

BYU

PATHWAY
WORLDWIDE

FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS



MISSION STATEMENT

BYU-Pathway Worldwide

BYU-Pathway Worldwide was founded and is supported and guided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Its mission is to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities.

BYU-Pathway does this by helping students become spiritually and temporally self-reliant through spiritually-based, job-ready certificates and degrees.

BYU-Pathway Worldwide is designed to provide access to higher education wherever the Church is organized. BYU-Pathway starts by preparing students through life-skills development and English-language learning. It also provides access to appropriate certificate and degree programs by coordinating and leveraging curriculum from across the Church Educational System.

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Announcement of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

DIETER F. UCHTDORF

*Second Counselor, First Presidency,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
February 7, 2017*

Good morning and thank you for being with us on this beautiful winter day. This is a very special day for the Church Educational System, and a day of hope and joy for many of our young people worldwide who are seeking to educate themselves and to prepare for a successful livelihood.

I'm here representing the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Church Board of Education. I'm grateful to be joined by Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Church, as well as Elder Kim B. Clark, General Authority Seventy and Church Commissioner of Education.

The First Presidency and the Church Board of Education announces today the creation of a new Church-wide higher education online organization to be called BYU-Pathway Worldwide. Let me repeat, BYU-Pathway Worldwide. This organization will have responsibility for all online certificates and degree programs offered within the Church Educational System.

With 37,000 students currently enrolled in these programs, it is a marvelous and great program. And that number will continue to grow and expand in the coming years.

The beginning of BYU-Pathway Worldwide lies in the development of the Pathway program at BYU-Idaho. Pathway was created to make college educational opportunities available to those who otherwise would not have them. Pathway is a bridge into the world of online college education and a pathway to opportunities for a successful livelihood. The program combines online learning with religious education in local institutes or meetinghouses and in an environment of faith grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, Pathway inspires increased hope and faith in the Lord and opens up new opportunities in higher education to learn by study and by faith.

In 2009, the BYU-Idaho Board of Trustees approved Pathway, which began with three pilot sites. It now has more than 500 sites in 50 countries. 57,000 students have been served since Pathway's beginnings in 2009. Pathway has been able to grow because of the huge and wonderful existing organization and resources of the Church all over the world. The guidance and direction of local leaders and the consecrated service of local members has also been an essential part of its growth.

Pathway was kind of a hidden treasure within the Church Educational System during the past years. We feel that now is the right time to give increased focus and direction to Pathway and online higher education in the Church. Like the beautiful amaryllis planted during wintertime, Pathway will grow and bloom worldwide.

After prayerful consideration, the Church Board of Education has selected Dr. Clark G. Gilbert to lead BYU-Pathway Worldwide. That's why he's here with his wonderful wife, Christine, and six of his eight children. As you know, Dr. Gilbert currently serves as president of BYU-Idaho, so consequently later this afternoon at their regular devotional, an announcement will be made at BYU-Idaho to name their next president. The First Presidency has asked Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Church Board of Education to make this announcement this afternoon in Rexburg.

Dr. Clark G. Gilbert has outstanding ability and preparation to serve as president of BYU-Pathway Worldwide. For a long time, he has been deeply committed to and involved in opening opportunities through personal mentoring for young people who may have felt education was out of their reach. He chose to leave a faculty position at Harvard Business School in 2006 to take a place in the area of student

services at BYU-Idaho. In that role, he was instrumental in developing the Heber J. Grant Program, which helped individuals gain access to education, develop new skills, have greater faith, and rise to their potential. He later became an associate academic vice president within BYU-Idaho where he led the team that created Pathway. So he's kind of the father of Pathway.

In 2009, he was appointed to serve as CEO of the newly formed Deseret Digital Media organization. The following year he was also named the president of Deseret News. His experiences at Deseret News and Deseret Digital Media immersed him in the rapidly changing world of social media and communication technology that are transforming how we share and receive information today. That experience enhanced his skill and capacity to build successful organizations.

In the two years since his appointment as president of BYU-Idaho in 2015, President Gilbert has accomplished more than many could have imagined. I was privileged to be there as a member of the First Presidency to install him two-and-a-half years ago, it was a wonderful day with his great family.

BYU-Idaho, its campus, and its online programs have been significantly strengthened under President Gilbert's leadership. President Gilbert is perfectly prepared to take the responsibility for this important new position within the Church Educational System. In this new assignment he will be able to use his many talents, including his lifelong commitment to strengthening people, his deep engagement with technology and education, and his skill in creating new organizations as an innovative leader and entrepreneur.

We gratefully acknowledge the exceptional service of Sister Christine Gilbert, along with their eight children. The Gilbert family's love and example of goodness have been a tremendous influence upon the campus community and the students at BYU-Idaho. And we are confident that their positive influence will continue in this very new and very important environment.

This is a wonderful day for the worldwide Church Educational System. It is a day of hope and joy for many of our young people worldwide to see there is a new opportunity for them to go on this path of higher education. Thank you so much for being with us today for this historic moment. 🙏



DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS of BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE

Developing a Pioneer's Heart



"HANDCART PIONEERS" MINERVA TIECHERT

February 7, 2017, will forever be imprinted in our history. Not only is this the date that BYU-Pathway Worldwide was announced; it is also the date that all full-time Pathway employees were asked to leave Rexburg for Salt Lake City, where the new organization would be established.

Like our pioneering forebears in the Church who left behind homes and communities they cherished to follow a greater cause, the employees of BYU-Pathway — both current and future — make sacrifices to offer higher education to Church members throughout the world. Each of our sacrifices are individual, personal, and unique. And it's in these offerings that BYU-Pathway employees embrace the Pioneer's Heart as they dedicate themselves to building the kingdom of God.

Obedience to Prophetic & Inspired Direction

We are guided by prophetic direction from the leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Moreover, each of us as BYU-Pathway Worldwide employees actively seeks and acts upon inspiration through the Spirit in our individual work to bless God's children through higher education.

Faith & Optimism for the Unknown

Being part of a pioneering Church educational institution brings excitement and growth, and with growth comes change. At BYU-Pathway, we work on the frontier by embracing change with open hearts and willing minds.

Personal Sacrifice & Dedication

Since the announcement of BYU-Pathway Worldwide, employees have packed up, left homes and communities, and moved their families to support the growth of the organization. This continues the pattern of dedicating our time and talents to improving lives around the world.

Humility & Frugality

BYU-Pathway was born out of BYU-Idaho, an institution that through humility and frugality strives to serve "as many students as possible within resource constraints." Likewise, we strive to be stewards of consecrated resources, offering up our talents with meekness. It is in this spirit that we work to do more with less and to take correction when needed. In doing so, the Lord magnifies our abilities.

Collaboration

At BYU-Pathway, we work across boundaries both internally and externally. This requires us to counsel with our colleagues and leaders. We believe that accomplishing the work includes acting with respect, deference, and a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie.

Concern for the One

Working for BYU-Pathway is not just a job — it's a belief in a cause that matters. We are passionate about the success of each student. By "thinking like our users" and focusing on their needs, we find ways to support and lift students no matter their economic, cultural, and personal circumstances.



BYU-PATHWAY STRATEGY





The Distinctive Strategy of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

While BYU-Pathway Worldwide has a similar mission to other Church Educational System institutions, it has a distinctive strategy focused around serving the “hidden many” and operating wherever the Church is organized.

MISSION & STRATEGY

The mission of BYU-Pathway Worldwide is to “develop disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities.” This mission is similar across all the institutions in the Church Educational System (CES). The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints makes a significant investment in higher education because of the role faith-based higher education plays in developing disciples of the Savior who can provide service and leadership to others and to the Church itself.

“Strategy is about making choices, trade-offs; it’s about deliberately choosing to be different.”

— Michael Porter, *Competitive Strategy*

While all CES institutions share a similar mission, each has a different strategy with individual areas of emphasis. BYU’s flagship role includes research and graduate programs, as well as an ambassadorial function that is distinct from other CES schools. BYU-Idaho has a disciplined teaching emphasis focused on undergraduate bachelor’s-focused education. BYU-Hawaii has a geographic focus on Asia and the Pacific. And Ensign College has developed its own curriculum that is decidedly applied and job-ready. Each of these unique roles helps them add to the overall strength of the Church education portfolio.

One of the defining elements of an effective strategy is how it helps an organization make difficult choices and navigate trade-offs that lead to distinctive contributions. Strategy-driven organizations cannot be all things to all people. Organizations that are built to create differentiated value will always have the will to make strategic choices that support their underlying mission.

Organizational scholar Michael Porter said the following about the role of choice in developing strategy:

“Strategy is about making choices, trade-offs; it’s about deliberately choosing to be different.”ⁱ

BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE’S STRATEGY

To accomplish its mission of building disciple leaders, BYU-Pathway has developed a distinctive strategy with multiple supporting choices. Those choices both reinforce that strategy and help the institution contribute in unique ways to the Church Educational System and to the Church.

There are two anchor strategic choices that BYU-Pathway has made that make these contributions possible. These choices relate to decisions about which students to serve and where to serve them. BYU-Pathway:

1. Serves those who wouldn’t have access to traditional education — referred to as the “hidden many,” and
2. Operates everywhere The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BYU-PATHWAY’S UNIQUE STUDENT POPULATION AND FIELD OF FOCUS

Let’s look at the characteristics of both of the above strategic decisions that BYU-Pathway has made about which students it will serve and where it will serve them.

