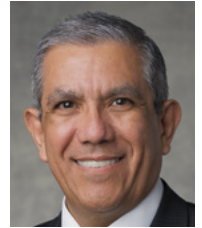


MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER OF THE SEVENTY

Doing the Right Thing at the Right Time, without Delay

By **Elder José L. Alonso**
Of the Seventy



Elder José L. Alonso

In our day many people are living in the midst of sadness and great confusion. They are not finding answers to their questions and are unable to meet their needs. Some have lost a sense of happiness and joy. The prophets have declared that true

happiness is found in following the example and teachings of Christ. He is our Savior, He is our teacher, and He is the perfect example.

His was a life of service. When we serve our neighbor, we help those who are in need. In the process we may

find solutions to our own difficulties. As we emulate the Savior, we show our love to our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and we become more like Them.

King Benjamin spoke of the value of service, saying that when we are



“in the service of [our] fellow beings [we] are only in the service of [our] God.”¹ Everyone has opportunities to give service and show love.

President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) has asked us to go “to the rescue” and serve others. He said: “We will discover that those whom we serve, who have felt through our labors the touch of the Master’s hand, somehow cannot explain the change which comes into their lives. There is a desire to serve faithfully, to walk humbly, and to live more like the Savior. Having received their spiritual eyesight and glimpsed the promises of eternity, they echo the words of the blind man to whom Jesus restored sight, who said, ‘One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.’”²

Each day we have the opportunity to give help and service—doing the right thing at the right time, without delay. Think of the many people who have a difficult time obtaining a job or who are ill, who feel lonely, who even think that they have lost everything. What can you do to help? Imagine that a neighbor, caught out in the rain with his car broken down, calls you for assistance. What is the right thing to do for him? When is the right time to do it?

I recall an occasion when we went as a family to downtown Mexico City

We have a responsibility and a great opportunity. There are many who need to once again experience the sweet savor of happiness and joy through activity in the Church.

to buy clothing for our two children. They were very young. Our older son was just barely two years old, and the younger son was a year old. The street was crowded with people. While we were shopping, leading our children by the hand, we stopped for a moment to look at something, and without realizing it, we lost our older son! We did not know how, but he was not with us. Without a moment’s delay, we took off running to look for him. We searched and called out for him, feeling great anguish, thinking that we might lose him forever. In our minds we were pleading for Heavenly Father to help us find him.

After a little while we found him. There he was, innocently looking at toys through a store window. We hugged and kissed him, and we made the commitment to watch over our children diligently so that we would never lose one again. We learned that

in order to go to our son’s rescue, we did not need planning meetings. We simply acted, going out in search of the one who had been lost. We also learned that our son never even realized that he was lost.

Brothers and sisters, there may be many who, for some reason, are lost from our sight and who do not know that they are lost. If we delay, we could lose them forever.

For many who have need of our help, it is not necessary to create new programs or take actions which are complicated or costly. They only need our determination to serve—to do the right thing at the right time, without delay.

When the Savior appeared to the people of the Book of Mormon, He gave us a great example about not waiting to administer relief to those who have lost a sense of happiness and joy. Having taught the people, He saw that they were unable to understand all His words. He invited them to go to their homes and ponder the things that He had said to them. He told them to pray to the Father and prepare themselves to come again on the morrow, when He would return to teach them.³

As He concluded, He looked upon the multitude and saw them weeping, for they longed for Him to stay with them.

LOCAL PAGES

Elder Renlund Dedicates Barbados

Church News

On February 18, 2018, after a special district conference, a small group of Latter-day Saints in Barbados gathered to witness the dedication of their beloved country for the preaching of the gospel by Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Twelve Apostles. He was accompanied by his wife, Sister Ruth Renlund; Elder Walter F. Gonzalez, General Authority Seventy and the President of the Caribbean Area, and his wife Sister Zulma Gonzalez; and Elder Claude Gamiette, an Area Seventy.



Sister and Elder Renlund

“And he said unto them: Behold, my bowels are filled with compassion towards you.

“Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy.”⁴

And they brought their sick to Him, and He healed them. The multitude bowed down at His feet and worshipped Him and kissed His feet, “insomuch that they did bathe his feet with their tears.” Then He commanded them that their little children should be brought, and He blessed them one by one.⁵ That is the model the Savior has given us. His love is for all, but He never loses sight of the one.

