

Right Before Our Eyes

By Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Iti Mismo Nga Imatangtayo

Ni Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Ti Korum dagiti Sangapulo-ket-dua nga Apostol

April 2025 general conference

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is growing in members and families, missions and missionaries, meetinghouses and temples.

Brothers and sisters, I am so grateful to be with you. We love you, we are grateful for you, and we feel blessed by your prayers.

President Russell M. Nelson said at our last conference: “Do you see what is happening right before our eyes? I pray that we will not miss the majesty of this moment! The Lord is indeed hastening His work.”

Hastening His work. “Hastening” is a word that matters. It suggests moving quickly, accelerating, and even urgency. In the growth of the Church and the plan of Christ, hastening is happening. And we are all a part of it.

In April 1834 in Kirtland, Ohio, the Prophet Joseph Smith gathered all who held the priesthood into a little schoolhouse about 14 feet (4.3 m) square. We could fit dozens of those schoolhouses in this Conference Center, with room to spare. Joseph Smith said, “It is only a little handful of Priesthood you see here tonight, but this Church will fill North and South America—it will fill the world.”

That prophecy is being fulfilled “right before our eyes.” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is growing in members and families, missions and missionaries, meetinghouses and temples, and in enrollment in our seminaries, institutes, and universities all around

Ti Simbaan ni Jesucristo dagiti Santo iti Ud-udina nga Aldaw ket umad-adun iti bilang dagiti miembro ken pamilya, mision ken misionario, balay a pagmimitingan ken templo.

Kakabsat, agyamanak unay a makaduakayo. Ay-ayatendakayo; agyamankami kadakayo, ken mariknami a nabendisionankami kadagiti kararagyo.

Kinuna ni Presidente Russell M. Nelson iti naudi a komperensiatayo: “Makitayo kadi ti agdama a mapaspasamak? Ikarkararagko a ditayo koma palabsen ti kinatan-ok daytoy a kanito! Ti Apo pudno a padpadarsenna ti aramidna.”

Padpadarsenna ti aramidna. Napateg ti balikas a “padpadarsen”. Isingasingna ti napartak a panaggunay, panangpadaras, ken kinaganat. Iti panagrang-ay ti Simbaan ken ti plano ni Cristo, mapaspasamak ti panangpadaras. Ket pasettayo amin daytoy.

Idi Abril 1834, idia Kirtland, Ohio, inum-mong ni Propeta Joseph Smith amin nga addaan iti priesthood iti bassit a pagadalan, agarup 14 a metro (4.3 m) kuadrado. Mabalina a maikarga dagita a pagadalan iti uneg daytoy a Conference Center, ket adda pay sobrana. Kinuna ni Joseph Smith, “Maysa laeng a bassit a bilang ti Priesthood ti makitayo ditoy ita a rabii, ngem daytoy a Simbaan ti mangpunnonto iti Amianan ken Abagatan nga America—punuennanto ti lubong.”

Maipatpatungpalen dayta a padto “iti mismo nga imatangtayo.” Ti Simbaan ni Jesucristo dagiti Santo iti Ud-udina nga Aldaw ket umad-adun iti bilang dagiti miembro ken pamilya, mision ken misionario, balay a pagmimitingan ken templo, ken iti enrolment kadagiti seminary, institute,

the world.

We are grateful to be on earth when the Church is increasing in numbers and influence, but more importantly in the hearts and lives of its members. We are known as disciples of Jesus Christ. We share our testimonies of Him, His Church, His ways, and His covenant path. We are His people, and He is our Savior.

I marvel at what President Nelson calls the “majesty of this moment” and express profound gratitude to the Lord for His work. I encourage us to stand tall as His disciples, eyewitnesses of the fulfillment of prophecy, both ancient and modern.

There are naysayers who shout, “‘Lo, here!’ and ... ‘Lo, there!’” just as they did in the Prophet Joseph Smith’s time. However, they are and will be but mere footnotes in this noble work. Remember the words of Joseph Smith: “No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, ... but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.”

In my assignments this year, I have had a front-row seat to the Lord hastening His work. The Church is building temples at an unprecedented pace, giving more members an opportunity to worship in the house of the Lord. Second, missionary work is gathering record numbers to the fold of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. And third, Church education in many configurations is at a new high in teaching those who “seek this Jesus.”

