



Strengthening & Vitalizing Aaronic Priesthood Quorums

*Young Men General Presidency Workshops
October 2004*



Ye Elders of Israel

Ye elders of Israel, come join now with me
And seek out the righteous where'er they may be
In desert , on mountain, on land, or on sea
And bring them to Zion, the pure and the free.

O Babylon, O Babylon, we bid thee farewell
We're going to the mountains of Ephraim to dwell



Ye Elders of Israel

The harvest is great, and the lab'ers are few;
But if we're united, we all things can do
We'll gather the wheat from the midst of the tares
And bring them from bondage, from sorrows snares.

O Babylon, O Babylon, we bid thee farewell
We're going to the mountains of Ephraim to dwell



Ye Elders of Israel

We'll go to the poor, like our Captain of old,
And visit the weary, the hungry, and cold;
We'll cheer up their hearts with the news that he bore
And point them to Zion and life ever more.

O Babylon, O Babylon, we bid thee farewell
We're going to the mountains of Ephraim to dwell



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Moses 1:39.

“For behold, this is my work and my Glory—
to bring to pass the immortality and eternal
life of man.”



President Gordon B. Hinckley



“What a frightening change has occurred in our culture. A great flow of sleaze has gathered and is washing over us. Language is used on our campuses that never crossed our lips back in the days of my youth. Pornography with all its titillating and vicious attractions is all about us.

continued



President Gordon B. Hinckley



"We have television, videos, DVDs, the Internet, and other means to deliver the filthy and the evil into our homes and lives. It is taking its toll... This is the era of gutter-talk, of sloppy dress, of sloppy ways."

CES Satellite Broadcast, February 7, 2003



President Gordon B. Hinckley



“There never was a time such as this. What a season in the history of the world to be alive! Never before has there been such a generation of youth... You really are “a chosen generation.” You are better educated. You desire to do the right thing. Many of you are trying to keep yourselves free from the corruptive stains of the world.

continued



President Gordon B. Hinckley

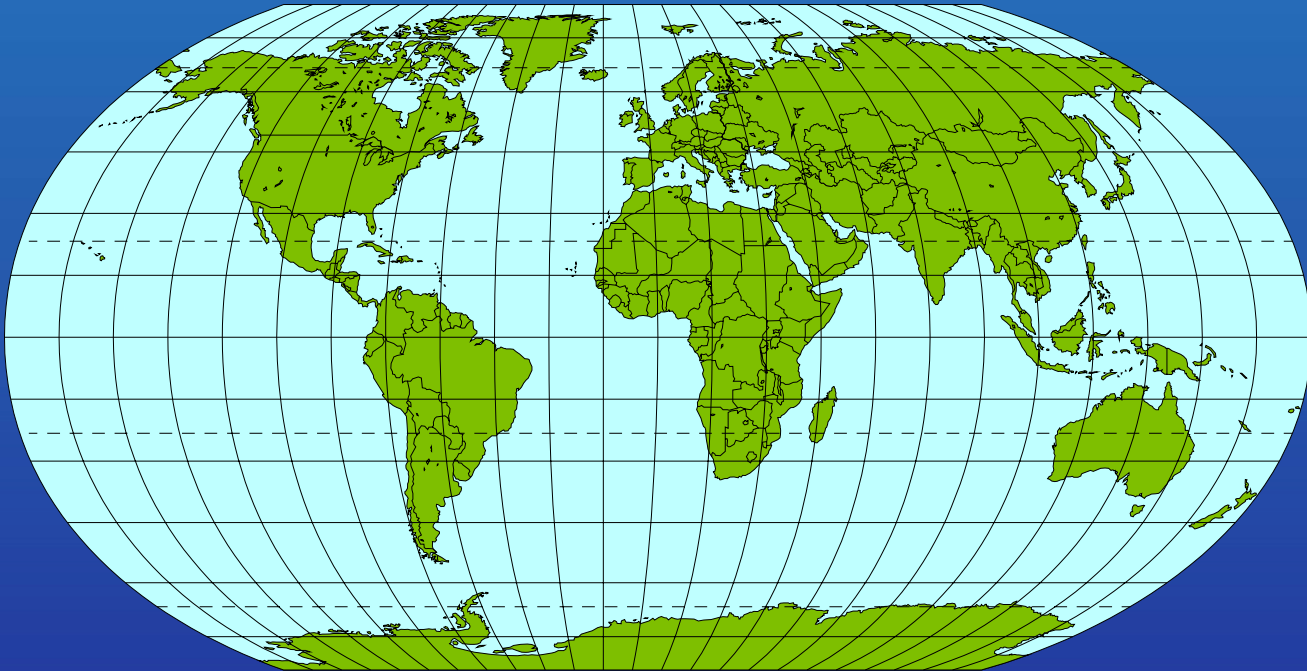


In so many ways, you are remarkable! You are exceptional! I believe that as a group, you are the finest this world has ever seen.

Way to Bel!, Simon and Schuster, 2002, pp. 3-4



Potential Missionaries Worldwide



47,905 Missionaries in 144 Countries

2,153,676, 640 People in China, Pakistan, India, Indonesia

Need an additional 92,668 Missionaries



Our Divine Charge

- To ensure that EVERY DEACON is worthy and prepared to be ordained a Teacher.



Our Divine Charge

- To ensure that EVERY TEACHER is worthy and prepared to be ordained a Priest.



Our Divine Charge

- To ensure that EVERY PRIEST is worthy and prepared to be ordained an Elder and serve a mission.

