



On

March 17, 1842,

minutes after she became president of the new Female Relief Society of Nauvoo, Emma Smith spoke on the purpose of that society. “To seek out and relieve the distressed,” she said. To “be ambitious to do good” and “watch over the morals.”¹

“The Society is not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls.”²
—Joseph Smith



An Outpouring of the Spirit

Speaking with tenderness and power on this 175th anniversary of Relief Society, the General Presidency shares their feelings, insights, and testimonies with us as Relief Society sisters.

*W*e love the sisters throughout the Church,” says Linda K. Burton, General President of the Relief Society, speaking for herself and her counselors—Carole M. Stephens, First Counselor, and Linda S. Reeves, Second Counselor. “What more could we want than to help each other along the covenant path toward eternal life? God revealed His purpose in Moses 1:39: ‘For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man [and woman].’ In Relief Society we help prepare women for the blessings of eternal life. We do this through increasing faith in Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, strengthening individuals, families, and homes through ordinances and covenants, and working in unity to help those in need.”³

“As we remember and live the purpose of Relief Society, we as Latter-day Saint women will become ‘distinct and different—in happy ways;’⁴ yielding a significant influence for good throughout the world. *That is what we want for our sisters in Relief Society.*”

Here, in an interview with Church magazines staff, the members of the Relief Society General Presidency answer questions of concern for today and share their vision for the future.

