

## Saturday Afternoon Session

Hymn: (Hymn) - Hymn (#)

Conducting: President Dallin H. Oaks, First President in the First Presidency

Hymn: Hark all ye nations! #264

Invocation: [Sharon L. Eubank](#) - First Counselor in the Relief Society Presidency

The Sustaining of the Church Officers presented by [President Henry Eyring](#)

- *I'm sure there are people who oppose, but I'm glad they aren't getting voice in the conference center.*
- Released
  - Mervin B. Arnold
  - Greg Cardon
  - Larry Echo Hawk
  - C Scott Grow
  - Allen Packer
  - Gregory Switser
  - Claudio Zivic
  - Other area 70s
- Called
  - Brooke P Hales - General Authority 70
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- *Why don't we call the area 70 in area conferences? They aren't general officers so I'm not sure why they're sustained in a general meeting of the church.*
- *And why didn't they call new area 70?*

Talk: - [D. Todd Christofferson](#) - Quorum of the 12

Firm and Steadfast in the Faith of Christ

Major Themes:

- 1 Kings 18 - 2 Kings 1
- Through personal revelation you can put to rest your doubts.
- When will you decide once and for all? Elijah then placed a verifiable test to prove who was the true and living God.
- We do not have to wonder if this is the Lord's Church

- The scriptures have outlined those that were firm in the faith.
- The gospel should penetrate our heart and soul
- A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways
- The defining focus of their life and character
- Baptism isn't the same as receiving the gospel into our lives. We can fail to walk in a 'newness of life'. The gospel doesn't yet define them. They're selective in obedience and service.
- By keeping the commandments with exactness, we can avoid the confusion of the world.
- Deep conversion doesn't come in an instance but we should be continually moving towards it
- To preserve firm and steadfast in the faith of Christ requires that the gospel of Jesus Christ penetrate one's heart and soul.
- With God, comfort replaces pain, peace replaces turmoil, and hope replaces sorrow
- The gospel must become the defining focus of our lives and character
- Eating your vegetables is to pray...etc.

**Talk: [Bishop Dean M. Davies](#) - 1st Counselor, Presiding Bishopric**

Come, Listen to a Prophet's Voice

Major Themes: Building our lives with a strong foundation. Vancouver Temple. Heeding modern prophets

- *Why do they call him "Bishop" when he's a counselor? Probably the same reason you call the 1st counselor in the stake presidency, president.*
  - a. *I think it's in section 107, more likely it's just a tradition. Sort of like how we still use middle initials for church officers even though we really don't need to.*
  - b. *My guess is that all Members of the presiding Bishopric are called and set apart as Bishops. That doesn't happen in a ward bishopric... just my guess*
    - i. *This sounds familiar*
  - c. *But not in a ward?*
  - d. *If memory serves me, was Edward Partridge not the first Presiding Bishop?*
- Story about finding a location for the Vancouver BC temple
  - a. *I served in Vancouver; the temple was announced two years after I left. I even served in the area the temple was eventually built and lived a few minutes from the temple site.*
  - b. *And Elder Bangerter from the morning session also served in Vancouver, so lots of BC connections today.*
- Pres Hinckley didn't have formal training in real estate but received revelation about where the temple should stand.
  - a. *Bishop Davies expertise in real estate, which enabled him to carryout Pres. Hinckley's revelation.*
- What personal building blocks do we need to put in place to make a beautiful life?
- The Lord reveals to his prophets how they should direct the church— concerning both the grander organization, and our personal lives. We can construct beautiful lives through following their teachings.
- Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of the Church
- We sustain the living Prophet as we have a pattern of listening to his words.