Today the Church has 367 temples in various stages of design, construction, or operation. And for what purpose? The answer is proclaimed on each temple: “Holiness to the Lord.” The temple opens the way to the highest blessings our Father in Heaven has for each one of us. Brothers and sisters, we are hastening our holiness as we live temple worthy, as we worship in the house of the Lord, and as we make covenants with God for ourselves and on behalf of our ancestors on the

ken unibersidadtayo iti intero a lubong.

Agyamantayo ta addatayo ditoy daga bayat ti panagadu ti bilang ken impluensia ti Simbaan, ngem nangnangruna iti puso ken biag dagiti miembrona. Maam-ammotayo kas disipulo ni Jesucristo. Ibinglaytayo dagiti pammaneknektayo maipapan Kenkuana, ti Simbaanna, dagiti wagas-na, ken ti dana ti katulaganna. Datayo ti tattaona, ket isu ti Mangisalakantayo.

Masdaawak iti aw-awagan ni Presidente Nelson a “kinatan-ok daytoy a kanito” ken ipeksana ti nalaus a panagyaman iti Apo para iti aramidna. Allukoyenkayo nga agtalinaed a natibker kas disipulona, saksi iti pannakatungpal ti padto, agpadpada iti nagkauna ken agdama.

Adda dagiti sumupsupiat a mangipukkaw, “Imutektekanyo ditoy!” ken ... ‘Imutektekanyo, idia,’ kas iti inaramidda idi panawen ni Propeta Joseph Smith. Nupay kasta, agbalindanto laeng a kas listababa (footnotes) itoy natakngeng nga aramid. Laglagipen dagiti balikas ni Joseph Smith: “Awan ti namulitan nga ima a makalapped iti aramid iti panagdur-as; mabalina a nainget ti pannakaidadanes, ... ngem ti kinapudno ti Dios agtultuloyto a situtured, sitatakneng, ken agmay-maysa, agingga a mastrekna ti tunggal kontinente, masarungkaranna ti tunggal lugar, pagilian, ken mapangngeganna ti tunggal lapayag agingga a maipatungpalto dagiti panggep ti Dios, ket kunanto ni Jehova a nalpasen ti aramid.”

Kadagiti pagrebbengak itoy a tawen, addan tugawko iti sango ti Apo a mangpadpadaras iti aramidna. Ti Simbaan ket agbangbangon kadagiti templo iti di pay pulos napasamak a kapartak, a mangmangted kadagiti miembro iti gundaway nga agdaydayaw iti balay ti Apo. Maikadua, ti aramid ti misionario ti agum-ummong kadagiti bilang ti rekord iti ikub ti Naimbag a Pastor, ni Jesucristo. Ken maikatlo, ti edukasion ti Simbaan iti adu a kumpigurasion ket adda iti baro a kangatuan iti panangisuro kadagiti “agsapul iti daytoy a Jesus.”

Ita, adda 367 a templo ti Simbaan iti nadumaduma a tukad ti disenio, konstruksion, wenno operasion. Iti ania a panggep? Maiwaragawag ti sungbat iti tunggal templo: “Kinasanto iti Apo.” Ti templo ti manglukat iti dalan kadagiti kangatuan a bendision ti Amatayo iti Langit para kadatayo amin. Kakabsat, padpadarsentayo ti kinasan-totayo no agbiagtayo a maikari iti templo, no agdaydayawtayo iti balay ti Apo, ken no makituglagtayo iti Dios para iti bagitayo ken para kadagi-

other side of the veil.

President Nelson has said: “The assaults of the adversary are increasing exponentially, in intensity and in variety. Our need to be in the temple on a regular basis has never been greater. I plead with you to take a prayerful look at how you spend your time.” In His house we can feel the Lord’s hallowed presence and transcendent peace.

Last year I was privileged to preside at the dedication of the Mendoza Argentina Temple. In my message, I referred to Elder Melvin J. Ballard’s 1926 prophecy that the work of the Lord would grow slowly for a time in South America, “just as an oak grows slowly from an acorn. It will not shoot up in a day,” but thousands would join the Church, and the nations of South America would become “a power in the Church.” I saw that prophecy fulfilled right before my eyes.

Mendoza, once a small acorn, has become a mighty oak. That growth is being repeated across continents and isles of the sea.

We see the Lord hastening His work in missions. In 2024, 80,000 missionaries were serving in 450 missions. Thirty-six of those are new missions. Last year missionary work brought over 308,000 new members into the Church. More than numbers, the spirit of the gathering is bringing souls to Jesus Christ and His gospel.