I know that our Heavenly Father is loving, understanding, and patient. His Son, Jesus Christ, likewise loves us. They render help to us through Their prophets. I have learned that there is great safety in following the prophets. “The rescue” is still going on. President Monson said: “The Lord expects our thinking. He expects our action. He expects our labors. He expects our testimonies. He expects our devotion.”⁶

We have a responsibility and a great opportunity. There are many who need to once again experience the sweet savor of happiness and joy through activity in the Church. That happiness comes from receiving the ordinances, making sacred covenants, and keeping them. The Lord needs us to help them. Let us do the right thing at the right time, without delay.

I testify that God lives and is our Father. Jesus Christ lives and has given His life so that we may return to the presence of our Heavenly Father. I know that He is our Savior. I know that Their infinite kindness is continually made manifest. I bear witness that President Thomas S. Monson is Their prophet and that this is the only true Church upon the face of the earth. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration. I testify that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. It gives us guidance and models to follow in order to become more like God and His Beloved Son. ■

Taken from “Doing the Right Thing at the Right Time, without Delay” delivered at the October 2011 general conference.

NOTES

1. Mosiah 2:17.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “To the Rescue,” *Liahona*, July 2001, 57, 58.
3. See 3 Nephi 17:1–3.
4. 3 Nephi 17:6–7; see also verse 5.
5. See 3 Nephi 17:9–12, 21.
6. Thomas S. Monson, *Liahona*, July 2001, 58.

Elder Renlund was in Barbados following a nine-day review of the Church in the Caribbean Area. The dedication took place at historic Gun Hill Station.

“Barbados was included in an apostolic dedication for the West Indies Mission in 1988,” Elder Renlund explained. “However, the First Presidency determined that a dedication specifically for Barbados was appropriate.”

Gun Hill Station, where Elder Renlund gave the dedicatory prayer, is one of the original six signal stations established in 1818–19 for the internal and external defense

of Barbados. “From its hilltop vantage point, warning messages of impending threat were sent,” Elder Renlund said.

Before the prayer was offered, Sister Yvonne Nelson, a pioneer member of the Church in Barbados, spoke briefly about her encounter with missionaries in 1979 and her journey of testimony and baptism. Sister Nelson said she was first contacted by missionaries in 1979.

“They started to give me some lessons,” she said. “They gave me a Book of Mormon and told me I should read, but before I read, I should pray and ask Heavenly Father if it was true.”

Active in her own Christian faith, Sister Nelson would attend LDS services after attending her own church. Over time, she said she gained gospel knowledge about the premortal existence, the purpose of mortality, and life after death.

“What I didn’t understand, the missionaries would make clear to me,” she said.

She was baptized on February 3, 1980.

Joining the Church was “the best decision I ever made,” she said. “It helped me to get closer to Heavenly Father.”

She added, “Living a righteous life is not easy. There are ups and downs



and temptations, but with Heavenly Father's help, we can overcome them. We have to keep our covenants and do everything possible to do what Heavenly Father would want us to do. Sometimes we might not want to forgive our enemies, but we have to try to love everyone."

Elder Claude Gamiette, Caribbean Area Seventy, also spoke to the group thanking them for the goodness of

their lives and for their faithfulness. He said that this day was an opportunity to dedicate ourselves even more. He encouraged the members to take to heart the blessings that would be pronounced by the apostolic keys of Elder Renlund

In his dedicatory prayer, Elder Renlund blessed the land, the people, and the government. His prayer included a blessing upon those who

had lived in Barbados but are now deceased that they would accept the gospel as living persons perform ordinances in their behalf.

The Apostle said the peaceful surroundings contributed to the spirit that accompanied the occasion.

"The Lord directed the blessing that I pronounced on this country," he said. "He will see that it is fulfilled as the people act in faith." ■

Elder Renlund Visits Caribbean Nations

Church News

Elder Renlund's visit to the Dominican Republic February 9–13 coincided with the beginning of the observance of the 40th anniversary of the Church in that country. Over 130,000 Church members live there.

An unusual kind of celebration, the observance will include service projects, increasing of spiritual growth, and promoting interfaith relationships, said Elder Renlund.

"It was wonderful to be in Santo Domingo to meet priesthood leaders in a leadership conference, members at a special stake conference, Church employees, missionaries, and Relief Society sisters at a special devotional," he said.

"These faithful Saints are mature and strong in the gospel. As a result, they are not only establishing the Church on a firm foundation but are building a stronger country."