First, serving the hidden many means that BYU-Pathway primarily focuses on serving students who do not have access to a traditional education. Internal Church research suggests that in the United States, over 55% of the adult Church population does not have a college degree. Internationally, that figure likely exceeds 80%. Therefore, BYU-Pathway is not trying to substitute for a traditional university, but rather reach people who are not being served

or served well by traditional universities. As Elder Kim B. Clark, former Commissioner of the Church Educational System, has described:

“The Lord has put BYU-Pathway on the earth to open up those opportunities for our brothers and sisters who have been educationally invisible for a long time. Many of them fear they cannot do the work of higher education. Many of them see the cost of education as a huge barrier. Many of them have been told all of their lives that education and learning is not for them. Many of them have believed that false doctrine, until now.”ⁱⁱ

BYU-Pathway Worldwide has different admission requirements than traditional campuses. By completing BYU-Pathway’s foundational PathwayConnect courses with a 3.0 GPA or higher, students can circumvent traditional admission requirements of a high school transcript, an ACT exam, or a TOEFL score. And, while there are many first-generation and lower-income students on traditional campuses, BYU-Pathway students tend to predominantly come from these backgrounds. Moreover, the majority of BYU-Pathway students are from non-U.S. countries and reflect the needs and challenges of their cultures. BYU-Pathway students are also much older than traditional campus populations, with an average age of 34. As adult learners, most BYU-Pathway students work full time, and a much higher percentage are married and have children than student populations on traditional campuses.

Second, because the organization operates everywhere the Church is organized, everything that a student needs must be accessible online. Students cannot walk into an administration building to get help with financial aid, course registration, advising, or other services. Operating in more than 150 countries also means operating in every time zone. A traditional 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) office hour schedule does not work for students in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, or the Philippines. Similarly, programs and offerings must work across cultural contexts. From curriculum, to student support, to field support, the decision to operate everywhere the Church is organized shapes choices across the entire organization.

DOWNSTREAM CHOICES AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITY SYSTEMS

The characteristics of the hidden many and the need to operate everywhere the Church is organized signal not only a different focus for BYU-Pathway, but also a need to develop its own capabilities relative to traditional campuses. Therefore we must look at how BYU-Pathway's anchor choices shape downstream (subsequent) decisions and activities that further differentiate the strategy of BYU-Pathway. For example, if BYU-Pathway is going to serve the hidden many, it needs to be:

- Affordable
- Applied
- Focused on access
- Focused on completion

Likewise, if it is going to operate everywhere the Church is organized, it also needs to be:

- Scalable
- Embedded in the Church

(See graphic on page 5)

Let's look at each of the downstream decisions and activities and how they lead to distinctive capabilities and practices across BYU-Pathway.

Affordable

One of the most common reasons Church members do not pursue a degree is affordability. By offering a limited number of programs online, using part-time adjunct instructors, focusing on operational efficiencies, and leveraging existing Church resources, BYU-Pathway has been able to provide an education that is less than half the price of most community colleges in the United States. By using international instructors, BYU-Pathway can match the variable cost of serving international students to the variable tuition price.

The cost structure of BYU-Pathway needs to be affordable to the Church. There were more than 50,000 students enrolled in BYU-Pathway in 2020. Those enrollment numbers will continue to grow, so it is critical that BYU-Pathway's funding requirements are sustainable to the Church and affordable to students. There is a difference between being *low cost* and *low priced*. BYU-Pathway is designed to be *low cost* to the Church *and* *low priced* to the students. To keep subsidies from the Church low in the future and tuition affordable for students, BYU-Pathway will have to rely on a backbone of reliable technology platforms and employees who continually seek ways to lower costs. This will help control both variable and fixed costs. Finding ways to provide an affordable education that is dramatically lower in cost than a traditional campus-based education is a fundamental design component of BYU-Pathway's strategy.

Applied

BYU-Pathway provides more than access to degrees. Its structure helps students secure jobs, increase their income, and discover new employment opportunities early in their degree programs — well before graduation. The curriculum BYU-Pathway offers is decidedly job-focused. We also track and measure job placement and have created a mentoring program, student planning tools, and specific courses in the curriculum that teach the skills students need to find jobs.

One of the design elements of the certificate-first curriculum is that students can improve employment through a certificate, which takes about one year to complete. Much of BYU-Pathway's future success will be measured by the percentage of its students who advance from PathwayConnect, earn certificates and degrees, and find stable, well-paying careers.

Focused on access

BYU-Pathway focuses on helping students overcome the obstacles that keep the hidden many from pursuing higher education. As mentioned earlier, one of those constraints is the inability to pay tuition. Internal research indicates two additional constraints: *fear* and *access*. Many students doubt their ability to succeed at the university level. In focus groups with prospective students, researchers shared statements from Church leaders about the importance of education. For example, President Russell M. Nelson has said that "education is a religious responsibility"^{viii} and Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf has said: "For members of the Church, education is not merely a good idea — it's a commandment."^{ix}

Most of the hidden many believe these statements, but they may not believe the statements apply to them personally. They also may doubt their ability to succeed in their educational pursuits. BYU-Pathway helps students remove their fear of failure by making it easy to enroll and by giving students the skills and confidence they need to succeed. By having an open admission process (no ACT, no high school transcript), simple enrollment applications, and an earned admission route to online certificates and degrees (by earning a B average in PathwayConnect), many more students are willing to wade into higher education.

The PathwayConnect curriculum is designed to build grit and spiritual confidence by teaching life skills, career skills, and study skills, all in the framework of seeking divine help in academic pursuits. In fact, among the fundamental

components of PathwayConnect is that it teaches students about their divine potential and how to learn by the Holy Ghost, who is the teacher of all truth.^v

Focused on completion

Access is not the same as completion. The Pell Institute at the University of Pennsylvania has found that less than 15% of students from the bottom-income quartile complete their degrees in six years.^{vi} While this reflects the higher risk of first-generation and lower-income college students, it is also an indictment of traditional higher education.

Part of the challenge for these at-risk populations is that traditional educational systems were not designed to meet their unique needs. Take the impact of general education (GE) courses. Most first-generation and lower-income students drop out during their freshman year. The most common reason for this is that they often don't understand the purpose of GE courses, so they choose to quit school rather than spend money on education that appears to have no applicability to improving their earning potential.

BYU-Pathway's certificate-first curriculum not only gives these students an early win, but it teaches students the relevance and career benefits of learning a marketable skill. Note, a certificate-first approach to education is not anti-GE. It simply resequences it, putting a job skill up front, which, in the process, dramatically increases retention. This is why BYU-Pathway has much higher completion rates relative to traditional universities serving similar risk profiles.^{vii}

BYU-Pathway is making further investments in mentoring, risk analytics, missionary and instructor support, and curriculum innovations that support higher matriculation and completion rates. We often say at BYU-Pathway that "Everyone is responsible for retention."

Scalable

If BYU-Pathway is going to operate everywhere the Church is organized, it must be designed to operate at a scale that goes well beyond even the largest campuses in traditional higher education. This will require simple IT systems that eliminate manual processes and human intervention. Online courses and self-serve support tools are designed to allow BYU-Pathway's enrollment to continually grow, without the need for linear expansion of resources or staffing.





Another important aspect of scalability is degree programs that work without needing to be customized in each country. In his Inaugural Response, President Clark G. Gilbert noted that “counsel from the Church Board of Education suggested that [BYU-Pathway] will help ... jump-start [a student’s educational] path, but it won’t pave every possible road...”^{viii} This means, at least in part, that BYU-Pathway would be cautious in offering degrees that require country-specific licensing or local practicums.^{ix} In the same address, President Gilbert further noted that BYU-Pathway’s degree programs must meet the following criteria related to scalability: “1) high employability; 2) high student demand; 3) consistent degree structure including credit requirements and stackable, standard degrees; and 4) consistent online course design.”^x

Several examples demonstrate how the decision to be scalable shapes almost every other downstream activity in the organization. For example, not only are the scholarships at BYU-Pathway designed to increase access and completion, they must also be scalable in ways that don’t require a large and expensive financial aid office. In advising, rather than each student needing expensive customized academic support, the curriculum has been designed in simplified, modular components that are intuitive to the student and can generally be supported through online degree-planning tools that students can access any time of day.

Embedded in the Church

BYU-Pathway leverages the existing systems and resources of the Church, serving as an end-to-end ministering tool for local ecclesiastical leaders and as a partner to other Church organizations, including Welfare and Self-Reliance, Seminaries and Institutes, and the Missionary Department. BYU-Pathway cannot accomplish its work without the support and engagement of Church communication and priesthood channels.

BYU-Pathway must also facilitate spiritual outcomes, in addition to temporal outcomes. BYU-Pathway is designed to support local priesthood priorities. When leaders understand this they will pull or ask for BYU-Pathway to help them achieve their priorities, rather than having BYU-Pathway pushing its educational offerings. In effect, BYU-Pathway should be an instrument to help bring to pass the prophecy, “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times [God] might gather together in one all things in Christ...”^{xi}

What’s more, Church members must become familiar with BYU-Pathway throughout the world. This will happen as BYU-Pathway increases its communication efforts and as leaders increasingly understand and recommend BYU-Pathway. Moreover, awareness of the program will also increase as more students complete certificates and degrees that lead to well-paying jobs.