I think of the Apostles Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, who in 1839 set off as missionaries to the British Isles. They were ill; they left families sick and destitute. Nevertheless, the two climbed into a wagon, and while still in sight of their loved ones, Heber said, “Let’s rise up and give them a cheer.” The two struggled to their feet and shouted, “Hurrah, hurrah for Israel.”

I saw that same enthusiasm for the Lord’s work in Lima, Peru, when I met with missionaries from the missionary training center and missions in Lima. What a sight! I saw the hastening right before my eyes. There are now seven missions in just the city of Lima.

At the end of our meeting, the missionaries had a special surprise for me. They rose up and cheered, “Hurrah for Israel.” I will never forget

ti kapuonantayo iti bangir ti belo.

Kinuna ni Presidente Nelson: “Kumarkaro unay dagiti panagdarup ti kabusor, iti intensidad ken iti agduduma a kita. Ti panagkasapulan iti masansan nga ipapan iti templo ket napatpateg pay ita. Ipakaasik kadakayo nga agkararagkayo a kumita no kasano a bubosenyo ti panawenyo.” Iti balayna, mariknatayo ti nasantuaan a kaadda ti Apo ken ti naindaklan a talna.

Itay naglabas a tawen, naaddaanak iti pribilehio a mangidaulo iti pannakaidaton ti Templo ti Mendoza Argentina. Iti mensahek, dinakamatko ti padto ni Elder Melvin J. Ballard idi 1926 a ti aramid ti Apo in-inut a dummakkel iti sumagmamano a panawen iti South America, “kas iti panagtubo ti kayo manipud iti bassit a bukel. Dinto dummakkel daytoy iti maysa nga aldaw,” ngem rinibu ti agkamengto iti Simbaan, ket dagiti nasion iti South America agbalindanto a “maysa a bileg iti Simbaan.” Nakitak a natungpal dayta a padto iti mismo nga imatangko.

Ti Mendoza, a maysa idi a bassit a bukel, ket nagbalin a nabileg a kayo. Maulit-ulit dayta nga irarang-ay iti intero a kontinente ken isla ti baybay.

Makitkitatayo a padpadarsen ti Apo iti trabahona kadagiti mision. Idi 2024, 80,000 a misionario ti agserserbi iti 450 a mision. Tallo-pulo-ket-innem kadagitoy ti baro a mision. Idi napan a tawen ti aramid ti misionario ti nangyeg iti nasurok a 308,000 a baro a miembro iti simbaan. Di laeng a dagiti bilang, ngem ti espiritu ti panaguummong ti mangyeg kadagiti kararua ken Jesucristo ken ti ebangeliona.

Mapanunotko da Apostol Brigham Young ken Heber C. Kimball, a nagbiahe kas misionario idiy British Isles idi 1839. Masakitda; pinanawanda dagiti masakit ken nakurapay a pamilyada. Nupay kasta, limmuganda iti karison ket bayat a makitkitada pay laeng dagiti ay-ayatenda, kinuna ni Heber, “Agtakderta ket paragsakenta ida.” Narigatan ti dua a timmakder ket impukkawda, “Hurrah, hurrah para iti Israel.”

Nakitak ti kasta met la a regta iti aramid ti Apo idiy Lima, Peru, idi naam-ammok dagiti misionario iti missionary training center ken dagiti mission idiy Lima. Anian a buya! Nakitak ti panangpadaras iti mismo nga imatangko. Adda itan pito a mision iti ciudad laeng ti Lima.

Iti gibus ti mitingmi, adda espesial a sorpresa dagiti misionario kaniak. Timmakderda ket impukkawda, “Hurrah para iti Israel.” Diakto pulos

that moment; I wish all of you could have been there. Right before my eyes were missionaries who had set aside “the things of this world” to serve the Lord and help hasten His coming.

We see the Lord hastening educational opportunities for our members and even those not of our faith around the world. One of the things that distinguishes us as a church is our emphasis on education. The Lord commanded in the early days of the Restoration to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith.” That is happening today and is worthy of a resounding “hurrah.”

Currently more than 800,000 students worldwide are enrolled in seminary and institute, the highest enrollment in the history of the Church. Our youth gather in a variety of ways, from early-morning, daytime, and evening classes to online and in-home study. They are a mighty and righteous battalion, gaining strength from each other as they learn of Jesus Christ, follow, and testify of Him as the Son of God.

Last fall I spoke at a devotional to an arena full of seminary and institute students and their parents at the University of Utah. Their attendance said much about their desire to know and follow Jesus Christ. My message to those students was clear: Give the Lord equal time. I counseled them to balance their studies with true higher learning, even a study of “the Son of the living God.”