**Talk: [Ulisses Soares](#) - Quorum of the Twelve**

## One in Christ

Major Themes: Working together. Fellowshiping new members

- Amazon river... Many small streams and tributaries come together to form the amazon river, which is one of the longest and most powerful rivers in the world, able to push back the ocean.
- Like the Amazon river, we can come together to be an influence of good to the world
- When we promise at baptism to follow the Savior, we witness before the Father that we are willing to take upon us the name of Christ
- As we encourage, support, and love each other, we combine to form a mighty force for good in the world
- New members bring fresh perspectives about the gospel.
- New members need:
  - a. 1) True/loyal friends.
  - b. 2) assignment/opportunity to serve
  - c. *What's #3?? He hasn't said it yet but it will probably be nourishing with the good word of god He did say it...i just didn't catch it. ... :/ -- oops, I didn't notice at all... That's okay :) -- I'll listen to all the talks a few times over the next month, so I'm not too worried.*
- Joining the church may feel overwhelming at first, but it's the best decision we can make, because it will give us eternal comfort
- Service is one of the great things about the church
  - a. *I'm a little worried that some of the recent changes will reduce opportunities for service. Having spent many years in small wards along the east coast I know how helpful these changes will be, but I worry the changes will have the opposite effect in Utah. My ward has ~200-230 active members and we struggle to find meaningful assignments for everyone.*
  - b. *Speaking as one who will be getting baptized next week, I know these changes might be good. After all, there is a saying which goes "the more things change, the more they remain the same."*
- Good rule of thumb: treat every sacrament meeting like the audience is 50% people learning about the Church for the first time.
- Every soul is precious in the eyes of God
- We can do much better and should do better in welcoming new friends into the church.
- *And to the person who said they were getting baptized next week (and erased their comment), congrats!!!*
  - a. *Thanks. I had not given the comment thorough thought, but am working on it.*
  - b. *Welcome to the Gospel!*
  - c. *This is actually 15 years in the making, as I was prepared to get baptized in 2003 but life got in the way!*

Hymn: [Called to Serve](#) - Hymn #249

Talk: [Gerrit Gong](#) - Quorum of the Twelve

## Our Campfire of Faith

Major Themes: Continuing to receive revelation

- Elder Gong received counsel to be creative from Elder Scott.
  - a. Models our Father's creativity
  - b. Started with watercolors
- The dawn of faith will come for those that seek it.
- Attempt to be creative... even if the attempt is modest... Creativity begets gratitude.
- Campfire of faith can encourage us ...
  - a. 1) find joy in wholesome activity. Worthwhile new things
  - b. 2) Encourage us to minister in higher/holier ways
  - c. 3) Love the lord and others with all our hearts and souls
  - d. 4) Establish regular patterns of righteous living
  - e. 5) Perfection is in Christ, not in the world.
- When we face the warmth of a campfire, we leave the darkness behind us.
- *I want to see Elder Gong's painting!*
  - a. *No kidding! But I probably wouldn't show my first attempt at painting in General Conference either.*
- Faith includes desire and choice to believe
- 2) Encourage us to minister in new spirit filled, higher/holier ways
  - a. 'Covenant belonging'
- We cannot love ourselves to save ourselves. He loves us more than we know ourselves
- God lovingly assures us no matter where we are or what we have done, there is no point of no return. He waits ready to embrace us
- "I may have felt something" then went to the kitchen to get a beer.
- 3) Love the lord and others with all our hearts and souls
- 4) Establish regular patterns of righteous living (prayer, scriptures, fasting, keeping a personal journal)
- 5) become perfect in Christ
- Love the Spirit and the Letter of the Law to have the things of eternity distill upon your soul.
- When we love the spirit and letter of the law, the things of eternity can descend upon us like dew from heaven.
- As we exercise God-given agency and engage all our faculties in humility and faith, our Savior Jesus Christ can help us meet life's challenges and joys
- In various times and ways, we all feel inadequate, uncertain, perhaps unworthy. Yet, in our faithful efforts to love God and to minister to our neighbor, we may feel God's love and needed inspiration for their and our lives in new and holier ways