CONCLUSION

BYU-Pathway has a distinctive strategy and it must have the discipline to reinforce that strategy. In focusing on the hidden many, BYU-Pathway needs to make decisions that are affordable, applied, focused on access and on completion. In operating everywhere the Church is organized, BYU-Pathway systems must be scalable and embedded in the Church.

Speaking at a special broadcast, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said the following about BYU-Pathway: “[W]e’re part of a monumental moment in Church education in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is one of those pivotal marks in our history that we won’t fully understand until we look back at it years and maybe decades from now.”^{xii} Part of what makes this moment unique is not that

the *mission* of BYU-Pathway has undergone significant change. Rather, it is the *strategy* of BYU-Pathway that is unparalleled in the history of these efforts. By focusing on the hidden many everywhere the Church is organized, we are seeing a fundamental shift in the way CES impacts ministering, missionary work, and other aspects of the Church. This is leading not only to unprecedented growth in CES enrollment, but it is simultaneously moving CES into the center of the Church.

As President Nelson taught: “Pathway is for the kingdom.” In the end, BYU-Pathway’s distinctive strategy presents a vehicle to carry the mission of developing disciple leaders to the entire Church and build the kingdom in preparation for the return of the Savior. 🌀

- i. Michael Porter, *Competitive Strategy: Techniques for Analyzing Industries and Competitors* (1998)
- ii. Kim B. Clark, “BYU-Pathway Worldwide: A School in Zion” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Oct. 11, 2018), byupathway.org/speeches
- iii. Russell M. Nelson, “Education: A Religious Responsibility” (Brigham Young University–Idaho devotional, Jan. 26, 2010), byui.edu/speeches
- iv. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Two Principles for Any Economy,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2009
- v. See David A. Bednar, “Seek Ye Learning by Faith,” *Ensign*, Sept. 2007
- vi. *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States* (2016), 65, pellinstitute.org
- vii. Clark G. Gilbert and Michael B. Horn, “A Certificate, Then a Degree,” *Education Next*, vol 20, no. 1 (Winter 2020)
- viii. Clark G. Gilbert, “Know Ye Not that Ye Are the Temple of God,” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, Nov. 16, 2017), byupathway.org/speeches
- ix. Examples of jobs that have local licensing requirements or practicums include nursing, law, engineering, and public school teachers.
- x. Clark G. Gilbert, “Know Ye Not that Ye Are the Temple of God,” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, Nov. 16, 2017), byupathway.org/speeches
- xi. Ephesians 1:10
- xii. “Special Broadcast with Elder Holland” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide broadcast, Nov. 1, 2018), byupathway.org/speeches



Inauguration Remarks

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration - March 10, 2022

Thank you, President Ashton. Sister Holland and I are delighted to be with you tonight for this unique installation. We welcome President Ashton as president now of BYU-Pathway Worldwide. We welcome him into our Church Educational System. In the same breath, we honor his wife, Melinda, and their children, who are in attendance tonight, for their support of President Ashton and their commitment to this educational endeavor. We heard a wonderful expression from Sister Ashton in the honorary dinner before this service. Brian and Melinda, this audience tonight is only a symbol, a gesture, a representative few of the larger circle of students, and colleagues, and friends, and family, and donors, and administrators who love you and have been blessed by you and are going to be blessed by you. So many more would be here if they could, including the other Officers of the Board, the other participants in our Church Educational System. In their busy lives, they have asked the rest of us to be representative of them, and we are honored to do that tonight.

President Ashton, you already know that BYU-Pathway Worldwide is an application of and an extension of the glorious, visionary doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This inspiring and exalting Church that sponsors your work has as part of its founding revelations this kind of language, and I quote:

“Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.”ⁱ

And this: “As all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”ⁱⁱ

And this: “He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things. Man was ... in the beginning with God. ... The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. Light and truth forsake [the] evil one.”ⁱⁱⁱ

From these and many, many other revelatory beginnings laid down as the gospel was being restored, we now have a Church Educational System serving



nearly one million students; with over 60,000 instructors; several major campuses for primary, secondary and higher education; plus what is now a worldwide footprint through BYU-Pathway Worldwide.

President Ashton, one of the thrilling elements of your new assignment is your opportunity to witness history as measured against these early revelations but also to lead out in a new era to make history as a result of contemporary revelation. I consider the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide to be the most important and most far-reaching development in the Church Educational System of this Church since the creation of Seminaries and Institutes of Religion over a century ago. Your program is different and exciting in kind as well as degree from anything we have ever done, with all the marks of individuality and excitement that characterize an idea whose time has come. The instant success of this educational service is evidence enough of the reception it will continue to get around the world, holding aloft for all to see the hope that it instills and the good that it does for one generation after another, after another.

Part of your charge, President, in undertaking this exciting new program is to help your students of whatever age become self-reliant and independent, as you have just said,

able to improve their lot in life and pass those advantages on to their children and their children’s children. This has obvious temporal, day-to-day application, but it is important as a spiritual blessing even more than a temporal one. Certainly, your educational program will add to the quality of your students’ lives by increasing their ability to make a living for themselves and for their families. But spiritually speaking, it will fortify that divine reach — that spiritual impulse within all of us — that helps us grow into the full measure of divinity that God intends for us to achieve. That is why love for and loyalty to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His gospel must be the ultimate end product of your educational efforts and the ultimate mark of your success.

In this inspired program, Brian, about which you already know so much and to which you have already given an immense amount of time and energy, you will be associating not only with our exceptional professional colleagues here in Salt Lake City, Provo, Rexburg, and Laie, but also with legions spread out across the earth. You will be out in the vanguard of this movement where individual lives are being molded and shaped on location, where hope is coming to many who had so little to be hopeful about, where the Church is often in its first generation. You are our multi-skilled specialist who goes into the fray first, meets

immediate needs where you can, and boosts many of your students on to further education, productive professional lives, participatory citizenship, and strong family lives. And the need has never been more evident.

President Dallin H. Oaks said to your students just a month ago, “We live in challenging times. . . . More important [than the wars and earthquakes and tsunamis is the fact that] values and standards honored for thousands of years are now being denied or cast aside. Selfishness is replacing service. Evil is being called good, and good is being called evil.”^{iv} So you and your associates come to the kingdom, like Esther, “for such a time as this.”^v

“Serve and strengthen the students you have, and legions will come to join you.”

President Ashton, you, your faculty, and staff will, as noted, be serving in real time with real lives that are being molded and shaped before your very eyes. Yours is the privilege to “connect” with them first and quickly — “connect” being a key word in the BYU-Pathway vocabulary — and to start them out (or in some cases, restart them) on their life-changing journey. This forms a very sweet bond of sisterhood and brotherhood along this “pathway” you and they now walk together.

Even as we say that, we are saddened by the conflicts that continue to unfold around the globe. If, in the course of working together there exists some disagreement, whether that be among individuals or nations, the way of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only answer to bringing peace and harmony into those lives. Violence, greed and avarice, a lack of a sense of history or a lack of a sense of respect when considering the rights of others — whatever the problem — an education, especially an education in discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ, should be a central, majestic part of any solution. We hold firmly to the Savior’s declaration that we should know the truth, and the truth would make us free.^{vi} That truth is the truth He teaches. That truth is the truth that He is.

So, President Ashton, enjoy this brotherhood and sisterhood (Melinda too) of all those learners around the world. Be ready for growth when it comes because the need and the appetite are immense. We smile to keep from crying when we hear of entire stake presidencies, high councils, bishoprics, Relief Society presidencies, and elders quorum presidencies in which all or part are enrolled in BYU-Pathway, even as they were initially being charged with providing it to others. It is as if those manuals, workbooks, and English grammar texts are now placed on the table as the way to gain access to the standard works of the Church and its handbooks. So, President, do what you do well. Serve and strengthen the students you have, and legions will come to join you. When you have done the best you can by them, we will grow the operation to serve more nations, more cultures, and more languages. The possibilities in the future are staggering, quite frankly. But as the marvelous hymn by Cardinal Newman says:

“I do not ask to see
the distant scene —
one step enough for me.”^{vii}

President Ashton, I conclude with an invitation to you to take your own very good counsel given to BYU-Pathway students in a devotional three years ago. To those learners you said, and I quote, “Trust that ‘with God all things are possible.’ Don’t give up because learning something seems impossible,” you counseled. “Don’t take counsel from your fears.’ Rather, move forward in faith. If you can’t see the solution to your problems now,” continuing President Ashton’s quote, “believe that those solutions will come as you move forward if you are doing what God wants you to do.”^{viii}

That sounds to me like excellent advice, the kind of thing we would want to hear from the president and principal teacher of an educational endeavor. So when you are having a hard day and the hurdles seem almost too much to overcome, get out your talk and read your advice. Always know that you go forward with our love and complete support. May God bless you with every needful thing, especially His guiding Spirit always. Without that you cannot hope to succeed, but with it you cannot possibly fail. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. 🙏

- i. Doctrine and Covenants 130:18–19
- ii. Doctrine and Covenants 88:118
- iii. Doctrine and Covenants 93:28–29, 36–37
- iv. Dallin H. Oaks, “Leadership” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Feb. 8, 2022) byupathway.org/speeches
- v. Esther 4:14
- vi. See John 8:32
- vii. “Lead, Kindly Light,” Hymns, no. 97
- viii. Brian K. Ashton, “Learning is a Spiritual Endeavor” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Apr. 30, 2019), byupathway.org/speeches





Patterned After the House of the Lord

BRIAN K. ASHTON

President of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration - March 10, 2022

Thank you, Elder Holland and President Oaks. In the October 1985 General Conference, President Gordon B. Hinckley, who was then serving as a counselor in the First Presidency, said the following: “I am driven by two resolutions. The first is to serve the Lord to the very best of my ability.... The second is to serve His chosen prophet.... I consider these to be sacred and binding obligations and more important than all other considerations.”ⁱ

I want the Church Board of Education to know that I too am driven by these resolutions, as are all who serve at BYU-Pathway Worldwide.