I ask the same of everyone today: Whatever is on your to-do list, give equal time, not spare time, to the Lord in personal scripture study, family study of Come, Follow Me, prayer, Church callings, ministering, partaking of the sacrament, worshipping in the temple, and pondering the things of God. Our Lord and Savior has said, “Learn of me ... and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Take Him at His word. And give Him equal time.

President Nelson has said: “I plead with you

malipatan dayta a kanito; tarigagayak nga adda-kayo koma amin sadiay. Iti mismo nga imatang-ko adda dagiti misionario a nangpanaw “kadagiti banag daytoy a lubong” tapno agserbi iti Apo ken tumulong a mangpapardas iti yaayna.

Makitkitatayo a padpadarsen ti Apo dagiti gundaway iti edukasion kadagiti miembrotayo, ken uray dagiti saantayo a kapammatian, iti intero a lubong. Maysa a banag a mangilasin kadatayo kas maysa a simbaan ket ti panangipaganetgettayo iti edukasion. Imbilin ti Apo kadagiti immuna nga aldaw ti Pannakaisubli nga “agadalkayo, uray pay ti panagadal ken kasta met ti pammati.” Mapaspasamak dayta ita ket maikari iti maysa a napigsa a “hurrah.”

Iti agdama nasurok nga 800,000 nga estudiantante iti sangalubongan ti naka-enroll iti seminary ken institute, ti kangatuan a bilang ti enrollment iti pakasaritaan ti Simbaan. Agtitipon dagiti agtutubotayo iti nadumaduma a wagas, manipud iti nasapa a bigat, aldaw, ken dagiti klase iti rabii agingga iti online ken in-home study. Isuda ti nabileg ken nalinteg a buyot, nga agpipinnapigsa bayat ti panagsursuroda ken Jesucristo, panagsurot, ken panagpaneknekda maipapan Kenkuana kas Anak ti Dios.

Idi naglabas a kalgaw, nagsaritaak iti maysa a devotional iti maysa nga arena a napno kadagiti estudiantante iti seminary ken institute ken dagiti nagannakda iti University of Utah. Ti kaaddada iti miting ipamatmatna ti tarigagayda a mangammo ken sumurot ken ni Jesucristo. Nalawag ti imbagak kadagidiay nga estudiantante: Itedyo iti Apo ti maipada nga oras. Imbalakadko kadakuada nga ibalanseda ti panagadalda iti pudno, nangatngato a panagsursuro, uray pay ti panagadal “iti Anak ti sibibiag a Dios.”

Kasta met laeng ti dawatek iti tunggal maysa ita: Aniaman ti adda iti “to do” list-yo, itedyo ti agpapada nga oras, saan a nawaya nga oras, iti Apo iti personal a panagadal iti nasantuan a kasuratan, panagadal ti pamilya iti Umaykayo, Sumurot Kaniak, panagkararag, dagiti calling iti Simbaan, panag-minister, pannakiranud iti sakramento, panagdaydayaw iti templo, ken panangutob kadagiti bambanag maipapan iti Dios. Kinuna ti Apo ken Mangisalakantayo, “Agsursurokayo kaniak ... ket makasarakkayto iti inana a maipaay iti kararuayo.” Agtalekkayto iti balikasna. Ket itedyo Kenkuana ti pumada nga oras.

Kinuna ni Presidente Nelson: “Ipakpakaas-

to let God prevail in your life. Give Him a fair share of your time. As you do, notice what happens to your positive spiritual momentum.”

We see that momentum building at seminars, institutes, and Church universities. In these environments, the Lord is a priority. So should He be in each one of our lives.

Another area that shows the growing reach of education in the Church is BYU–Pathway Worldwide. Across the world, enrollment has reached nearly 75,000 and continues to grow rapidly. Most are members, and more than one-third are in Africa. Pathway is all about access to education. Completing the courses means access to employment, and access to employment means a better life for families and more opportunities to serve the Lord.

When I was meeting with stake leaders in Uganda, I learned that the entire stake presidency was enrolled in BYU–Pathway. The more prepared we are temporally and spiritually, the more we can thwart the adversary’s cunning attacks. Remember the words of Peter: “The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

I recognize that in the midst of the good news of the gospel, there are those who struggle, who have faith challenges, doubts, and questions that seem to have no answers. Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is the answer. Start with Him. Look for His hand in your life. Listen to Him. “Let not your heart be troubled,” He said in His last hours to His disciples before Gethsemane, before carrying His cross through the streets of Jerusalem, before Golgotha, where He completed His atoning sacrifice—what only He, the Begotten Son of God, could do.

