

Sacrament Meeting talk 1/22/95
By: Jeremy Runnells

Hello brothers and sisters. I would like to bare my testimony about the gospel. I know that God the eternal father lives and his son Jesus Christ lives. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. I know that he is the person who translated the Book of Mormon correctly. There is a prophet living today whose name is Howard W. Hunter. He talks with and see's God. The purpose of this is for our eternal gain. I know that the Book of Mormon is true, and that it is the most correct book on earth.

I would also like to bare my testimony that the general authorities are special witnesses of God and his son. On Sunday, September 25, 1994 I went to church with my family members. We stayed for the sacrament-meeting only. The reason for this was that I was to receive a hearing blessing by a general authority named Lance B. Wickman who is in the second quorum of the seventy. After the sacrament meeting me and my family members went to the Cerritos Stake Center to pick up President Jensen. We then drove to the Arcadia Stake Center to meet bro. Wickman. He was in a office having a quick meeting. We waited for the meeting to finish. This is when I received my testimony. When I shook his hand, I had a special feeling. This was the holy ghost. It was such a happy, joyful feeling. We then went inside the office and sat down. Brother Wickman asked me about church, school and some other things. I then told him about my hearing, that I have been hard-of-hearing since I was 4 years old. He asked all of us to kneel down and each say a prayer. After which I was asked to sit on a chair where they laid their hands on my head. They gave me blessing by the power of the melchedick priesthood. I had a lot of faith. I was also nervous because I thought that was going to be the last few minutes that I would ever have to wear my hearing aids. After the prayer I stood up and shook the men's hands that gave me a hearing blessing. Brother Wickman did something that I will never forget. He put his hands on my shoulders and said "Everything is going to be alright, you just be a good boy". Your hearing will be unstopped which means that I will have normal hearing someday. He also said that I will serve a mission for the church and that I will be married in the lord's temple and be sealed with my future family for eternity. The last thing that he said was that I was one of heavenly father's special spirit's in the pre-existence. All these things he said was by the holy ghost and if I'm righteous I will someday be able to see these things fulfilled.

I was amazed at his reply. I know that the holy ghost helps heavenly father's work's. I'm looking forward for all these things to be fulfilled. But what I'm looking forward to most...is to live with heavenly father and Jesus Christ someday.

I know that heavenly father and Jesus Christ lives. I know that Jesus Christ our savior, redeemer, older brother, and king is his son. This is my testimony. I love heavenly father and Jesus Christ. My way of proving it is by obeying all the laws and commandments. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Jeremy Runnells
1/22/95

My Testimony

Good afternoon my brothers and sisters. I would like to tell you that I am glad to be here giving this talk, but that would be a lie. The fact is that I am scared to death and would rather be sitting where you are, than standing here giving this talk.

The good thing about my talk is that I was asked to talk about "missionary work" which is something that I have had a little bit of experience with and want to do when I become 19 years old.

Last summer I was able to serve as a missionary for a day and I have gone out with the full time missionaries on several different occasions.

When we lived with our "Heavenly Father" in the pre-existence we all promised him that we would be missionaries when we came to this earth. The prophets have told us that "Every Member" is to be a missionary.

On the occasions that I went out with the missionaries I had the privilege to experience a little taste of missionary work.

Many months ago I went out with a missionary named Elder. Barnhurst and we went to teach a non-member lady about the church. We were invited inside her house. We then started teaching by telling what Mormons believe in and about the prophet Joseph Smith and his vision. I gave her a Book of Mormon to read, and she seemed really interested in it. She asked many questions and we answered them. I bore my testimony to her. I felt the spirit by bearing my testimony. I knew the spirit was there helping us with what to say and guiding us. It was really special.

I have been blessed a lot in my life so far. I have experienced a couple of things that really strengthen my faith in Heavenly Father and the Savior.