To our colleagues at BYU-Idaho, Ensign College, and Seminaries and Institutes of Religion, with whom we partner for instructors, curriculum, and accredited credentials, please know of our gratitude for our partnerships with you. We recognize the vital role you play in serving our joint students. We are also very grateful for our burgeoning partnership with BYU-Hawaii, which helps students from Oceania and the Pacific Rim to meet the entrance requirements for BYU-Hawaii.

THE DIVINE PATTERN OF LEARNING

Now as we prepare to consider the future of BYU-Pathway Worldwide, it is essential to recognize that, in God’s kingdom on the earth, it is in the House of the Lord, the holy temples, that we find the divine pattern for education and learning.ⁱⁱ This pattern includes:

- Focusing on Jesus Christ who is “the source of truth and light.”ⁱⁱⁱ
- Participating in ordinances and making and keeping sacred covenants, which brings the power of godliness into our lives.^{iv}
- Preparing men and women to go forth to teach the gospel, gather scattered Israel, and fulfill any other mission God may have for them.^v
- Making God’s highest blessings accessible to all His children who will abide by certain worthiness standards regardless of where they live or their economic status.
- Putting knowledge in the context of the plan of salvation and eternity, including helping students understand their divine potential.
- Helping one another throughout the learning process.^{vi}

Each part of this pattern is designed, at least in part, to bring the Holy Ghost more fully into our lives. The Holy Ghost is essential to our learning for the following reasons. It is the Holy Ghost who is “the teacher and witness of all truth”^{vii} and will “teach [us] all things that are expedient for [us].”^{viii} The Holy Ghost gives us access to God’s power so that we can accomplish our goals and serve others. And, because He is a member of the Godhead, having the Holy Ghost in our lives is both practice as well as cleansing^{ix} and soul-expanding^x preparation for becoming like God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and dwelling in Their presence. Becoming like God is, in fact, the ultimate purpose of education.

It is not surprising then that section 97 of the Doctrine and Covenants, which is about the House of the Lord and building Zion, begins with a message to those who “are truly humble and are seeking diligently to learn wisdom and to find truth.”^{xi} The Lord goes on to address the “school in Zion,”^{xii} promising its students that if they will have honest and broken hearts, contrite spirits, and observe their covenants by sacrifice, they will bring forth “much precious fruit.”^{xiii} The Lord then discusses the need to build a temple. As is suggested in this section, a school in Zion should prepare its students to enter into and keep the covenants they make in the House of the Lord. Finally, this section ends with instructions which suggest that both a school and a temple may be necessary for building Zion.

“It is essential to recognize that, in God’s kingdom on the earth, it is in the House of the Lord ... that we find the divine pattern for education and learning.”

The Lord has said that He “will give [us] a pattern in all things, that [we] may not be deceived.”^{xiv} Like its sister Church Educational System (CES) institutions, BYU-Pathway must “be a school in Zion”^{xv} and, to borrow a phrase from Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, “a legitimate academic [and, I would add, spiritual] descendant of the School of the Prophets.”^{xvi} BYU-Pathway’s employees, service missionaries, other volunteers, students, and partners must use the educational pattern provided by the House of the Lord in all we do. If we ever stray from using that pattern,^{xvii} we will find ourselves in trouble as an institution.



BUILDING DISCIPLE LEADERS OF JESUS CHRIST

With the temple as our standard and Zion as our goal, I want to discuss what we must do to fulfill BYU-Pathway’s mission and strategy.

BYU-Pathway’s mission is to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities. In a recent BYU-Pathway devotional, President Dallin H. Oaks described these leaders as “self-reliant servants of Jesus Christ and [their] fellowmen.”^{xviii} These leaders must seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ, of Whom it is written: “He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw all men unto him.”^{xix} In other words, the disciple leaders BYU-Pathway and its partners seek to develop must not be concerned about position or prominence. Rather, they must lead using the pattern set forth in Doctrine and Covenants 121:

No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and

meekness, and by love unfeigned; By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile —
 Repeating betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou hast reproofed, lest he esteem thee to be his enemy; That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death. Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly....^{xx}

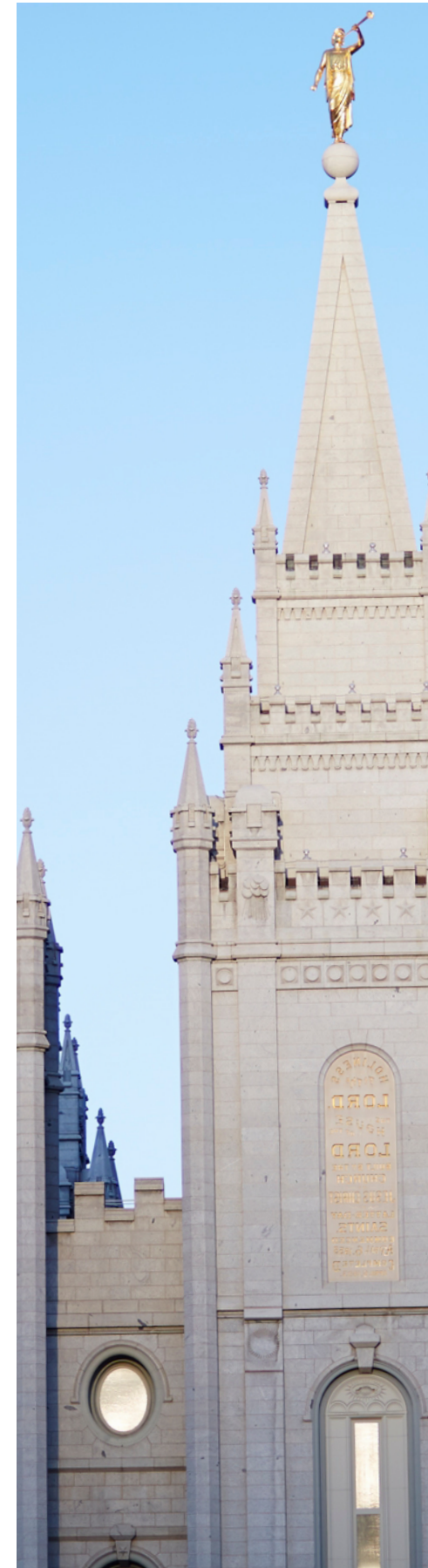
If we do our jobs well, the righteousness and truth that our students embody will cause those they serve to follow our students’ lead without regard to our students’ callings or positions. This will lead to lasting change among those our students influence.^{xxi}

BYU-Pathway and its partners can only build these types of leaders as we help them bring the Holy Ghost into their lives. We do this by focusing our students on Jesus Christ; emphasizing the need to make and keep sacred covenants, especially in the House of the Lord; teaching pure truth in the context of the plan of salvation; helping students to apply those truths; and providing opportunities for service. We must also assist these future disciple leaders to be self-reliant.

SERVING THE “HIDDEN MANY”

BYU-Pathway Worldwide’s strategy is to serve those who have not traditionally had access to higher education, the “hidden many,” and to do so wherever The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized.^{xxii} Our goal is to make BYU-Pathway accessible and able to be completed by anyone who is willing to abide by the worthiness standards for admission regardless of where they live or their financial status.^{xxiii} With exceptionally low tuition and approval to serve students from more than 180 countries, BYU-Pathway has already made great strides toward being accessible. But there remain many worthy sons and daughters of God who still cannot access higher education through BYU-Pathway or any other institution. As a result, BYU-Pathway and its partner institutions must do more, including:

- Building awareness of BYU-Pathway such that it is regularly discussed by ward and stake councils and presidencies throughout the Church as a tool for blessing those to whom they minister.^{xxiv}
- Making our operating model, including our processes and systems, scalable for whatever size the Church needs it to be as approved by the Board of Education.
- Discovering additional innovative and inspired ways to reduce the cost of a BYU-Pathway education without lowering quality or losing the one-on-one experiences that are so vital to students’ spiritual and academic success.





- Providing scholarships to students where there is additional financial need.
- Offering mentoring support to students throughout their degree programs.
- Overcoming technological barriers that hinder student success in some parts of the world.
- Working closely with the Church Board of Education to explore possibilities to make the blessing of a higher education through BYU-Pathway available to those who do not speak English.
- Simplifying our application and ecclesiastical endorsement processes, especially for non-native English speakers and international students and leaders.
- Shortening the time to graduation.
- Helping students more effectively prepare to find jobs,^{xv} including working remotely for companies in higher-wage nations.

