

NEWPORT BEACH CALIFORNIA TEMPLE DEDICATION TALK

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AUGUST 28, 2005

ON A RAINY AUGUST DAY IN 1955, MY WIFE AND I LEFT BYU AND CAME TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE KEPT OUR FEET FIRMLY PLANTED HERE. OTHER THAN THE TWO YEARS WE SPENT IN THE MILITARY AND THREE YEARS ON OUR MISSION, THIS HAS BEEN OUR HOME FOR THE LAST FIFTY YEARS. THIS IS WHERE OUR SIX CHILDREN WERE BORN, AND THIS IS WHERE ALL SIX OF THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES NOW LIVE. FIVE OF THE SIX LIVE IN THIS TEMPLE DISTRICT AND ONE IN THE REDLANDS CALIFORNIA TEMPLE DISTRICT.

EACH MEMBER OF THE RASMUSSEN FAMILY LOVES THE LORD, THIS TEMPLE, AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITHIN THIS TEMPLE DISTRICT . YOU WILL FIND US LIVING IN FIVE OF THE SIXTEEN STAKES THAT COMPRISE THIS DISTRICT. WE ARE TOGETHER OFTEN. WHEN I AM WITH THEM, I AM ENHANCED. THEY CAUSE ME TO LOOK BETTER, FEEL BETTER, AND ACT BETTER. FOR THIS I GIVE CREDIT TO THEIR MOTHER FOR WHOM I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.

I APPRECIATE A LEGACY THAT HAS MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO BENEFIT FROM THE FULL BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. I MAKE REFERENCE TO MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS WHO WERE FAITHFUL LATTER-DAY SAINTS. I TRUST THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THIS OCCASION. I HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH SO THAT I HAVE ONLY ONE LIVING OLDER BROTHER. I AM

GRATEFUL FOR HIS EXAMPLE AS HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING HIS FOURTH MISSION.

THE LORD HAS BLESSED ME AND MY FAMILY WITH BLESSINGS FAR BEYOND OUR DREAMS AND WITH MUCH MORE THAN I PERSONALLY DESERVE.

NUMBERED AMONG MY BLESSINGS HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE WITH MANY WONDERFUL PRIESTHOOD LEADERS. I REFER TO MANY OF YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY, AND, I TRUST THAT MANY ARE ALSO HERE IN SPIRIT. WE HAVE BEEN GREATLY BLESSED BY THE LIVES OF YOUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN ORANGE COUNTY HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL THING TO BE A PART OF. IN THE PAST, THOSE OF US IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY HAVE ENJOYED THE BLESSING OF THE LOS ANGELES TEMPLE, WHILE THE REST HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE SAN DIEGO TEMPLE. NOW ALL OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SAINTS ARE UNITED AS WE SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF THIS TEMPLE. JUST AS WE ARE BLESSED, MANY SAINTS YET-TO-BE-BORN WILL BE BLESSED BECAUSE OF THIS TEMPLE AND THE GOOD SAINTS WHO WILL ADMINISTER THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD ORDINANCES WITH IN THESE WALLS.

THE EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN ALMOST OVERWHELMING AS WE HAVE SERVED TOGETHER IN THE OPEN HOUSE AND IN THE YOUTH CELEBRATION. THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IS

MANIFEST IN THE LIVES OF ALL OF YOU GOOD PEOPLE. BUT IT IS GOING TO GET EVEN BETTER. AS WE PARTICIPATE TOGETHER HERE IN THIS TEMPLE, FAMILIES WILL EXPERIENCE GREATER LOVE AT HOME. OUR TERRESTRIAL NATURE'S WILL CHANGE. WE WILL BECOME KINDER TO ONE ANOTHER. OUR JOY WILL BE EVIDENCED THROUGH OUR COUNTENENCES, AND I PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL ENJOY "SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY" AS WE STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER HERE ON THIS HOLY SITE.

I LOVE AND SUSTAIN THOSE ASSEMBLED HERE WHO LEAD US. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE LIFE AND EXAMPLE OF OUR PROPHET, PRESIDENT GORDON B HINKLEY, FOR ----- AND FOR PRESIDENT AND SISTER OVESON AND PRESIDENT AND SISTER GREENE. AND I PLEDGE TO THEM AND TO YOU MY BEST EFFORT AS WE SERVE TOGETHER.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEAR MY TESTIMONY THAT I KNOW THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AS ADMINISTERED BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IS TRUE. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, AMEN