*"For how can I return to the Father,
and the lad be not with me."*

Genesis 44:34



5 Guidelines for Ensuring Strong Aaronic Priesthood Quorums

1. Call the best men who work with youth
 - Testimony
 - Training
 - Time
 - Tenure



5 Guidelines

1. Call the best men to work with youth
 - Discuss expectations
 - Time commitments
 - Training expectations – role of scouting
 - Expect personal preparation
 - Needed one–on–one contact
 - MIS List of quorum members



5 Guidelines

2. Testimony



Bishop H. Burke Peterson

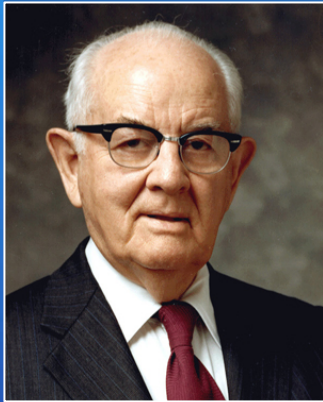


"The primary reason why we have youth activities is to give our youth opportunities to associate with men and women who have testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

General Conference, June, 1975.



President Spencer W. Kimball

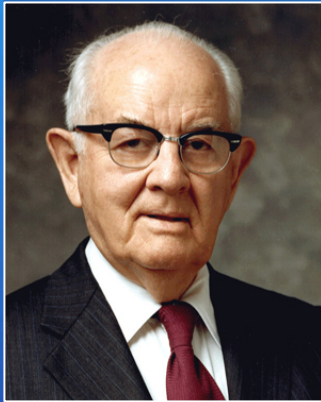


"Boys need lots of heroes like Lincoln and Washington. But they also need to have some heroes close by. They need to know some men of towering strength and basic integrity, personally. They need to meet them on the street, to hike and camp with them,

continued



President Spencer W. Kimball



to see them in close-to-home, everyday, down to earth situations; to feel close enough to them to ask them questions and to talk over man-to-man with them."

President Kimball quoting Walter MacPeak



5 Guidelines

3. Training



Walt Disney



"You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world but it requires people to make the dream a reality, and these people must be trained in the "Disney Way"."



D&C 107: 99 -100

"Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.



5 Guidelines

3. Training

- How will our leaders get the "Vision"?
- Initial stake training
- Periodic visits by stake leadership



5 Guidelines

3. Training

Boy Scouts of America training

- *Fast start training*
- *Basic Scouting training*
- *Woodbadge for the 21st Century*
- *Monthly roundtables*



Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone



"I do not believe that Varsity Scouting is on trial in the Church, nor is Boy Scouting, Cub Scouting, or [Venturing]. But rather it is my firm belief that bishops, and the ward leaders, the advisors, Scoutmasters, coaches, and [Venturing] advisors are on trial.

continued



Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone



The program will work if they will work and become trained and put into effect the things they have been trained to do."



5 Guidelines

4. Time

- Get to know the boys
- Time for continual training
- Time for preparation
- Presidency meetings weekly



5 Guidelines

4. Time

- Preparation of quorum presidency training
- Time for planning activities
- Time for interview with young men (not worthiness)



5 Guidelines

4. Time

- Meeting attendance
- Bishopric youth committee meeting
- Aaronic priesthood committee
- Young men – young women committee meeting



5 Guidelines

4. Time

- Quorum presidency meeting
- Young men presidency meeting
- Monthly roundtables
- Scout/Varsity/Venturing committee



5 Guidelines

4. Time

- Writing notes to young men
- Rescue missions
- Service projects



5 Guidelines

5. Tenure ("Ten-Year")

Time to understand your calling.



D&C 107: 99

"Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence."



5 Guidelines

5. Tenure ("Ten-Year")

Time to become trained

- Stake sponsored *Fast Start Training*

Time to apply what you have learned

Time to make a difference



Tom Brokaw



"In this country it's easy to make a living, but it's tough to make a difference."



A Recap

5 Guidelines

1. Call strong youth and men
2. Testimony
3. Training
4. Time
5. Tenure



D&C 107: 85

“And again, verily I say unto you, the duty of a president over the office of a deacon is to preside over twelve deacons, to sit in council with them, and to teach them their duty, edifying one another, as it is given according to the covenants.”



Strengthen & Vitalize the Quorum Priesthood





Strengthen & Vitalize the Quorum





Strengthen & Vitalize The Aaronic Priesthood Quorum

1. Hold regular Aaronic Priesthood quorum meetings.
 - Weekly
 - Same time, same station
 - 10–15 minute training for:
 - Quorum Advisor
 - Quorum President
 - Bishopric Member



Strengthen & Vitalize The Aaronic Priesthood Quorum

- Focus on individual quorum members
(Secretary has up-to-date list)
- Plan weekly activities



Strengthen & Vitalize The Aaronic Priesthood Quorum

2. Treat the Aaronic Priesthood quorum president like a priesthood leader.
3. Ensure each activity is fun and has at least one priesthood purpose.
4. Serve and bless the lives of those around us.



Strengthen & Vitalize The Aaronic Priesthood Quorum

5. Use available sources

- BSA resources
- *For the Strength of Youth*
- *True to the Faith*
- *Serving in the Church* (ldschurch.org)
- *New Era*



Elder Robert L. Simpson



"Our activity in the Church is directly proportional to the strength of our belief in the first vision."



2005 Mutual Theme

"A Great And Marvelous Work"



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