STUDENTS ARE REAPING THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OF EDUCATION

Now, as we build disciple leaders and make the blessings of education available and affordable to more of God’s children — thus bringing the Holy Ghost more fully into their lives — we will assist in filling the world with truth and light and help bring an increasing number of the willing-hearted and their families to Christ.

As a result, there will be more experiences like that of Dwight from Togo in West Africa, who learned about BYU-Pathway from his member friend, Jeff. With BYU-Pathway Dwight found an affordable higher education program that didn’t require him to leave his home country. In his studies, Dwight learned that he is a son of God with a purpose in life, that there are living prophets, and that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love him. This is a picture of Dwight at his recent baptism.

Or Stefanie from Suriname in South America, who had stopped attending church after her divorce. Some friends from institute introduced Stefanie to BYU-Pathway. Her experience at BYU-Pathway led her to return to church. She is now the Relief Society president in her ward, and her new husband is learning about the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Or Aaron from the United States who, after a decade of not attending church, felt so much love and acceptance at BYU-Pathway that he rekindled his faith. Aaron recently made covenants in the House of the Lord, accompanied by his service missionaries. Aaron and his wife now look forward to being sealed together.

EMBEDDED IN THE CHURCH

Now a final note: BYU-Pathway cannot do what it does on its own. I mentioned earlier our partnerships with BYU-Idaho, Ensign College, Seminaries and Institutes, and BYU-Hawaii. BYU-Pathway also works in various ways with the other Church Educational System institutions. BYU-Pathway works with many of the Church departments, including Welfare and Self-Reliance Services, ICS, Missionary, Temple, Family History, Priesthood and Family, Publishing Services, Correlation, Church Communications, Human Resources, the Office of General Counsel, and others. These partnerships are vital to the success of BYU-Pathway and our students. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with each of these entities and hope that our interactions with you will further help to build Zion.

Brothers and sisters, I bear my witness that Heavenly Father wants to bless His children through education. Jesus is the Christ. Through Him all things are possible. The Savior leads and guides The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through prophets and apostles. We at BYU-Pathway are grateful to have their direction, along with the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, in this work. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. 🙏

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|-------|--|--------|--|
| i. | Gordon B. Hinckley, “Rejoice in This Great Era of Temple Building,” <i>Ensign</i> , Nov. 1985 | xv. | Doctrine and Covenants 97:3 |
| ii. | Others have previous touched on this idea. See, for example, Merrill J Bateman, “Temples of Learning,” (Brigham Young University devotional, Sep. 10, 2002), speeches.byu.edu ; Henry B. Eyring, “The Temple and the College on the Hill,” (Brigham Young University-Idaho devotional, Jun. 9, 2009), byui.edu/foundational-addresses ; Clark G. Gilbert, “Know Ye Not That Ye are The Temple of God,” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, Nov. 16, 2017), byupathway.org/speeches | xvi. | Jeffrey R. Holland, “A School in Zion” (Brigham Young University devotional, Aug. 22, 1988), speeches.byu.edu |
| iii. | Bruce R. McConkie, “The Testimony of Jesus,” <i>Ensign</i> , July 1972; “I Believe in Christ,” Hymns, no. 134; see also Doctrine and Covenants 93:26 | xvii. | There are some things that are done in the temple that would be inappropriate to model in BYU-Pathway. |
| iv. | See Doctrine and Covenants 84:20–21 | xviii. | Dallin H. Oaks, “Leadership” (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Feb. 8, 2022), byupathway.org/speeches |
| v. | See Doctrine and Covenants 38:32–33, 38; 43:15–16; 88:70–84; 95:3–9; 97:8–9, 13–14; 105:9–12, 31–33; 109:6–8, 14–15, 22–23, 35–42; 110:9 | xix. | 2 Nephi 26:24 |
| vi. | See Henry B. Eyring, “The Temple and the College on the Hill,” (Brigham Young University-Idaho devotional, Jun. 9, 2009), byui.edu/foundational-addresses | xx. | Doctrine and Covenants 121:41–45 |
| vii. | David A Bednar, “Seek Learning by Faith,” <i>Ensign</i> or <i>Liahona</i> , Sept. 2007, 66 | xxi. | See Doctrine and Covenants 121:45–46 |
| viii. | Doctrine and Covenants 75:10 | xxii. | See Clark G. Gilbert and Brian K. Ashton, “The Distinctive Strategy of BYU-Pathway Worldwide,” byupathway.org/foundational-documents.pdf |
| ix. | See 3 Nephi 27:20 | xxiii. | No ecclesiastical endorsement is required for PathwayConnect, BYU-Pathway’s foundational courses that prepare students to enter a degree program. This has allowed thousands of students to enroll and make or renew covenants with the Savior. It has also allowed BYU-Pathway to become a very effective ministering tool. Students must have an ecclesiastical endorsement to begin a degree program. |
| x. | See Doctrine and Covenants 121:42 | xxiv. | See General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22.10.1; 22.13; 24.8.2; and 29.3.8; ChurchofJesusChrist.org |
| xi. | Doctrine and Covenants 97:1 | xxv. | This includes hiring our students from all over the world to do part-time jobs within BYU-Pathway. This will provide them with invaluable work experience and prepare them for future professional opportunities. It will also help supplement some very meager student incomes. |
| xii. | Doctrine and Covenants 97:3 | | |
| xiii. | Doctrine and Covenants 97:9 | | |
| xiv. | Doctrine and Covenants 52:14 | | |



Building Zion

BRIAN & MELINDA ASHTON

BYU-Pathway Worldwide

BYU-Pathway Worldwide Devotional - September 20, 2022

PRESIDENT ASHTON: Our dear BYU-Pathway Worldwide students, instructors, missionaries, academic partners, and employees, welcome to a new semester! We hope and pray that this will be a productive and joyful semester for each of you. May you have the Holy Ghost to help you with your studies and in all your righteous efforts.

A DESCRIPTION OF ZION

SISTER ASHTON: Today, we would like to talk about building Zion. Zion is the Lord’s name for His people who are “pure in heart.”¹ Zion can be “both a place and a people.”² In its fullness, Zion is both a people among whom, and a place where, Jesus Christ would be comfortable dwelling.³

In the Book of Mormon, the people of the Lord built a Zion society. Here is how the scriptures describe it:

“... [E]very man did deal justly one with another.”⁴

“And ... there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift.”⁵

“And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and all manner of miracles did they work among the children of men ... in the name of Jesus.”⁶

“And the Lord did prosper them exceedingly in the land...”⁷

“And now, behold, it came to pass that the people ... did wax strong, and did multiply exceedingly fast, and became an exceedingly fair and delightsome people.”⁸

“And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them.”⁹

“And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.”¹⁰

“And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor



lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people...”¹¹

“There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of -ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God.”¹²

“And how blessed were they! For the Lord did bless them in all their doings...”¹³

PRESIDENT ASHTON: Can you imagine what it would be like to live in such a place? I think it would be absolutely wonderful!

Brothers and sisters, prior to the Second Coming of the Lord — an event that prophets have identified will come in the latter days — we will have to build Zion anew.¹⁴ By building Zion and observing the Lord’s commandments, we will also be enabled to escape the judgments of God upon the wicked in the last days.¹⁵

BYU-PATHWAY’S ROLE IN BUILDING ZION

SISTER ASHTON: Doctrine and Covenants 97 gives a list of requirements that Zion must fulfill so that “she shall prosper, and spread herself, and become very glorious, very great, and very terrible.”¹⁶ Those requirements include having a school (or schools) in Zion. In fact, the Savior declared, “I, the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion...”¹⁷

Elder Kim B. Clark, former Commissioner of the Church Education System, taught, “BYU-Pathway is a school in Zion, wherever Zion is.”¹⁸ Therefore the requirements in Doctrine and Covenants 97 and the responsibility to help build Zion apply to BYU-Pathway, its students, instructors, employees, missionaries, and academic partners.

PRESIDENT ASHTON: So, what is our role in building Zion? Doctrine and Covenants 97 gives us one answer. Speaking of BYU-Pathway students, students of other Church Educational System entities, and others, the Lord said:

Verily I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice — yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command — they are accepted of me. For I, the Lord, will cause them to bring forth as a very fruitful tree which is planted in a goodly land, by a pure stream, that yieldeth much precious fruit.¹⁹

Did you catch that? We should have honest and broken hearts, contrite spirits, and observe our covenants even by sacrifice. BYU-Pathway then must produce graduates who are covenant-keeping “disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities.”²⁰

SISTER ASHTON: Elder D. Todd Christofferson, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, gives us another answer to the question, “What is our role in building Zion?” He taught:

Zion is Zion because of the character, attributes, and faithfulness of her citizens. Remember, “the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them” (Moses 7:18). If we would establish Zion in our homes, branches, wards, and stakes, we must rise to this standard. It will be necessary (1) to become unified in one heart and one mind; (2) to become, individually and collectively, a holy people; and (3) to care for the poor and needy with such effectiveness that we eliminate poverty among us. We cannot wait until Zion comes for these things to happen — Zion will come only as they happen.²¹

BYU-Pathway, along with parents, families, and other Church entities and programs, must help students to learn to be of one heart and of one mind and to live righteously. Learning these skills is a crucial part of your education and helping you to do so is essential to our mission as an institution.

