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LDS Conference April 2 - 3, 2011; 181th Annual General Conference **Priesthood Session**

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Saturday Morning Session

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Priesthood Session

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[Please take the following survey to provide feedback.](#)

Priesthood Session

[Listen/Watch/Read Conference](#)

Intro Music: Teach Me to Walk in the Light - (Choir: Combined Priesthood Choir from the Ogden, Utah and Logan, Utah Institutes) *Basically male Institute students from Weber State and Utah State*

Conducting: President Henry B. Eyring

Opening Hymn: Guide Me to Thee - Hymn 101

Invocation: [Rafael E. Pino](#) of the First Quorum Seventy

Talk: Elder [Neil L. Andersen](#) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Talk directed at Priesthood holders aged 12 through 25 - We think about and pray for you constantly. (*exhortation to serve a mission*)
- Do you ever wonder why you were sent at this time?
 - Days of great opportunity and responsibility
 - These are OUR days
 - We are to help prepare the world for the Second Coming
- Lord needs missionaries
- Missionary work requires sacrifice
 - Story: Sidney Going chose to go to on mission in 1961 at age 18 instead of joining the world renowned New Zealand All-Blacks Rugby team. He thought of the opportunity not what he was leaving behind.
 - Blessings always outweigh anything.
 - Don't Think, "What will I get" but, "what can I give."
- [Moses 7:62](#) - Righteousness will I send out of Heaven.
- Daniel - Grow like a rolling rock.
- [D&C 29:7](#) - Ye are called to bring to pass my elect
- 1837 - missionaries called to England → Austria → Barbados → China
- The sun never sets on the righteousness of missionary work.
- Missionary Work requires Spiritual Work:
 - Preparation and worthiness is issue to the sacred assignment
- One might not be able to Serve; the Lord will open other doors
- 50% serve in their own homelands
- Sidney Going is now serving an adult mission with his wife Colleen in Sydney, Australia.
- The savior has promised, "I will come."
 - Scripture?? - The Lord will set his foot upon the mountain

Talk: Elder Steven E. Snow of the Seventy

- Hope is an emotion that brings richness to our everyday lives
 - ... for the best

- ... for calming influence
- Hope can lead to superstition
 - Not watching favorite sport team so they might win
 - Not washing socks for win
- Hope can lead to dreams which can inspire us and lead us to action, but does not lead us to success on its own
- Story of the first man breaking the four minute mile barrier- Roger Bannister
 - Some thought it to be physiologically impossible
 - May 6th, 1954 3:59.4
- Train → Hardwork → Dedication
- Beware of “Good Intentions”
- Parents’ hope does not make kids good
 - Must do something
- We must not let hope be replaced by despair
- Peter (New Testament) - Be ready to give an answer when asked about the Hope in you.
- Hope is one leg of a 3-legged stool [Moroni 10:20](#), that stabilizes our lives
 - Faith is rooted in Christ
 - Hope centered on the Atonement
 - Charity is manifest (...anybody?)
 - Elder Neilson - No wise be save... Faith is the root, Hope centers us, and Charity shows our commitments
- 1851 Mary Murray Murdoch
 - at age 73 came to the United States to travel to Utah
 - traveled west as part of the ill-fated Martin Handcart Company
 - Died October 2, 1856 at Chimney Rock, Nebraska
 - “Tell John I died with my face towards Zion.”

Talk: Elder [Larry M. Gibson](#) First Counselor of the General Young Men Presidency

- Young men are to watch over, protect and serve their families
- President of the Deacons Quorum is one of four members in the ward with Priesthood keys (*Deacons Quorum President, Teachers Quorum President, Bishop, Elders Quorum President- the ward Bishop is President of the Priests Quorum*)
- Experience with a newly called Deacons President:
 - Do ye suppose the Lord would call you without direction
 - [D&C 107:85](#) - Not a class but a council
 - Duties:
 - 1. Watch over standing as Ministers to the ward
 - 2. Assist teachers when needed
 - Know their duties - Duty to God
 - 3. To warn, expound, exhort, to teach all to come unto Christ.
 - “Council of 12”- a deacon is to preside over a council of 12 deacons as stated in D&C 107:85

- Does the Bishop have responsibility for the ward members only, or all who live in the ward boundaries? All who live within the ward boundaries and the same holds for others who hold the Priesthood keys.
- Priesthood means to reach out.
- Priesthood not a gift, but a commission to serve - President Monson.

