

## ASIA AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

### Priesthood and the Family

By Elder David F. Evans of the Seventy

Second Counselor in the Asia Area Presidency

The most important blessings that God grants to His children are associated with the family and the priesthood. President Boyd K. Packer (1924–2015) declared that the purpose “of all activity in the Church is to see that a man and a woman with their children are happy at home, sealed together for time and for all eternity.”<sup>1</sup> We also know that “sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to

return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.”<sup>2</sup>

It is only through worthily receiving needed priesthood ordinances in one of the temples that families are sealed and can be together forever. It is only through faithfully living the gospel that we can achieve the full joy and happiness that Heavenly Father intended for us to have during our lives.

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, our first effort

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is to be worthy of a temple recommend and then to seek an opportunity to receive our own temple blessings and to be sealed together as a family in the house of the Lord. For these blessings to be possible for our families, each husband and father must be worthy, be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood, lead his family in righteousness and treat his wife and children with kindness and love. Each must recognize that while his wife may have certain duties



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*The Lord loves those who hold His priesthood and who live up to their responsibilities to love God, live worthily, share the gospel, and assume the duties associated with family and temple marriage.*

and responsibilities that differ from his, husbands and wives must “help one another as equal partners.”<sup>3</sup>

In the Lord’s gospel, and in His church, husbands must never dominate or demean their wives or children. Likewise, wives should be kind and loving toward their husbands. Our beloved prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, has said: “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.”<sup>4</sup> How grateful I am for my wife, who loves me, encourages me and strengthens my faith. I hope that somehow I am doing the same for her.

If you live worthily as a Melchizedek Priesthood–holding husband and father, you have certain privileges. You may bless your newborn children during a sacrament meeting, giving your new child a name and a father’s blessing. You may provide priesthood blessings that give comfort and counsel to your wife and children. You may even provide healing priesthood blessings. If worthy, you may baptize your children and confer the wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost. You may ordain your sons to the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods, and you may take your family to the temple to be sealed for time and all eternity. You may also



gather your children and teach them the gospel, read the scriptures with them, pray with and for them, have wonderful family home evenings with them, play with them, and enjoy each one as they grow and mature. These are privileges that are worth every effort! These and many other privileges are the priesthood and gospel blessings on which our lives should be focused.

As a father, there will be times where discipline and correction are part of teaching your children. “But in discipline a father must exercise particular care, lest there be anything even approaching abuse, which is

never justified. When a father provides correction, his motivation must be love and his guide the Holy Spirit.”<sup>5</sup>

Our worthy young men also hold the Aaronic Priesthood and are a great blessing in the homes in which they reside. As with the Melchizedek Priesthood, the blessings of the Aaronic Priesthood are contingent on worthiness, diligence, and love. Each young man holding the Aaronic Priesthood has three important responsibilities. First, he has the duty to administer certain priesthood ordinances. Second, he has the blessing of serving others. While some of this service will come as

an assignment from the bishop or other leaders, much of this service will occur within his own home and be a blessing to his family. Finally, each young Aaronic Priesthood holder has the privilege of inviting all to come unto Christ by always giving a good example, through visiting members in their homes, and by his conversations with those who are not yet members of the Lord's Church. In all of this, his service in the Aaronic Priesthood becomes a time of preparation for receiving the Melchizedek Priesthood and assuming the blessings of missionary work, and, later, marriage and family.

The Lord loves those who hold His priesthood and who live up to their responsibilities to love God, live worthily, share the gospel, and assume the duties associated with family and temple marriage. As an Area Presidency, we extend our love to all and urge that every young man and every older man live worthy of these great personal and family blessings. We bear our witness that God loves His children and will provide every needed blessing as we live for them and work for them. ■

#### NOTES

1. Boyd K. Packer, "The Plan of Happiness," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 26.
2. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 129; see also [www.lds.org/topics/family-proclamation?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/topics/family-proclamation?lang=eng)
3. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World."
4. Thomas S. Monson, "Abundantly Blessed," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 112.
5. D. Todd Christofferson, "Fathers," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2016, 95.

## God, Life, and Trust

By Elder Katiki

I'm serving in Kolar Gold Fields Branch in the India Bengaluru Mission. As missionaries we go to individuals and families to teach the restored gospel. Every day we meet different and new people who are having struggles, and all day they are in tears and hopeless.

We teach them the message of faith and hope and help them to rely upon the Christ's Atonement. There are times I saw members receive help through our teaching. We helped them to regain their testimony and come back to church. We helped restore their smiles.

Helping families and teaching people are the wonderful experiences in every missionary's life.