In addition, BYU-Pathway has a unique role in making sure that there are no poor among us. No other Church

institution has the worldwide reach and access to spiritually-based, job-ready certificates and degrees like BYU-Pathway. BYU-Pathway can provide higher education that will help our students get out of spiritual and temporal poverty in nearly every place that the Church is organized. Those students in turn can help others to become self-reliant until there are no poor among us.

SOME THOUGHTS ON WHERE YOU CAN START

PRESIDENT ASHTON: So, what can you do today to build Zion?

We want to start by addressing BYU-Pathway’s instructors, missionaries, employees, and academic partners. Because we must help our students learn to build Zion in their lives, homes, congregations, and communities, we must begin by first building Zion in our own lives and homes. We must be pure in heart. We must incorporate Zion principles into our curriculum and teaching models. And we must do all we can to help students get jobs. We invite each of you to examine your lives, teaching, curriculum, and programs to see if they are in harmony with building Zion and then seek the Lord’s help to make necessary changes.

To our students, we want to discuss with you four things that you will learn to do during your time at BYU-Pathway. These things will help you become of one heart and one mind, live righteously, and lift out of spiritual and temporal poverty the poor among us. In doing so, you will help create Zion.

SISTER ASHTON: The first of the four is to make and keep covenants with Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father. This begins with the ordinances and covenants of baptism. Baptism opens the door to receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost guides us and gives us the strength to live righteously and keep the covenants we have made. If you haven’t been baptized by someone holding the proper authority, we invite you to do so. Other covenants follow as we prepare to enter the House of the Lord — the holy temples. If you have been baptized but haven’t made covenants in the House of the Lord, we invite you to prepare to do so now. After making these covenants, we receive additional power to keep our covenants as we partake of the sacrament each week at church and return to the House of the Lord to do work for our ancestors.²²





PRESIDENT ASHTON: Second, invite the Holy Ghost into your life to a greater degree by praying and reading scriptures daily, repenting, avoiding contention, and serving others. Doing these things not as a checklist but with the intent to draw closer to Jesus Christ will cause Jesus Christ to draw near unto you.²³ Having the Holy Ghost in your life and drawing closer to Jesus Christ will give you greater strength, wisdom, capacity, and peace in your life. It will also make it easier for you to receive the revelation you need.²⁴ And, it will help you to do better in your studies.

SISTER ASHTON: Third, follow the counsel of God’s living prophet on the earth — President Russell M. Nelson. The Lord has promised that He will inspire His prophet “to move the cause of Zion in mighty power for good....”²⁵ President Nelson is doing that. Recently, he counseled:

[Y]ou need to understand three fundamental truths that will help you prepare your future course:

1. First, know the truth about who you are.
2. Second, know the truth about what Heavenly Father and His Son have offered you.
3. And third, know the truth related to your conversion.²⁶

Throughout this year, we invite you to pay attention to what you learn both in your academic and spiritual studies about being a child of God and Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness, including the role of Jesus Christ in that plan. As you ponder these things, take responsibility for finding out if they are true. Seek for revelation about how they apply to you and what God would have you do. Share what you learn with others. We promise that as you do these things, you will receive answers to your heartfelt questions, and you will come to know your Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ better.

PRESIDENT ASHTON: Finally, fourth, persist in getting the education you need to support a family and have a successful career even when it is difficult. Having no poor among us begins with each individual developing the skills to be spiritually and temporally self-reliant. As we become self-reliant, we can bless others, including future generations.²⁷

My paternal grandfather, Earnest Lamar Ashton, grew up in the small town of Woodruff, Utah, in the United States. His family was poor. They had no running water, and no central heat even though the temperature in the winter would drop to negative 40 degrees.²⁸ When my Grandpa Ashton’s father retired, he realized that he had no money on which to live. He died just a few days later. My grandmother believed he died from desperation.

My Grandpa Ashton determined that he was going to change his family’s circumstances. He got enough education to become an auto mechanic. He worked so hard that, even during the worst economic downturn in the history of the



United States, people wanted to hire him. Eventually he was able to start his own automotive repair shop. He was never rich, but he had enough to support his family, send his children to school, and help others. I’ve heard my father tell stories about going with his dad after work to take food and other necessities to local widows who were struggling.

Because my grandfather got an education, my father was able to get a bachelor’s degree. My father then received a scholarship to attend business school at Northwestern University. Because my dad got a Master of Business Administration degree, he had a successful career working for some of the largest corporations in the United States. I know of many instances where my parents helped others overcome spiritual and financial poverty in their lives.

My father’s education provided me with opportunities to attend Brigham Young University and Harvard University. These and other blessings of the Lord upon me and my family have made it possible for me to have a successful career, serve in the Church, and spend much of my life helping others become spiritually and temporally self-reliant.

SISTER ASHTON: If you will seek the Lord’s help, you too can have the blessings of being self-reliant. You can support a family, educate your children, and help lift others out of spiritual and temporal poverty. There may be times when you will be tempted to drop out of your degree program. But if you will seek the Lord’s help, even when your situation

seems impossible, He will provide you with hope and the means to continue on the timetable that is right for you. As you stay faithful to Jesus Christ, He will draw near unto you and help you to build Zion.

PRESIDENT ASHTON: Please know that we love you. You are a child of God with divine potential. You were born on earth at this time to help build Zion. Your education at BYU-Pathway will help you to do so. This, in turn, will help prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

SISTER ASHTON: I know that creating Zion is not only God’s will for us, but it will also bring joy and peace into our lives. As we strive to love, serve, and lift others, we will more fully recognize the Lord’s hand in our lives. Our Heavenly Father and Savior love us and will help us to progress so that we can enjoy the blessings of living in Zion. They know and love each of you individually.

PRESIDENT ASHTON: I know that Jesus Christ lives. He lived a perfect life, fulfilled all the demands of justice, and voluntarily gave His life so that we might be able to return to the presence of our Heavenly Father clean and pure. As our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ wants to bless you both spiritually and temporally. He will come again. My prayer is that we will seek to build Zion by being of one heart and one mind, living righteously, and eliminating spiritual and temporal poverty.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. 🙏

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Doctrine and Covenants 97:21. ii. D. Todd Christofferson, “Come to Zion,” October 2008 General Conference. iii. Moses 7:16, 64. In February 1977, Elder Bruce R. McConkie said the following: “[The Lord’s] work includes the building up of Zion in the last days. He has commissioned us to do that work for him. The foundations of Zion have already been laid...in every place where there are stakes of Zion. But Zion is not yet perfected in any of these places. When she is perfected, it will be as it was with Zion of old—the Lord will come and dwell with his people” (“Come, Let Israel Build Zion,” <i>Ensign</i>, April 1977). iv. 4 Nephi 1:2. v. 4 Nephi 1:3. vi. 4 Nephi 1:5. vii. 4 Nephi 1:7. viii. 4 Nephi 1:10. ix. 4 Nephi 1:11. x. 4 Nephi 1:15. xi. 4 Nephi 1:16. xii. 4 Nephi 1:17. xiii. 4 Nephi 1:18. xiv. See for example, Psalms 102:16; Doctrine and Covenants 45:68-71; 97:22-25; 115:5-6; Moses 7:62-64; D. Todd Christofferson, “Preparing for the Lord’s Return,” April 2019 General Conference. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xv. Doctrine and Covenants 97:22-25. xvi. Doctrine and Covenants 97:18. xvii. See Doctrine and Covenants 97:3. xviii. Kim B. Clark, “BYU-Pathway Worldwide: A School in Zion,” BYU-Pathway President’s Dinner, October 11, 2018. xix. Doctrine and Covenants 97:8-9. xx. BYU-Pathway Worldwide Mission Statement. xxi. D. Todd Christofferson, “Come to Zion,” October 2008 General Conference. xxii. See Henry B. Eyring, “Steady in the Storms,” April 2022 General Conference; see also Doctrine and Covenants 84:19-21. xxiii. See Doctrine and Covenants 88:63. xxiv. See 2 Nephi 32:5. xxv. Doctrine and Covenants 21:1-7. xxvi. Russell M. Nelson, “Choices for Eternity,” May 15, 2022, Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults. xxvii. Joseph B. Wirthlin taught: “Our ability to reach out to others is made possible only to the extent that we are self-reliant. When we are self-reliant, we will use the material blessings we receive from God to take care of ourselves and our families and be in a position to help others...The foundation of self-reliance is hard work” (“Fruits of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, October 1991, General Conference). xxviii. Negative 40 degrees Fahrenheit is equal to negative 40 degrees Celsius. |
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Monumental Moments with a Pioneer's Heart

