185th Annual General Conference \* March 28 & April 4 - 5, 2015

General Women's \* Saturday AM \* Saturday PM \* Priesthood \* Sunday AM \* Sunday PM

Listen/Watch/Read \* Church's Summary

# **Saturday Afternoon Session**

Hymn: (Hymn) - Hymn (#)

Conducting: President Henry B. Eyring

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - Hymn 72

**Invocation: Jean A. Stevens** 

**Choir: Young Single Adults from Davis and Weber Counties** 

Hymn: (Hymn) - Hymn (#)

### The Sustaining of the Church Officers: President Dieter F Utchdorf

- For historical reference, opposing votes were rather common in the early 1980's.
   <u>http://ldsliving.com/story/78523-dissenting-votes-at-conference-everything-you-need-to-know</u>

  People are free to oppose, they'll get a chance to voice their opposition to a person in authority.
- Released May 1, 2015
  - David L. Beck, Larry M. Gibson, Randall L. Rigg from General YM Presidency and all from the board.
  - Sister Jean A. Stevens 1st Counselor in the Primary General Presidency
  - Sister Cheryl A. Esplin 2nd Counselor in the Primary General Presidency
- Called
  - o Kim B. Clark
  - Hugo Montoya
  - Area Seventies
  - Nelson ardila
  - o jose m batalla
  - o lawrence p. blunck
  - bradford c bowen
  - mark a bragg
  - sergio luis carboni
  - o armando carreon
  - Michael m dudley
  - o mark p durham
  - o james e evanson
  - o patricio m giuffa
  - o toru h
  - Sister Cheryl A. Esplin, 1st Counselor in the Primary General Presidency
  - o Mary L Durham, 2nd Counselor in the Primary General Presidency
  - Steven Owen YM President

#### Church Auditing Department Report, 2014: Kevin Jergenson, Managing Director

D&C 120

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Funds were administered appropriately.

### Statistical Report, 2014: Brook P. Hales, Secretary to First Presidency

- Stakes: **3,114 (2014)** / 3,050 (2013)
- Missions: **406 (2014)** / 405 (2013)
- Districts: **561 (2014)** / 571 (2013)
- Wards and Branches: **29,621 (2014)** / 29,253 (2013)
- Total Membership: **15,372,337 (2014)** / 15,082,028 (2013)
- New Children of Record: **116,409 (2014)** / 115,486 (2013)
- Convert Baptisms: **296,803 (2014)** / 282,945 (2013)
- Full-time missionaries: **85,147 (2014)** / 83,035 (2013)
- Church Service missionaries **30,404 (2014)** / 24,032 (2013)
- Temples:
  - o Dedicated: 3
    - Gilbert, AZ
    - Fort Lauderdale, FL
    - Phoenix, AZ
  - Rededicated:
    - Ogden, UT
  - o In Operation: 144 (2014) / 141 (2013)

Hymn: | Stand All Amazed - Hymn 193

Talk: Elder David A. Bednar - Quorum of the Twelve

- Major themes:
  - Fear -> Dispelling fear through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ
  - Godly fear dispels mortal fears.
- Stories: Breaking window of a store near his home as a young boy while with friends
- In the last days, it says people will be in commotion, and men's hearts will fail them. Much of this commotion creates fear for families, and safety.
- One of the first emotions Adam and Eve felt after partaking of the fruit was fear
- Alma counseled and knowledge of the savior enabled others to hush their own fears.
- We can be blessed to hush our fears, because His doctrine teaches us how.
- Gives assurance that the things that matter most will endure through the hard times.
- 1. Look to Christ
  - Fixed upon the Lord at all time and in all places
  - Jesus walking on the water, "Be not afraid... it is I"
    - Jesus catches Peter, "Where did thou doubt"
  - Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not. (D&C 6:36)
- 2. Build upon the foundation of Christ
  - o "Remember, remember it is upon the rock of our redeemer..."

