

“As Sisters in Zion We'll All Work Together”

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Sister Smoot: Thank you for being here. We are excited to see you and feel of your enthusiasm. We want you to return home with enough good ideas and good intentions to last a year or more! Does it seem unusual to see the three of us standing before you without our counselors? Though each of us has outstanding, capable counselors, we stand before you today as leaders in the general Relief Society, Young Women, and Primary to show our deep gratitude and support for one another. As sisters in Relief Society we are unitedly striving to assist families to seek Christ and His teachings.

Sister Menlove: By show of hands, how many of you have taught children in Primary? Thank you! Thank you for loving and teaching Heavenly Father's precious children. As we teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ and how to live it with joy, we are promised in the scriptures, "Great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isaiah 54:13). Your testimonies and righteous examples will strengthen generations to come.

Sister Nadauld: How many of you have taught or led young women in your part of the world? Wonderful! We have a tremendous responsibility to guide the young women of the Church to wholesome, moral lives. Thank you for the role you have played in serving them and nurturing their desire to become strong, faithful women, wives, and mothers who will receive the blessings of the temple, be sealed for time and eternity, and then set a goal to raise a righteous family.

Sister Smoot: Now, this is a trick question. How many of you are Relief Society sisters? Please stand. Great! You are right! Every sister should stand. All women are Relief Society sisters, serving in the Lord's organization for women with the ultimate goal of bringing all women and their families to Christ. As sisters in Zion, we all work together.

Sister Nadauld: In the Young Women organization we say, "We are daughters of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him."

Sister Menlove: In Primary we say, "I am a child of God. I know my Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him."

Sister Smoot: In Relief Society we say, "We are beloved spirit daughters of God, and our lives have meaning, purpose, and direction."

We invite you to study the purposes of the women's organizations of the Church and gain an understanding of the power they have to reach every individual. No matter how large the Church

becomes, it is also no larger than our own ward boundaries. Whether we are serving in Primary, Young Women, or Relief Society, we can help create an atmosphere in our wards where everyone feels included, everyone feels loved, and everyone feels nourished. We can better feed our Father's sheep and more effectively, if we are united. We can bring new members into the fold as we work together. We are all Relief Society sisters.

May we share some ideas with you about how to help families in their journey accomplish the great task of reaching every child, young woman, and adult? Let me assure you that the Lord has established a pattern for this-and for all things. How can we accomplish this great task? In the Doctrine and Covenants 52:14 we read, "And again, I will give unto you a pattern in *all things*, that ye may not be deceived" (emphasis added).

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