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

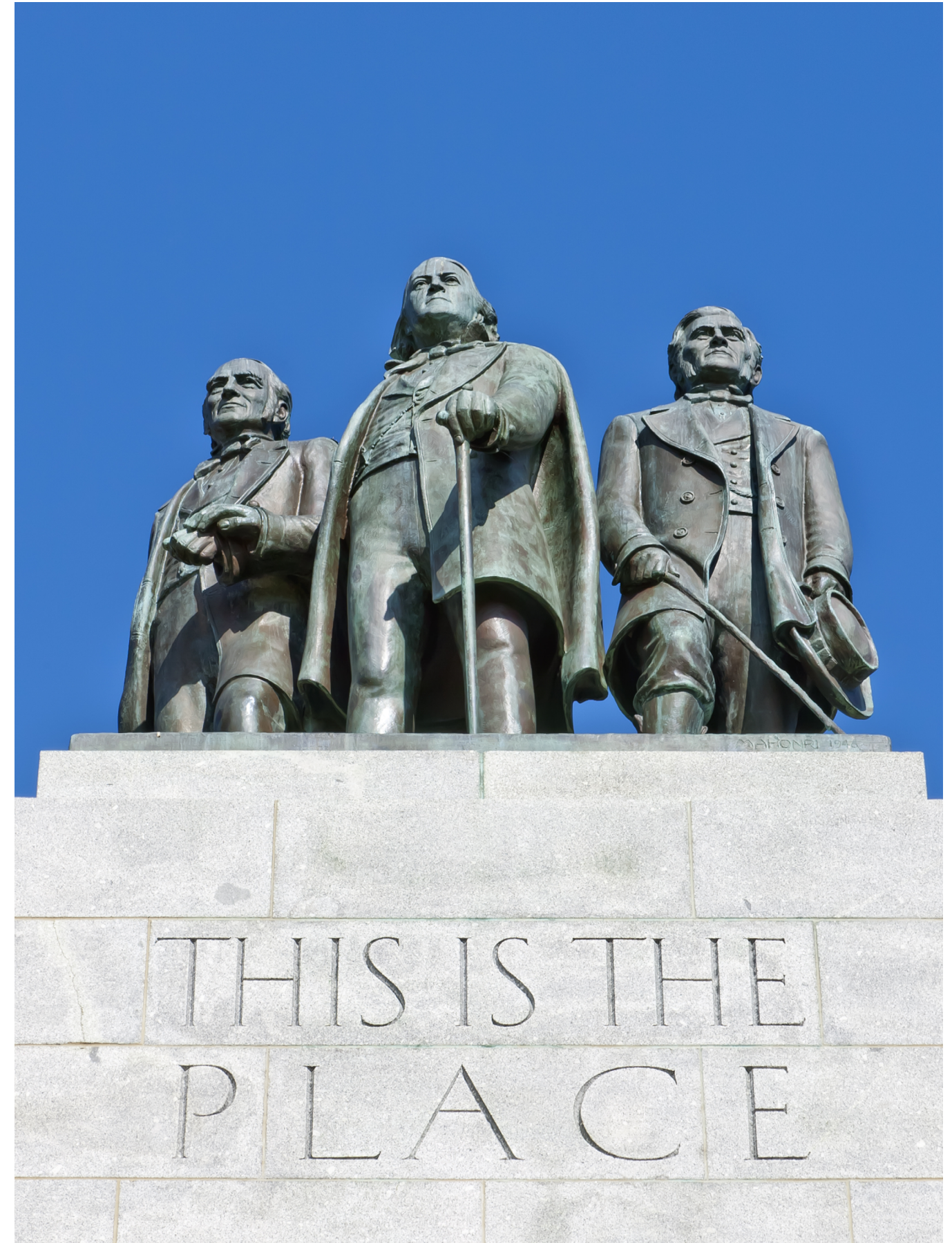
BYU-Pathway Worldwide Employee Development Day - April 15, 2021

I am delighted to have been invited to address you on your annual BYU-Pathway Employee Day. You represent what I referred to in an earlier setting as a “monumental moment” in Church Education. The significance of that moment seems more obvious with every passing day.

Here is a picture of the kind of monument that we sometimes erect to commemorate a significant milestone in the Church's march into the future. This large piece of art noting the pioneer's arrival in the Salt Lake Valley is a symbol for the newest convert in the most distant land who has perhaps scarcely heard of Nauvoo or Winter Quarters, or of crossing the Sweetwater River or fighting off the snowy blizzards of Wyoming. Every one of us can still identify with these pioneers and their hardships. There is a sense in which each of us takes our place beside those depicted on this monument as we mark the progress of the Church in this greatest and last of all dispensations.

In your case, the monument is not of wood or stone nor does it reflect an artisan's craftsmanship, but it is rather a monument of heart and mind, marking the progress of the Church spiritually as well as historically.

Fairness—some sense of “equal access” to educational opportunity—is the issue that makes the monumental moment of such significance for me. This anxiety





over how to be fair to all the members of the Church (and not just those living in North America) started for me in 1976 when I was a very young Commissioner of Education. Appointed shortly after Elder Neal A. Maxwell was made a General Authority and took on other assignments, I made my obligatory globetrotting trips that first year to see the scope of our CES programs. I remember very well my initial trip through Latin America on into the South Pacific, to Asia, and so forth, learning all I could everywhere I went about our educational offering.

But that offering was minimal. We had the seminary and institute program as the great backbone of religious education going wherever the Church had a population to serve, but beyond that we had only a few isolated remnants of schools in Latin America and the Pacific Islands that had been left over from an earlier day. The fact of the matter is (or was), we were closing schools in those days much more rapidly than we were opening them, a task that continued under Commissioner Henry B. Eyring who had been my Deputy Commissioner and then succeeded me in the commissioner's post. No, nothing that I saw going around the world in those first months gave me much reassurance that we were in any way being equitable with our educational offering to an increasingly international Church.

That anxiety intensified when, after just four years in the commissioner's office, I was made president of BYU and had the opportunity to answer my weekly mail, half of which consisted of people writing to say, "Can we have a BYU of the east? or a BYU of the south? or a BYU of California? or a BYU of Europe? or a BYU of Asia? and on and on." Clearly, there was an appetite, a hunger for special Latter-day Saint education, but it was impractical to think of building again what we had with our three BYUs in Provo, Rexburg, and Laie, and our then rather small LDS Business College in Salt Lake City.

With that, fast forward to this past decade when the concept of BYU-Pathway Worldwide was born and began to be implemented in a way that truly could potentially serve the entire Church. But to make anything out of this opportunity that would be more than a cute use of the BYU brand, to make it not only a moment but literally a "memorable moment," required what then young President Clark Gilbert phrased as "the Pioneer's Heart." Almost from the first day on the job, he worked into the culture of BYU-Pathway Worldwide the characteristics and blessings that we inherited from starting up a "company of pioneers" and letting them pursue their educational destiny no matter how rough the terrain might prove to be.

He reminded us that the BYU-Pathway's early cadre of employees were blissfully living life in Rexburg only to hear the announcement—the same day everyone else heard it—that they would all be moving en masse to Salt Lake City. President Gilbert reminds us that we have added some new families since then, making a total of more than 70 families who relocated almost overnight on the basis of that announcement and their faith in God and His prophets. For a while there, the highway between Rexburg and Salt Lake City was strewn with broken axles, abandoned wagon boxes, a pile of old harnesses, and at least a couple of handcarts that said, "Salt Lake or Bust." And some of them were busted!



That pioneer metaphor is so touching to me because I know what it is like to have to move a few dozen times. And it can't have been an entirely pleasant experience for our employees, for your spouses, and for the children. Elder Gilbert reminds me that in the offices down at the Triad Center there is a floor-to-ceiling mural of Minerva Teichert's Shouting Hosanna, depicting a woman who is beckoning others to follow and gather in the valley. Well, we had people shouting hosanna back and forth from Rexburg to Salt Lake for months on end. They came, you came, literally in waves with a "Vanguard Company" that summer followed by a "Winter Quarters" company who came after one more winter in Rexburg.

If you will let me just touch on a couple of elements that might be consistent with the idea of a pioneer's heart, celebrating this special, even "monumental moment" in Church history.

President Russell M. Nelson himself said, "Pathway is for the kingdom,"ⁱ and not just for any one campus.ⁱⁱ Of course, the proof of the pudding is always in the eating of it, and that is the experience we are having right now with Area Presidencies all over the world. I have supervised in some of the most emerging areas of the Church. I supervised in Africa for 12 years, and I had the Jewish/Muslim Middle Eastern world for over 20 years. It does not matter whether it is frontier country or one already settled and populated with Latter-day Saints, the fact of the matter remains the same. That is for Latter-day Saints, obtaining an education is a religious experience even, if you will, a religious duty. President Russell M. Nelson said:

"From the earliest days of this restored Church, education for Latter-day Saints has been regarded as a religious responsibility. In April 1843, the Prophet Joseph Smith [received direction that], 'Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come' [Doctrine and Covenants 130:18–19]."ⁱⁱⁱ

Now, the fact of the matter is that pioneering in education—or anything else—is not necessarily all that easy. I have remembered since my youth B. H. Roberts' story of having a pair of shoes that he wanted to be serviceable to him when he got to the valley. Therefore, he walked barefoot most of the journey from Nauvoo and Winter Quarters west to the Salt Lake Valley. Here is an account of a portion of that experience:

"It was the season of the year when the prickly pear plant had bloomed and the buds of it had ripened. These were quite sweet and resembled somewhat in taste and seed and juice, the pomegranate, and were a choice morsel for the youngsters of the train. This led to little side excursions to find them and bring them to camp for eating, but unfortunately it also took the



searcher for the fruit through prickly pear growths and those who were barefooted suffered immensely from contact with the spines. [Young Brother Roberts] was among those who suffered much. His feet by now, by dint of water, sand and sunheat had become black and hard and cracked, through which cracks sometimes the blood oozed, and now with the addition of prickly pear contact, brought him to camp very often with great feet-suffering. It was [his sister] Polly's self-imposed tax before nightfall to pick out the spines, . . . the task was difficult; and often accompanied by tearfall upon the smarting feet. Above all things else, this sister was noted for the quality of her tender sympathy and it isn't every brother's feet that were moistened by the tears of a fond sister."^{iv}

We love to tell these kinds of stories as long as we don't have to live them. But you are living your version of it today, and (the thorns and thistles notwithstanding) you are making a trail for others to follow for years and years to come. BYU-Pathway is an answer to my 50-year prayer that we could find an equitable way to serve the entire Church with the blessings of education.