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- Ordinances and covenants are the building blocks
  - Make
  - Faithfully live
  - Receive the blessings.
- 3. Press forward with faith in Christ
  - Press forward in a steadfastness in Christ
    - Persistence, patience, and God's grace
- When we face diversity, we can cheerfully press forward
- Godly fear or Fear of the Lord... Source of peace, assurance, and confidence.
  - Righteous fear: Deep feeling of reverence, respect.
  - Submit our will to his will.
  - This is a very new thought to me. Fear of the Lords IS very different than other kinds of fear.
    While all kinds of fear may be motivating, having a sense of "Godly fear" is a good thing because of the peace that can come with it.
- Godly fear is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10)
- Desire will affect our presence at the judgement bar.
  - o Good: we will be pleased with the work we have done in life
  - o Evil: we will be ashamed and uncomfortable in the presence of the Lord
- Godly fear dispels mortal fears.
- Our works alone cannot and will not save us.
- Godly fear is our loving and trusting in Him.
- "Perfect love casteth out all fear" 1 John 4:18

### Talk: Elder D. Todd Christofferson - Quorum of the Twelve

- Major Themes:
  - Marriage as an essential part of God's Plan
- Another talk about marriage! The fourth talk today. I'm thinking marriage and family are important.
  - o Probably has to do with recent news regarding gay marriage and more widespread acceptance.
- So love comes from you, but marriage from above, from God.
- By our choices we show our commitment to God while outside of his presence and with the weaknesses of a mortal body.
- 4 things needed for the success of this divine plan
- 1. Creation...
- 2. The condition of mortality.
  - The fall brought about physical death.
- 3. Redemption from the Fall.
  - Christ's atonement makes reconciliation possible
- 4. The Setting for our physical birth, and rebirth in the presence of God.
  - Nothing relative to our time on earth is more important than Physical birth and spiritual re-birth...
    both required for our eternal salvation.
- Family provides the best opportunity to succeed in this divine plan.

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- Marriage is as much part of the plan as the fall and the atonement.
- Satan wishes to stop marriage and wants to destroy the thoughts of a family, and of an eternal marriage.
- Satan is happy when parents don't teach their children about Christ.
  - He is pleased when adults are misled to place a higher priority on careers, fears, or personal ambitions.
- Everyone can contribute to God's plan regardless of circumstance, even those who are unmarried or unable to have children, etc.
- No one is predestined to receive less than all that the Father has for His children.

Hymn: We Thank Thee O God For a Prophet - Hymn 19

Talk: Elder Wilford W. Andersen - Second Quorum of the Seventy

- Major Themes:
  - Teaching: Teaching people to live and love the Gospel, not just teaching the doctrines and commandments
  - o Dancing: As awkward as it is when you're the only one dancing, it feels the same when you are the only one doing right, but do the right thing anyway!!!
  - Music: The figurative music of the gospel, through listening to the spirit.
  - Teaching the love of Christ in the home with the family.
- Stories: Hospital, young doctor was asked if he could dance by a patient (older man), doctor asked patient if he could teach him to dance:
  - o "I can teach you to dance, but you have to hear the music."
- It is hard to dance without music. It is awkward and often embarrassing.
- We learn the dance steps with our minds, but we hear the music with our hearts.
- We need to come to hear the music.
- What music do we hear as members of the church that others don't hear?
- Have you ever pulled up next to someone dancing to music in their car with their windows rolled up so you can't hear the music? They seem peculiar to us.
- If our children learn the dance steps but never come to hear the beautiful music of the Gospel, they may grow uncomfortable or distance themselves from it.
- expand the curriculum beyond just the dance steps
- Our children's happiness depends on how well they can hear the music.
- 1. We must keep our own lives in tune to the frequency
  - An old radio requires manual tuning and must be set in the correct spot to hear a clear sound without static.
  - If our lives are out of tune, we must tune them up.
  - We have to align with the correct frequency in order to hear the music of the spirit.
  - Walk the same path we walked when we first heard the music
- 2. We must try our best to perform it in our home.
  - Tuning our heart to the attribute which will make it more easy to fine tune in the future.

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- Parent's can perform in perfect harmony. *Not the same notes, but sounds good together.*
- Beautiful music of persuasion
- If you can not hear the music of the gospel in your own home, remember these two words, "Keep practicing"
- Dissonance cannot be changed by criticism

### Talk: Elder Dale G. Renlund - First Quorum of the Seventy

(Title)