Sister Renlund contributed to the celebration by lecturing at the law school of Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM). She and Sister Denise Lindberg, a member of the Young Women general board and a retired trial court judge, spoke to an overflow audience in the school's auditorium about the need to protect religious freedom.

The lecture was part of a partnership formed with the university last year at the first Caribbean Religious

Freedom Symposium in which Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles participated.

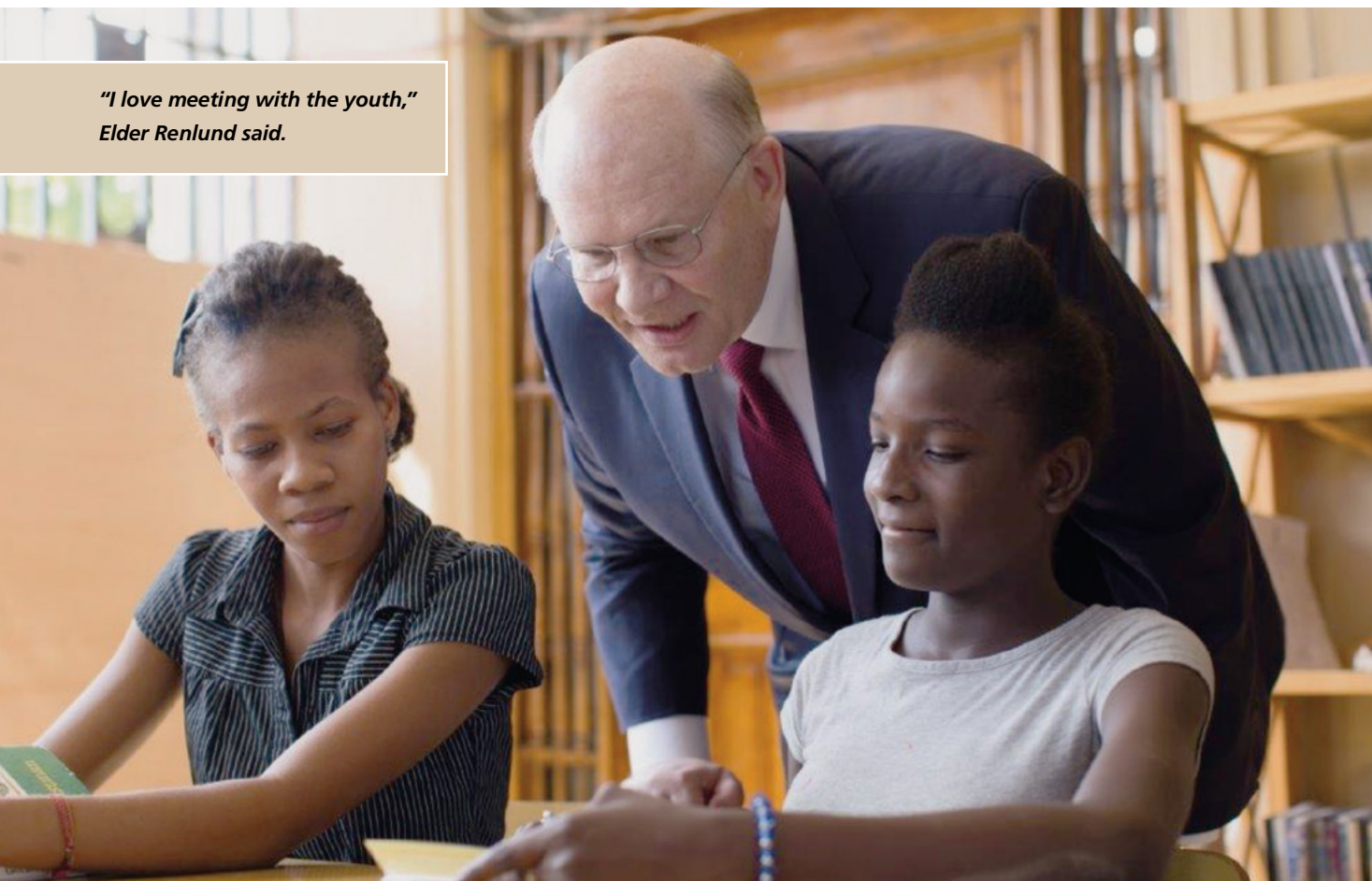
In Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, Elder and Sister Renlund and Elder Walter and Sister Zulma Gonzales attended an evening meeting for youth. An overflow congregation came to hear the Apostle speak.