"But what will happen to a person, individual, family, or even missionaries who are facing challenges and



Elder  
Katiki

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hardships in their lives? who are hopeless? How can they receive help? Who is there to help them?"

I'm the witness. With all my heart I can say, God the Father, He loves His children, He knows how to help them, He knows every problem and challenge that we are facing (see 2 Nephi 2:24). *If you look unto Him, He will look unto our lives.*

Through my experience in my mission, I have learnt through my hardships and trials that If we put our Lord first in our Lives, He will teach us.

There were days in my mission life when I knelt and prayed, *Why was this happening to me? Why are you not helping me? Are you there? Have you forgotten me? Please help me.*

Sometimes we will not receive our answers immediately; that's the time God is teaching us something, and He will help us according to His will and timing.

Take the example of brother of Jared:

The brother of Jared is highly favoured of the Lord. He kept the commandments of the Lord. The Lord told him to build a ship because he had prepared a promised land for them. The Lord helped him to build that ship (see Ether 2:6–18).





The brother of Jared knows the Lord will help him to reach the promised land, a choice above all other lands (see Ether 2:15).

Even though the Lord is with him, still he had a question in his mind. How I'm going to travel with my family in the darkness? There is no light in the ship.

The brother of Jared prayed: "Behold, I have done even as thou hast commanded me; and I have

prepared the vessels for my people, and behold there is no light in them. *Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that*

*If we put our efforts by being faithful and trusting God in all things, by having patience and long-suffering, and by hoping, God will help us according to His will and timing.*

*we shall cross the great water in darkness?"* (Ether 2:22, emphasis added).

The Lord said to the brother of Jared, "What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?" (Ether 2:23).

Or in other words lord asked "what would you suggest me that you may have light in your vessel [or ship]?"

*Then the Lord went away and left him alone.*

Now this was the crucial time for brother of Jared. He did some thinking. Then made 16 stones out of molten rock. He carried those stones to the top of the mount Shelem, and then he prayed unto the Lord with great faith: “I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness, and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea” (Ether 3:4).

Because of his great faith and his efforts, according to the brother of Jared’s desire, “Behold, the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger” (Ether 3:6).

In the same way, even when we are in our trials and challenges, we can show our faith by trusting Him in all things and by keeping His commandments. This is an invitation from the Lord to all. “Now, you do all you can to overcome the problem, and then, after you have done all you can, I’ll step in to help you.”

I want to consider those 16 stones are like our family members, less actives, investigators, part members, our friends, and our beloved ones, and problems and struggles.

If we put our efforts by being faithful and trusting God in all things, by having patience and long-suffering, and by hoping, God will help us according to His will and timing. And then He will step in to our lives and touch every stone one by one through our faith, and then we can see a miracle in our life and the lives of others one day. And if you look back, you can see that the helping hand of the Lord has been in your life all the time, and you can stand as a witness of it.

President Thomas S. Monson taught us: “Only the Master knows the depth of our trials, our pains, and our suffering. He alone offers us eternal peace in times of adversity. He alone touches our tortured souls with His comforting

words: ‘Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’”<sup>1</sup>

I know that Heavenly Father loves me cares about me. He is helping me. He can do the same for anyone. If you are going through a hard time, no matter what, stay strong, keep fighting, have faith in Christ’s Atonement, never give up, and never lose hope. Hold your way and you will receive help from Him. Trust him. He will teach you. He will walk with you even in the midst of trails. I testify these things with you all in the sacred name of Christ, amen. ■

**NOTE**

1. Thomas S. Monson, “I Will Not Fail Thee, nor Forsake Thee,” *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 85.

## Blessing of the Priesthood at Home

By Ursula Raja

Ramamurthy Nagar Ward, Bengaluru India Stake

**P**riesthood is a power of God, and I am a solemn witness of this truth. I know this has blessed my life in countless ways. Having a priesthood holder is a blessing to my family. I am grateful to my husband, who holds the priesthood and lives worthy of that sacred responsibility.

When I returned from my full-time mission, I had a desire to marry a

worthy priesthood holder who could take me to the house of the Lord, the holy temple to be sealed for all time and eternities. I am grateful that my dream came true as my husband and I made all our efforts to be married and sealed in the Lord’s temple. This is a miracle for us because I know it is through the power of the priesthood that we were able to receive

these blessings of the gospel. I always wanted to have the priesthood in our home because I learnt from my Young Women classes as well as other teachings in the Church, including through my service as a full-time missionary: “the power of the priesthood and how it can do miracles in our families”.

My life has been blessed immensely by the power of the priesthood at many times, as I have been able to enjoy the blessings poured down from

heaven whenever I needed it, especially at challenging times of my life. I know with all my heart that the priesthood can never be treated or taken in a casual way because through the ordinances of the priesthood the very “power of godliness is manifest” (D&C 84:20).