- Major Themes:
  - Tolerance
  - Perseverance
  - Conversion, Change
  - o Repentance, Forgiveness
- Stories:
  - Nelson Mandela "I'm no saint, unless you think a saint is a sinner who keeps on trying."
- God cares a lot more about who we are and who we are becoming, than who we once were.
- "Twas I, but Tis not I." What we were is not who we now are, if we have changed.
- The Holy Ghost never tells us that we are too far gone to keep trying. Feelings of despair come from satan.
- God's desire for his saints to keep on trying goes beyond overcoming sins. We are never done.
- "One of God's greatest gifts to us is the joy of trying again, for no failure ever need be final." (Monson)
- "Oh Toba, the church is like a big hospital and we are all sick in our own way, we go to church to get better." (life is like a big hospital and we participate in this mortal life to learn obedience and to ctr and be healed)
- All of us are in need of the same infinite atonement.
- "Compared to me, the two of you aren't all that different" Lord to Curtis. Realized he had a companion trying in his own way.
- As we try, persevere, and help others do the same, we are true Latter-day Saints.
- If we don't try we are just Latter-day sinners
- If we don't persevere, we are just Latter-day quitters
- If we don't allow others to try, we are Latter-day hypocrites.

• FYI – you can tell when a person is almost done with their talk when their name appears on the screen. (assuming you are watching... Radio here) (If listening on the radio you can tell when a person is almost done with a talk when they start giving a summary testimony)

### Talk: Elder Michael T. Ringwood - First Quorum of the Seventy

- Major Themes:
  - Be Truly Good and Without Guile

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- o Consistent, Selfless Service
- Shiblon only had 15 verses about him. Shiblon wanted to do what is right for the right reason.
- Great men and women are always anxious to serve rather than to have dominion.
- Seek to be truly good without guile (def. sly or cunning intelligence.) "I
- Story about how at one time he was a young missionary too focused on titles.
- Mission President said "Heavenly Father knows [he is a good missionary], I know, and now you know....who else matters?"
- Great examples of service. The member who drives the old man with alzheimer's for a much needed change of pace for both the man and his wife. The member who hand delivers christmas cards to those who need a visit. They don't do this in hopes of church titles but because they are disciples of Christ.
- All I really want in life is to please my fathers. Both my earthly father and heavenly father.

### Talk: Elder Quentin L. Cook - Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Major themes:
  - Families
  - o ???
- Stories:
  - His wife's love of sunflowers.
  - His Uncle in the Navy
    - I want to know what time it is Utah (at his home)
- Pres Kimball, "be on your knees praying for your sons and daughters"
- "Those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them." D&C 42:46
- "It is important to teach your children they are loved, and they should feel safe at home."
- Husbands and wives are equal partners with different roles that are complementary.
- Families must relish and protect traditions that build faith.
- D&C 90:11
  - Every man shall hear the gospel in their own tongue and own language.
- When God's children pray to him in their native language, that is the language of their heart.
- It is important for members to understand the gospel in the language of their heart so they can pray and act in accordance with gospel principles.
- Be one, if ye are not one, ye are not mine. D&C 38:27
- Our goal is to be united in the culture, customs and tradition of the gospel of Jesus Christ in every respect.
- Patiently humbly studying, pondering, praying, and living gospel principles is the best way to find answers to our questions.
- The church has never been stronger.
- The worth of souls is great in the sight of God.
- The Savior accomplished the atonement because he loves us and he obeys and loves his Father.
- Our protections in this life for eternity will be in individual and family righteousness
- We should remember the Savior, keep the commandments (I believe he said keep our covenants) and

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follow the Savior. It will bring joy, happiness and peace.

Psalm 27

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Hymn: Let Us All Press On - Hymn 243

Benediction: Randy D Funk - Second Quorum of the Seventy

#### THOUGHTS:

- Where is president Monson? Health issues, most likely. Hopefully he'll address us in the Priesthood session?
  - President Monson usually gives a talk on Sunday Morning conference, not Saturday.
  - o He has often given a welcoming talk at the opening of the conference on Saturday morning.
  - well, I'm sure our prayers would be helpful :)
  - There's a thing in the <u>deseret news that said Pres. Monson will only be speaking twice this conference, once Saturday</u> (presumably Priesthood) and once Sunday.
- I love the closing hymn arrangement of Let Us All Press On -- especially the slow/half-tempo emphasis of "If we do what's right, we have NO need to fear." It aligns perfectly with the message today about Godly Fear dispelling Mortal Fears.

#### TO-DOs:

- Faith in Christ to dispel fears; have Godly Fear (Elder Bednar)
- Teach children to have faith in christ. (Elder Christofferson)
- Be more like Shiblon. WWSD? (Elder Ringwood)

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