Know that He understands. He took upon Himself all our sins, mistakes, misery, and very bad days that we might live again with our Father in Heaven in eternity. He has said, “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.” Faith in Jesus Christ can lift you up and heal your wounded soul. Trust Him and you will hasten your return to

ik kadakayo a bay-anyo nga agballigi ti Dios iti biagyo. Itedyo Kenkuana ti nasayaat a biagyo iti panawenyo. No aramidenyo, paliwenyo no ania ti mapasamak iti positibo a naespirituan a momentumyo.”

Makitatayo dayta a panagrang-ay ti momentum kadagiti seminary, institute, ken unibersidad ti Simbaan. Kadagitoy nga aglawlaw, ti Apo ti prioridad. Adda koma Isuna iti tunggal maysa iti biagtayo.

Ti sabali pay a lugar a mangipakita iti dumakdakkal nga impluensia ti edukasion iti Simbaan ket ti BYU–Pathway Worldwide. Iti intero a lubong, ti enrolment ket dimmanonen iti dandani 75,000 ken agtultuloy a napartak nga umadu. Kaaduanna ket miembro, ken nasurok nga apagkatlo ti adda idia Africa. Ti Pathway ket maipapan iti pananggun-od iti edukasion. Ti panangileppas kadagiti kurso kaipapananna ti pannakasarak iti panggedan, ket ti pannakasarak iti panggedan kaipapananna ti nasaysayaat a biag para iti familia ken ad-adu a gundaway nga agserbi iti Apo.

Idi nakipagkitaak iti stake presidency idia Uganda, naammuak a nag-enrol iti BYU–Pathway ti intero a stake presidency. No ad-adda a nakasaganatayo iti temporal ken naespirituan, ad-adda a malapdantayo dagiti nasikap a panangraut ti kabusor. Laglagipenyo ti balikas ni Pedro: “Agdakdakiwas ti sairo a kabusoryo, kasla leon a ngumerngernger nga agsapsapul iti alun-onenna.”

Bigbiggek nga iti naimbag a damag ti ebangelio, adda dagiti makidangdangadang, nga addaan kadagiti karit iti pammati, panagduadua, ken saludsod a kasla awan ti sungbatda. Kakabsat, ti sungbat ket ni Jesucristo. Mangrugikayo Kenkuana. Kitaenyo ti impluensiana iti biagyo. Dumngegkayo Kenkuana. “Dikay madanagan ken mariribukan,” kinuna ni Jesus kadagiti disipulona iti maudi nga orasna idia Getsemani, sakbay nga inawitna ti krusna kadagiti kalsada ti Jerusalem, sakbay ti Golgota, a sadiay a naileppasna ti pannubbog a sakripisiona—a ti Bugbugtong nga Anak ti Dios, laeng ti makaaramid.

Ammuenyo a maawatanna. Inawatna ti Bagina ti amin a basoltayo, biddut, panagsagaba, ken dagiti dakes unay nga aldaw tapno makadennatayo manen iti agnanayon ti Amatayo idia Langit. Kinunana, “Kitaendak iti tunggal panunot; saankayo nga agduadua, saankayo nga agbuteng.” Ti pammati ken ni Jesucristo ti man-

“the arms of his love.”

I emphasize again the words of our living prophet: “Do you see what is happening right before our eyes? I pray that we will not miss the majesty of this moment! The Lord is hastening His work.” May we as disciples of our day shout, “Hurrah for Israel” as we prepare for the return of our Lord and Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

gitag-ay kadakayoket bedbedanna dagiti sugatyo. Agtalekkayo Kenkuanaket padarasyo ti panag-subli “kadagiti takiag iti panagayatna.”

Ipaganetgetko manen dagiti balikas ti sibibiag a propetatayo: “Makitayo kadi ti mapaspasamakiti mismo nga imatangtayo? Ikarkaragko a ditayo koma palabsen ti kinatan-ok daytoy a kanito! Ti Apo papardasenna ti aramidna.” Sapay koma ta datayo kas disipulona ipukkawtayo, “Hurrah para iti Israel,” bayat ti panagsaganatayo iti panagsubli ti Apo ken Mangisalakantayo. Iti nagan ni Jesucristo, amen.