Talk: [Paul B. Pieper](#) - General Authority Seventy

Taking Upon Us the Name of Jesus Christ

Major Themes: Name of the church; Taking upon us the Name of Christ

- Only through Christ can we be saved.
- There is no other name given whereby man can be saved
- All men and women must taken upon them His name.
- We need to be humble and come forth with contrite spirits.
- This requires action
- Christ is the ONLY name by which salvation is possible.
- The Savior's name has singular and essential power
- "Take" has many meanings.
  - a. Take a drink
  - b. Align ourselves with
- When we take upon us the name of Christ we accept Him as our Savior
- The church and the savior are inseparable
- Feast upon the words of Christ in the scriptures, especially the book of Mormon
- Taking on the the name of Christ is liberating and enlightening
- When we take upon ourselves the name of Christ, we take upon us the responsibilities of a true disciple
- By taking upon ourselves the name of Christ, we commit to take His teachings, His characteristics and ultimately His love, deep into our beings so that they become part of who we are
- We must advocate HIS cause
- Taking the name of Christ is covenant commitment, beginning with the covenant taken at baptism.
- If we falter in our commitment to the church, we are faltering in our commitment to Christ.
- The HG can be with us only to the degree we progress and keep our lives free from sin
- The Holy Ghost will warn us if we start to wander off the covenant path. If we don't heed that warning, it will soon be lost.
- Taking Christ's name is a continual commitment
  - a. Each week we renew the covenant to take upon us the name of Christ.
- When we find ourselves weak and incapable to act on our righteous desires, we will plead for the strength that comes only through His name

**Talk: [Dieter F. Uchtdorf](#) - Quorum of the 12**

Believe, Love, Do

Major Themes: weltschmerz ( German) world, human, Hope for Life, Discipleship

- King Solomon: All is Vanity. Ended up
  - a. Disillusioned
  - b. Pessimistic
  - c. Unhappy
- Despite all the negative around us, there is hope.
- We can achieve the abundant life... by becoming true disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus went about doing good.
  - a. Ministered

- b. Healed
  - c. Taught the good news of the gospel... eternal truths that set us free.
- Solomon was wrong. Life can be filled with purpose and peace.
- We must do more than have an intellectual understanding of the gospel
- 3 Simple words
  - a. Believe
  - b. Love
  - c. Do
- Many will say, my life is far too complex for such a simple solution.
- What is the cause of Christ? It is to believe in him, to love as he loved
- The healing hands of Jesus Christ reach out to all who seek Him.
- Without faith, it is impossible to please God
- Sometimes our pride gets in the way.
- Draw near unto God and he will draw near unto you.
- All who come unto God, all who truly believe, love and do, can experience God's love
- Love:
  - a. Enters our hearts in the morning
  - b. Stays with us through the day
  - c. Expresses itself in the evening.
- Some look at religion as foolish tradition. Believe is not so much like a painting where we look, and admire, and discuss. It is a plow we take out and with the sweat of our brow and create holes in the earth for seeds
- By small and simple things are great things brought to pass.
  - a. Consistent practice enables us to do many things... including flying a plane :-)
- The church has given us new opportunities to minister... love and serve others.
- President Uchtdorf... The German Shepherd!
  - a. *I about cried laughing when he said that!*
- Belief is not a painting to be admired, but more like a plow to be worked
- Our invitation: Come and see... come and join with us.
- Let us become the people Christ intended us to become.
- God loves his children enough to give them a blueprint for happiness and fulfillment in this life
- Avoid finding fault and gossiping.
- We are often painfully imperfect, but we want to improve and come closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
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**Hymn: Hope of Israel -**

**Benediction: Joni L. Koch of the Seventy**

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**THOUGHTS:**

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188<sup>th</sup> Semiannual General Conference \* October 6 - 7, 2018

**Saturday AM \* Saturday PM \* General Women \* Sunday AM \* Sunday PM**

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**TO-DOs:**

- Pursue worthwhile new things
- Be welcoming to new people
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