One of these experiences was last summer when I went to Especially For Youth program at BYU. I spent a week with other Mormon kids on church activities. It was a really great week. On one day during that week we were invited to go visit the missionaries at the MTC (Missionary Training Center). There was a conference room where all of the kids and some of the new missionaries met. The purpose of the meeting was for the missionaries to tell us more about missionary work. Now, in that meeting, a lot of kids were crying including me, because we all were feeling the spirit and were very calm and at peace. Its not the kind of peace that you experience when your happy but the kind of peace when you receive a testimony. The missionaries invited all of us to come up to the stand and bear our testimonies. I decided to go up and bear my testimony and shared a incident that I experienced about a year ago. It was a day that I will never forget. On September 25, 1994 I had the opportunity to receive a hearing blessing by a General Authority. That day was not only a day that I received a hearing blessing, but I received my testimony as well. When I first saw the General Authority, I went to shake his hand. At that slight second when I touched his hand I felt something very powerful, it was the spirit. From that day on I never doubted that Heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ lives and that the church is true.

I feel that I'm very lucky because I never have to wonder if Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ really exist and that if the church is really true. I also feel that I'm very lucky to be hard-of-hearing. I feel that Heavenly Father has made me this way because I have something special to accomplish. When I received my hearing blessing, the General Authority told me that I was one of Heavenly Fathers special spirits in the pre-existence. I believe that being hard-of-hearing brings a big challenge to my life, it helps me to learn more.

It is my testimony that I know Heavenly Father lives. I know that the Lord Jesus Christ is his son and our Savior. I know that this church is true. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that because of him we can enjoy the church and its teachings. I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Jeremy Runnells

Sacrament Talk
December 29, 1996
Jeremy Runnells

Hello Brothers and Sisters. I've been asked to give a short talk about the Savior's influence in my life. It's impossible for me to list and tell you everything the Savior has done for me. When I was a little kid I didn't like to go to church because I couldn't hear the speakers in Sacrament meetings and my Sunday school teachers clearly. But all of this changed when I received a hearing blessing from a General Authority when I was thirteen years old. All it took was a simple handshake to feel the strong feeling of the Holy Ghost. As a result of this feeling I've changed from a boy who didn't like church to a boy who read a couple thousand pages of church related books, who attends church just about every Sunday, who passes the sacrament, who is active in scouts and most importantly, who is a boy with a strong testimony of Christ and his church. I'm a young man and still have a lot to learn but I have already learned the most important thing in my life and that is my testimony and faith in Christ. My testimony that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ lives and loves and knows all of us. I have learned that by having faith in Christ, life is much easier, and that he will help you whenever you need his help. In fact, if under the right circumstances and according to your faith and righteousness, he has to help you somehow. I read in the Book of Mormon about when the Brother of Jared needed some lighting for his boats and asked the Savior to touch the 16 small, white stones that he collected so that they would shine. The Savior touched those stones and showed his finger to the Brother of Jared and he became afraid. The Savior asked the Brother of Jared if he believed that he would show himself to him and the Brother of Jared had unshakable faith that the Savior would show himself to him. The Savior told the Brother of Jared that because of his great faith that he has to show himself to him. What is interesting about this scripture is that the Savior told the Brother of Jared that because of his great faith he *has* to show himself to him. The Savior didn't say "Well, you have great faith so I want to show myself to you" or "I'll let you see me" but instead the Savior told the Brother of Jared that he *has* to show himself because of his faith. I know that

our Heavenly Father lives and loves each and everyone of us. I know that Jesus Christ is his son and he has unconditional love for all of us. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and that he restored the true church. I'm grateful for all that I have and am thankful for the Saviors influence in my life. I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Sunday, September 25, 1994

Today on the sabbath day I went to church for the sacrament meeting. After I passed the sacrament for that I am a deacon, I went to the stake center to pick up the stake president. Me, my father and my sister Tricia went to the city called Arcata for my special blessing for my hearing. I had received the blessing by a general authority named bro. Lance B. Wickman who is in the second quorum of the seventy's. When I arrived at the Arcata, Ca. stake center where we met bro. Wickman. When I shook his hand I had a peaceful feeling that I never felt before, oh what a feeling it was! I then went into his office and sat down with my dad, sister and the stake president. Bro. Wickman asked me questions about school, church, etc.. I told him about my hearing, about that I have been hard-of-hearing since I was four years old. After this bro. Wickman asked everyone to kneel and to say a prayer each. As I was watching dad, he had tears in his eyes and I knew right then that it wasn't just me who had faith, but him who had faith also. When the prayers were over I