Elder Renlund reminded the young men of the priesthood responsibility they have to serve missions and promised them that a mission would change their lives for the better in every way.

He told the youth that as a seer, he could see that their lives would be happy and prosperous if they stayed on the covenant path that they had begun with baptism.

"I love meeting with the youth," Elder Renlund said. "For me, the best part of the meeting was shaking the

*"I love meeting with the youth,"
Elder Renlund said.*



hands of nearly 900 members who stayed after the meeting. These youth are the future of the Church and the hope of the nation of Haiti. They are wonderful.”

In St. Marc, a 2½-hour drive from the Haitian capital, Elder and Sister Renlund visited a tutoring center where children of Church members can go to receive help with their school work. The center is called

Foyer Coin Des Cieux (Corner of Heaven). It helps 60 students by providing adult supervision, a snack, and assistance with various school subjects, including English.

Elder and Sister Renlund and Elder and Sister Gonzalez met with members and friends of the Church in St. Marc, where the Church has a district with four branches and a strong missionary effort. During the meeting, Elder

Renlund taught the Church members about Lehi’s vision of the tree of life and urged them to “hold to the iron rod, the word of God,” which will lead them to the Savior. They were accompanied in Haiti by Elder Hubermann Bien-Aimé, an Area Seventy, and his wife, Sister Maggy Bien-Aimé.

The visit to Haiti was capped off by a meeting with all missionaries serving in that land.

Sister Renlund and Sister Lindberg spoke on religious freedom at PUCMM



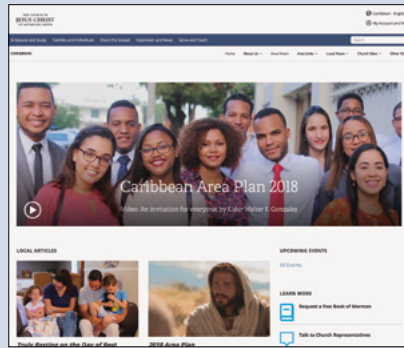
Elder Renlund and Sister Renlund were accompanied on the trip to the Caribbean by Elder Patrick Kearon of the Presidency of the Seventy and his wife, Sister Jennifer Kearon, and Bishop Dean M. Davies, First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, and his wife, Sister Darla Davies. After working together in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Elder and Sister Kearon traveled to Trinidad and



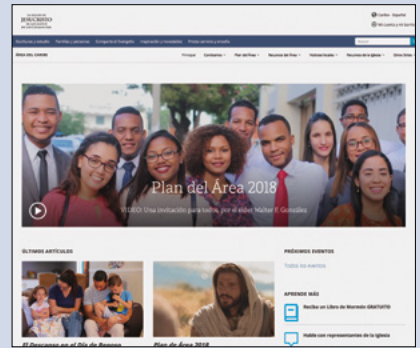
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Tobago, and Cuba. They were accompanied by the First Counselor in the Caribbean Area Presidency, Elder Cluadio D. Zivic of the Seventy, and his wife, Sister Dina Zivic. Bishop and Sister Davies traveled to Puerto Rico, where they had served as mission president and companion 15 years ago. They were accompanied by the Second Counselor in the Caribbean Area Presidency, Elder José L. Alonso, and his wife, Sister Rebecca Alonso. ■

LOCAL AREA WEBSITES



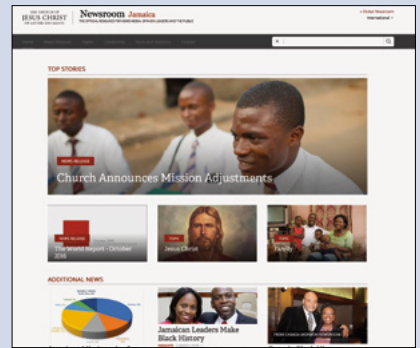
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are invited to contribute our faith-promoting thoughts and experiences by contacting our editor: gutierrezzr@ldschurch.org ■

CARIBBEAN LOCAL PAGES

MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER OF THE SEVENTY Let Us Live Our Covenants



Being members of the Church means to have a covenant relationship with God. It is a promise we make to Him, and He promises to be with us, to bless us, and to give us His Spirit. This is the foundation of our faith. We are called to live our covenants, to keep our promises, and to be faithful to the end. This is the path to eternal life. We are invited to contribute our faith-promoting thoughts and experiences by contacting our editor: gutierrezzr@ldschurch.org ■