Intermediate Hymn: Redeemer of Israel - Hymn 6

Talk: President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, 2nd Counselor of the First Presidency

- Story: Man wanted to sail the Mediterranean and tour Europe, saved for many years, finally booked passage on a ship and left. He had so little money he took an extra suitcase full of canned food to eat. He saw the cities he wanted to see, but he did not attend any of the activities on the ship, he did not eat the meals, and mostly stayed in his cabin and ate his food. At the end of the voyage, a crew member asked which farewell party he would be attending and he realized that all the activities on the ship were included in the cost of passage. The man realized he had been living far beneath his privileges.
- We sometimes live far beneath our privileges, opportunities, and rights that are ours as bearers of the Priesthood of God
- We can recite a definition of the purpose of the priesthood, but rarely have daily examples of magnifying the
- Priesthood is an everlasting principle
- Keep our 'Do it' switch set at "Now," not "Later" position, do not let a day go by without acting on the promptings of the spirit
- The Lord's instructions
 - 1) Read the Owner's Manual
 - The priesthood of God has an owners manual
 - Scriptures and handbooks, in particular Doctrine & Covenants sections [20](#), [84](#), [107](#), [121](#)
 - 2) Seek revelations of the Spirit.
 - If we do not choose to seek this channel of revelation, we are living below our privileges
 - Revelations and testimony do not always come with overwhelming force
 - For many, it comes gradually, and we cannot recall the actual moment when we knew
 - 3) Find joy in priesthood service
 - Am I merely going through the motions of being a priesthood bearer?
 - At times, assignments can feel like burdens, but do not go through life as a victim of the 3 dark Ws
 - Worried *about the past*
 - Worrying *about the future*
 - Whining *about the present*

- Let us never become hardened to the wonder and awe of what the Lord has entrusted to us.
- Find joy in serving your home teaching families.

Talk: President Henry B. Eyring, 1st Counselor of the First Presidency

- Keys for priesthood learning
 - 1) Counsel together ([this was the main idea, I missed the exact wording](#))
 - 2) Have love for each other that comes from great faith
 - I'm not sure which comes first, but both seem to be there when rapid learning takes place
 - Discord, fault-finding, and jealousy inhibits the ability of the Holy Ghost to teach us
 - Some are peacemakers, they have a gift of helping others find common ground
 - 3) Shared conviction about why the Lord loves us and trusts us to hold his priesthood, to labor for the salvation of man
 - See the great opportunity that God has given us to learn in his Priesthood school
 - Treasures of knowledge will be given us
 - Your family will become a place of learning.

Talk: President Thomas S. Monson

- Wants to address some things that will apply to the young, the middle aged... and the not-so-middle-aged
- Personal worthiness required to receive and exercise the sacred power of the priesthood which we hold
- Read [D&C Section 121:36-37](#) verbatim
 - The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected...
- The chasm between us and the world's standards is wide and growing ever wider
 - Many movies and television shows subject us to behaviors that are in direct opposition to the laws of God. Do not subject yourselves to the innuendo and outright filth that is there
 - Profanity is prevalent. Quotes the commandment "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Do not say anything of which you cannot be proud.
 - Stay completely away from pornography. Do not allow yourself to view it ever.
 - Avoid alcohol, tobacco, or any other drugs.
- A strong testimony of our Savior and his Gospel will help see us through to safety. If you do not have a testimony, do what is necessary to obtain one
 - You must have your own testimony, because the testimonies of others will only get you so far
- Cease any unrighteousness
- We can be in the world and not of the world as we reject the false teachings of the world.

- One of the saddest things he's had to handle in his three years as President is the cancellation of sealings
 - There are any number of reasons for it, but in most cases, divorce does not have to be the outcome
 - Choose your love, love your choice
 - Commitment in marriage is absolutely essential
 - Your wife is your equal
 - In marriage neither partner is superior or inferior to the other, your wife is not to be demeaned or insulted, but is to be respected and loved
 - Any man who exercises unrighteous dominion over his wife is unworthy of the priesthood. Amen to his priesthood (reference back to D&C at the beginning)
 - Happiness in marriage is not so much about choosing the right person, but about being the right person
 - Do not let your marriage get to the point where it is in jeopardy
 - Be honorable and decent
 - Your actions must be above reproach.

Hymn: For the Strength of the Hills - Hymn 35

Benediction: Elder [Joseph W. Sitati](#) of the First Quorum of the Seventy