Through the priesthood, we are able to access heavenly power that works through obedience. In many ways our family has witnessed the Lord’s power manifested through

priesthood blessings. One significant example is the ordinance of the sealing that we were able to receive in the temple. Because of that, I know with all my heart that it is only the power of God, which is the holy priesthood, that can bring eternal blessings in our lives. My temple marriage has made me realize that unless we together as husband and wife obtain this ordinance in this life, we can’t receive exaltation all alone.

I feel joyful to think none other place on earth could really help us learn this divine truth except in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The most important part about the priesthood is to serve others. I have witnessed how the priesthood has been a blessing to those around us, the opportunity to go home teaching, and fulfilling the callings in the Church. These are some significant ways of how the priesthood can bless others. My husband has always delighted in sharing the gospel truth with others, including the families assigned to him for home teaching. I have witnessed that the messages carried through the home teaching have helped members a great deal who faced challenges in life.

I have watched my husband ever since we have been married; he was very devoted to his priesthood responsibilities at church as well as at



*Ursula with  
her husband*



home. As a holder of the priesthood he has taken care of me with love and kindness until today and provided for our family all the necessities at all times, which I am eternally grateful for. I know it is the priesthood that helps him to be a better man to live a worthy and righteous life in the gospel. I am also grateful to be able to support and sustain that priesthood in all the way I can.

I've witnessed the power of the priesthood which has lifted, blessed, healed, comforted, and strengthened me till this very day of my life. Through priesthood leaders of my ward and our stake, I have always had the blessing to receive counsels at challenging times in my life. All these are the fruits of this divine power on this earth, which was restored through Prophet Joseph Smith, in which I firmly believe. It amazes me to know that the power of the living God is here on earth today, and worthy men of our Church can hold that power to do what Jesus Christ would do if He were here with us. This is indeed a great blessing to our homes as well to those around us. I bear my solemn testimony of this sacred power from God, even the priesthood of God, in the sacred name of the one who performed miracles through this power, a great example to all even Jesus Christ, amen. ■

## My Young Stripling Priesthood Holders

By Prema Kumari Nixon

Ramamurthy Nagar Ward, Bengaluru India Stake



*Brother and Sister Nixon with their two sons, Dallin and Dennis.*

The blessings that we received in having our two sons in the Aaronic Priesthood is marvellous. The Book of Mormon starts with Nephi's words, "I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents . . ." However, this has been reverse in our home, and we can say, "We having been blessed with goodly spirit children; therefore they are being taught somewhat in all the learning of Heavenly Father; seeing many challenges and afflictions in the course of their days, nevertheless, having been highly favoured of the Lord all these while; yea, having a great knowledge of the goodness, therefore we make

a record of their proceedings in Aaronic Priesthood".

Dallan, our eldest son, is a teacher, while Dennis, our youngest son, is a deacon. Both are their quorum presidents. Both work closely with Bishop and their Young Men Presidency. It is amazing to see the changes in them as they are learning their priesthood duties and fulfilling them. Some things that they are learning to are:

- Prioritise to put God first in their life,
- Read scriptures,
- Pray,
- Keep the commandments
- Serve in church and home and

- Set a good example at home and with friends.

Dallan is independent and a peacemaker. His eagerness-to-learn-and-perform attitude is helping his younger brother to grow. His 100 percent attendance in early morning seminary class, preparing sacrament each week, going with his father for home teaching, being there to support and provide services for needed Church members is an inspiration to us parents.

We are humbled to know their knowledge of the priesthood; they recognise clearly the level of worthiness required to hold the priesthood and the faith and testimony that is required to uphold the priesthood. Happy to know that they are truly preparing for the greater priesthood, the Melchizedek, in their life and be a great tool in help build the kingdom here on this earth and also bring fullness of blessings to our family and as well to serve others at all times. Grateful for the bishop and the Young Men presidency for their teachings and love for them, which has helped them come so far in life and be worthy of everyone's love.

Speaking to the Aaronic Priesthood, President Thomas S. Monson said, "Never underestimate the far-reaching influence of your testimony. . . . You have the capacity to notice the unnoticed. When you have eyes to see,



*"Never underestimate the far-reaching influence of your testimony. . . . You have the capacity to notice the unnoticed. When you have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to feel, you can reach out and rescue others."*



ears to hear, and hearts to feel, you can reach out and rescue others" ("Be Thou an Example," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2005, 115). These words have been true with our boys and

have always reached out and rescued us. We are grateful for these children in our life and the amount of love, comfort and strength and blessing they bring in our lives. ■