful service in the temple; they have taken good care of our family

in doing the temple ordinances. They also took our family for lunch. We enjoyed Chinese food. We also met a wonderful Filipino family in the temple patron house. They showed immense love towards our family and they spent their valuable time with us.

I request all the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to go to the temple and do

temple ordinances for their eternal life.

I strongly believe that the temple ordinances are true. Jesus Christ is living in the temple. I know the Bible and the Book of Mormon are the true word of God. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ we are cleansed from our sins. I testify this in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, amen. ■

## Receive No Witness Until After a Trial of Faith

By Radha Asyian

Coimbatore II Branch, Coimbatore India District

Five years ago, I accepted the true gospel of Jesus Christ and was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. Since then, I was nourished by the good word of God through leaders, teachers, callings, and sweet members. One Sabbath day, I was touched and inspired by a testimony borne by a 6-year-old primary kid on his temple experience. I was so much moved and inspired that I decided then to prepare myself along with my family to go to the temple.

In this process of my preparation, I faced so many challenges—difficulties on documentation, in setting a date to go, and so on. During this time, the

scriptures were a great source of comfort and assurance to me. Ether 12:6 says, “And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.”

This verse gave me the courage and confidence needed for my family to look forward to be sealed together in the Lord's house. Adding on to our courage, prayer with fasting gave us even more strength to calm all our storms and turbulences. Finally, we



*Radha Asyian  
with his wife*



made it to the Taiwan Taipei Temple on the 5th of December 2017. That day was a day of joy and happiness to me, to witness our sealing as a family for time and all eternity.

The very next day I had to go to the temple alone, leaving my family behind at the patron house. When I entered the temple, I was struck

with fear because of language. I felt confused not knowing what to do, where to go, and how to participate in the ordinances. I was troubled. But God comforted me by offering help. Just then a sister appeared. She was full of love, she welcomed me with a hug; I was filled with warmth of the Holy Ghost—the Comforter.

Thereafter, I was taught everything by the Holy Ghost. And I witnessed the presence of Heavenly Father and His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in the temple. I had a very glorious experience—an experience that will guide me through eternity. I knew then that no witness is given to us until after the trail of our faith. ■

## Temple Blessings

By **Brother Rangaraj**

Coimbatore Second Branch

**I**t was a great experience for me and for my family to visit the temple. I bear witness that this was very important to my life. The temple is a sacred place where Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, dwell.

I had a bit of fear in my heart when I started preparing to go to the temple with my family. Questions like, how

will we go? Who will help us? What should we do?

These questions made me worry, causing fear in preparing my family members and myself to enter the house of the Lord. But our Heavenly Father showed me the exact way to go and did miracles in my life through many individuals.

When I look back into my life, 13 years ago, I remember the times I used to wander aimlessly with loneliness seeking for some kind

of inspiration. And that's the time when the Lord showed me this true church. I started coming to church and was baptized on October 16, 2005. Later I learned about the gospel regularly and followed it consistently, which helped me make wise choices in many aspects of my life, and this helped me grow spiritually.

The temple is a clean and quiet place where our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ live. I have tasted the love of my Father in Heaven and the Savior



*Rangaraj and his family at the temple.*

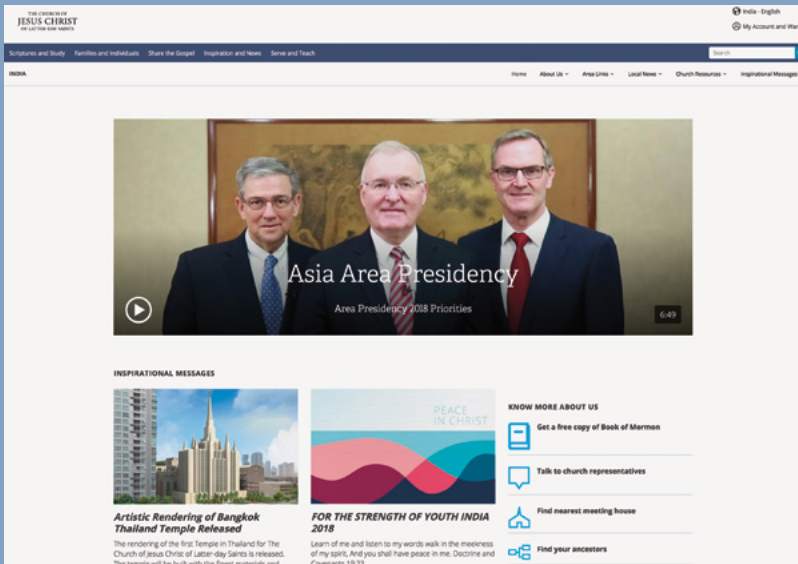
in the temple; this cannot be expressed in words. When I did the baptisms for my ancestors, I felt that they thanked me from the other side. Tears flowed from my eyes at that special moment, testifying to me the truthfulness of the sacred ordinances performed for them in the holy temple.

I felt that I should have stayed for some more days in the temple but had to return back home which I did with a heavy heart.

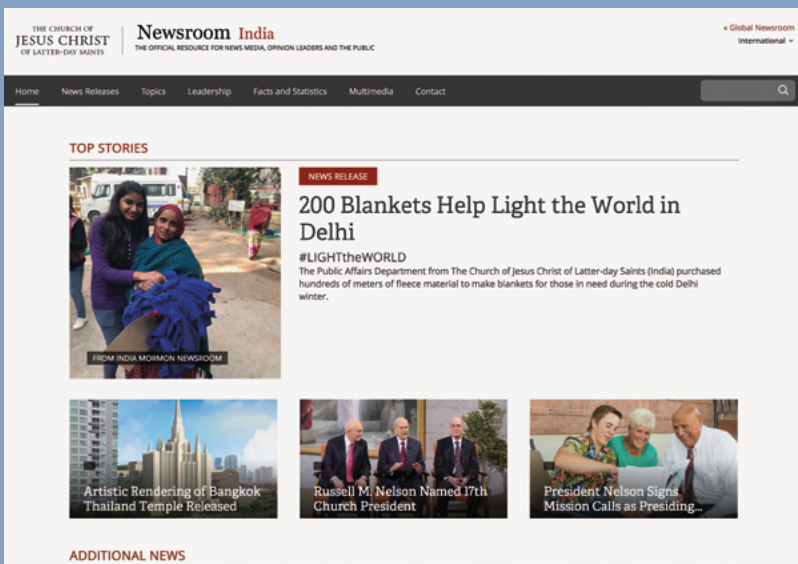
I know that my Heavenly Father lives and the Savior gave His life to bring salvation to me. I know that the

Holy Ghost directs me and the Church is true. I testify that I can return back to my Savior when I follow the great plan of salvation. I bear witness that the leaders of the Church, the Book of Mormon, and the power of the priesthood are true. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

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ASIA LOCAL PAGES