got up and sat on a chair which bro. Wickman and my stake president loved hands on me. I was shaking, with faith, I was shaking, because I thought that this would be the last few minutes that I would ever have to wear those hearing aids again. He put oil on my hair which I couldn't feel or see it. He said a long prayer for which I couldn't write in this journal. After the blessing he ^{said} something I will never forget. He put his hands on my shoulders and said "Everything is going to be alright, you just be a good boy." He also said that my hearing will ^{be} "wstop" which means that "I will hear again! What joy that brings." He also revealed the future, he said that I will be married in the temple and be sealed to my future wonderful children. He also said that my handicap will not interfere with my education, my sports, and my life. I also knew my relatives who died before we were there. As I was about to leave the office I shook his hand once again. As I drove back home I had thought so much about what happened and what will happen. I bear testimony that church is true and that heavenly father and Jesus lives, and that Jesus Christ is God's son. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

July 26-30, 1995 Especially for Deaf Youth.

I have not wrote in my diary for quite some time. During the week of July 26-30, 1995 I have been in Provo, Utah to attend the Especially for Youth program. It was a very spiritual experience. I have arrived there on Monday the 26th. That day I got settled in with unpacking my suitcase. I met people that were deaf and were mormons. The next day I was pretty much comfortable with the environment. That day we played games talked with the youth and was beginning to experience a wonderful time. The next day was Wednesday which was a very important day. We went to the Salt Lake City temple to baptize for the dead. It was a wonderful spiritual experience. On Thursday we played games, had a conference with especially for youth talkers. One man who gave a talk had my full attention although I didn't pay much attention to the other talkers. He gave a talk that I will never forget. He told us things that I never realized before. He told

wonderful things like that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ loves us so much individuality. He also said something that I never really thought would be that true. He said that deaf and hard-of-hearing people are great and wonderful people. That ancient prophets that received revelations were told about us. They were about to write about us but heavenly father didn't want them to because ~~we~~ were too great. The speech that the man made was amazing that I cried. I then regretted thinking that I am just a hard-of-hearing person that heavenly father doesn't really care about. I see my disability as a great and marvelous blessing. I believe that in the pre-existence that I was so honored to ~~be~~ asked by heavenly father to be hard-of-hearing. I never realized how much it means to do what is right. The next day was a wonderful and great day. I went to the MTC (missionary training center). We went inside a conference room to learn more about the gospel from deaf missionaries. It felt peaceful and calm. A feeling like everything is all right,

that the holy ghost and the lord are watching and helping the missionaries. After learning more about the gospel from the missionaries we had a testimony meeting in the same room. I stood up and talked. I said the following: "I like to bare my testimony that the church is true and that heavenly father and Jesus Christ lives. When I was thirteen years old I recieved a hearing blessing by a general authority, that same day I felt the spirit, it was so strong that I felt like I was going to hit the ceiling. I know that the church is true, as I say this in the name of Jesus Christ Amen!" All the missionaries cried, as I went down the steps I shook one of missionaries hands, he didnt say anything but as I looked in his eyes I knew he said Thank You. The next day we had more conference talks and watched two movies called "Baby of Love" and "On my way home." Saturday was the next day and we had free time, so we went to a water resort and swam. After the day was over we went to bed.

thinking about church. The next morning we woke up and got ready for Church. I had the opportunity to pass and prepare the sacrament. I got to see how dear people pray and do things in church. Later that day I was to leave to the airport to go home one day earlier before the camp was over. I said goodbye to all my friends. It was like we were known each other for a couple of months. When I arrived at the Salt Lake City Airport I was busy thinking about the very wonderful and spiritual week. I am grateful I went and feel that this trip has strengthened my testimony more. I know that the church is true and the heavenly father and Jesus Christ lives. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. I am looking forward to serving a mission and having the opportunity to live with heavenly father and Jesus Christ again. As I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

in myself. I am a very blessed kid. I have a father who, no matter how many stupid things I do and what I don't do, sticks by me. I can see that he has great love for me and cares about my future and life than I do. He has great wisdom and I hope that someday I'll be able to be a father like him. I have learned much from him and am very grateful about that. I pray that Heavenly Father will watch over him during his trials and sufferings and bless me with what I have to do to get by in life. I see blessing coming in my family lives and know that the Lord is watching over us. I love him, my father, my Heavenly Father and the Savior. I love my family and friends and am grateful of them. I know the church is true, I love it, I don't know where or what I'd do without it. I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.