Some of the elements of the pioneer heart that have been built into your foundational documents include but are not limited to these:

- 1) Obedience to prophetic, inspired direction
- 2) Faith and optimism toward the unknown
- 3) Personal sacrifice and dedication
- 4) Humility and frugality
- 5) Collaboration
- 6) Concern for the one

Of these six elements of the pioneer heart identified early on in our program, I would like to just mention three tonight.

First, "obedience to prophetic, inspired direction." Surely, one of the remarkable advantages we have in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is that our governing

board, its officers, its executive committee, and various other support positions are all held by those we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators. That does not mean that our board is infallible, but it certainly means that we have the best minds and the best hearts of which I know being devoted to educational matters. The scriptures say:

"There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—

"And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated."^v

We are grateful we can apply that principle to our educational function just as much as we would to the missionary program of the Church, temple and family history activity, or any other needful thing. Add to that this quote by President Harold B. Lee, who was the president of the Church when I first came into this building to work, nearly 50 years ago:

"Now the only safety we have as members of this church is to do exactly what the Lord said to the Church in that day when the Church was organized. We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through His prophet, 'as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me; . . . as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith' [Doctrine and Covenants 21:4–5]. There will be some things that take patience and faith. . . . But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord Himself, . . . the promise is that 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory' [Doctrine and Covenants 21:6]."^{vi}

The second element is "faith and optimism toward the unknown." We will always need faith and optimism for the unfolding of the full possibilities made available through BYU-Pathway. But you are still among the first of the first, and there is not much of a trail out there ahead of you. So



you must blaze on. In B. H. Roberts' language, most of what you can see are thorns and thistles and very little smooth terrain. President Russell M. Nelson said of being optimistic, being filled with faith, being hopeful:

"A more excellent hope is mightier than a wistful wish. Hope, fortified by faith and charity, forges a force as strong as steel. . . . If we will cling to the anchor of hope, it will be our safeguard forever. As declared in scripture: 'Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast' [Ether 12:4]."^{vii}

Lastly is "personal sacrifice and dedication." President Ezra Taft Benson quoted Lectures on Faith when he said:

"It is in vain for persons to fancy to themselves that they are heirs with those . . . who have offered their all in sacrifice . . . unless they, in like manner, offer unto him the same sacrifice (Lectures on Faith, 6:8; italics added)."^{viii}

President Benson then added:

"To sacrifice, serve with your time and means to build the kingdom of God on earth. The great law for spiritual happiness and progress was stated by the Master in these words: . . .

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it' [Matthew 16:25]. . . .

"If you would find yourself, learn to deny yourself for the blessing of others."^{viii}

Monumental moments with a pioneer's heart: (1) obedience to prophetic direction, (2) hope for the future, (3) personal sacrifice, even consecration, to achieve our goals. We owe this to ourselves, but we especially owe it to those who will follow hereafter. May the Lord bless you to grab your handcart and head west—or north or south or east or wherever this monumental moment in Church education takes you. Be a pioneer. Employ a pioneer's heart. Make the path smoother for the next generation, and one day we will all rejoice together, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. 🙏

i. Russell M. Nelson, quoted by Clark G. Gilbert, in Sarah Jane Weaver, "BYU-Pathway Worldwide President Gilbert Discusses Innovations Blessing Church Education" (podcast interview, episode 13), Church News, Jan. 12, 2021, accessed Apr. 13, 2021, <https://www.thechurchnews.com/podcast/2021-01-12/byu-pathway-worldwide-president-gilbert-education-innovation-201621>

ii. See Clark G. Gilbert, in Sarah Jane Weaver, "BYU-Pathway Worldwide President Gilbert Discusses Innovations Blessing Church Education" (podcast interview, episode 13), Church News, Jan. 12, 2021, accessed Apr. 13, 2021, <https://www.thechurchnews.com/podcast/2021-01-12/byu-pathway-worldwide-president-gilbert-education-innovation-201621>

iii. Russell M. Nelson, "Inauguration of Clark G. Gilbert," Nov. 2017, in BYU-Pathway Worldwide: Foundational Documents (booklet, 2018), 4–5.

iv. B. H. Roberts, The Life Story of B. H. Roberts, circa 1933, typescript, 45, Church History Library.

v. Doctrine and Covenants 130:20–21.

vi. Harold B. Lee, in Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee (2000), 84–85.

vii. Russell M. Nelson, "A More Excellent Hope," *Ensign*, Feb. 1997, 61, emphasis in original.

viii. Ezra Taft Benson, "This Is a Day of Sacrifice," *Ensign*, May 1979, 32, 34, emphasis in original.



Know Ye Not That Ye are the Temple of God?

CLARK G. GILBERT

First President of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration - November 16, 2017

CONSTRUCTING TEMPLES OF THE LORD

Tonight I would like to talk about temples of learning. The temple, a house of learning, is perhaps the greatest symbol of our faith.ⁱ And it is there that we can “receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost.”ⁱⁱ In our home, Christine and I have prominently displayed two treasured images of the temple. The first is a large canvas print of the Rexburg Idaho Temple just after its completion. It stands as a beacon on the hill, shining with almost celestial radiance. The second image is much more modest, but its message is equally important to our family. It is a woodcut block that fits in my hand and shows the same temple under construction. You can see its true form emerging, but it has not yet achieved its divine purpose and potential.

At BYU-Pathway Worldwide, we are constructing temples of learning — both in the lives of our students and in the organization that serves those students.ⁱⁱⁱ From the young man in Puebla who traveled hours for the first PathwayConnect gathering in Mexico City, to the single mother in Utah forced into a situation she never planned, to the father in West Africa seeking to provide for his family, to the returned missionary in Boston who never thought college was a possibility — BYU-Pathway students are constructing temples of learning in their own lives.

Likewise, all those who work with BYU-Pathway Worldwide are building temples of learning in the very creation of this new organization. This is a photograph of Pathway employees in Rexburg as they watched a live stream of the First Presidency announcing the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide. Without prior notice, nearly 50 families were informed not only that they would be part of this new organization, but also that they would be asked to relocate their families to support its growth.

Constructing a temple of the Lord requires that we keep Christ at the center and build according to His plans.^{iv} We must preserve that vision, so we don’t get lost or give up when things get difficult. We can grow in confidence as our temple structure begins to take form. But even then, we remember it is not our temple alone, but a temple of the Lord. We must stay close to the plans He has given and seek direction from those He has asked to watch over its construction.

WHY IS THE CHURCH SO COMMITTED TO EDUCATION?

Why are we so committed to education in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? President Russell M. Nelson has taught: “In the Church, obtaining an education and getting knowledge are a religious responsibility.”^v And President Dieter F. Uchtdorf declared that “[f]or members of the Church, education is not merely a good idea — it’s a commandment.”^{vi}

I love the painting by Ken Baxter entitled “Embarkation of the Saints.” It’s a reminder to me that these early converts to the Church were poor, largely uneducated immigrants. And yet this same people would establish a pattern of making individual commitments to frontier academies and great universities. But our focus on education isn’t rooted in a cultural norm or historical precedent, it isn’t rooted in the hope for financial security, or even a desire for intellectual edification. To disciples of Jesus Christ, education is part of the path to conversion and the resultant call to reach for our divine potential. President Henry B. Eyring has taught that “[c]onversion brings a drive to learn.”^{vii} In this sense, education reflects our efforts to become perfected in Christ.

WHY BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE?

Overcoming Constraints to Education

Before launching the original Pathway program in 2009, we studied members of the Church who were not attending or completing college. We shared with them prophetic statements about the importance of education, which were universally well received. So why were they not pursuing education? The top reasons were cost, fear, and access. PathwayConnect was then designed to address these constraints. The burden of cost is mitigated through what remains a remarkably affordable educational program. The fear of failure is addressed through a curriculum that is designed to build spiritual and academic confidence. The lack of access is lessened as students learn online and at local gatherings around the world.

A Long-Standing Vision to Reach Beyond the Existing Campuses

Our leaders saw a need to reach beyond the physical campuses of our Church universities well before the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide. President Henry B. Eyring stated in his 1971 inaugural response at Ricks College: “We must also find ways for this college to serve young people ... who may not be able to come to this campus.”^{viii} This theme

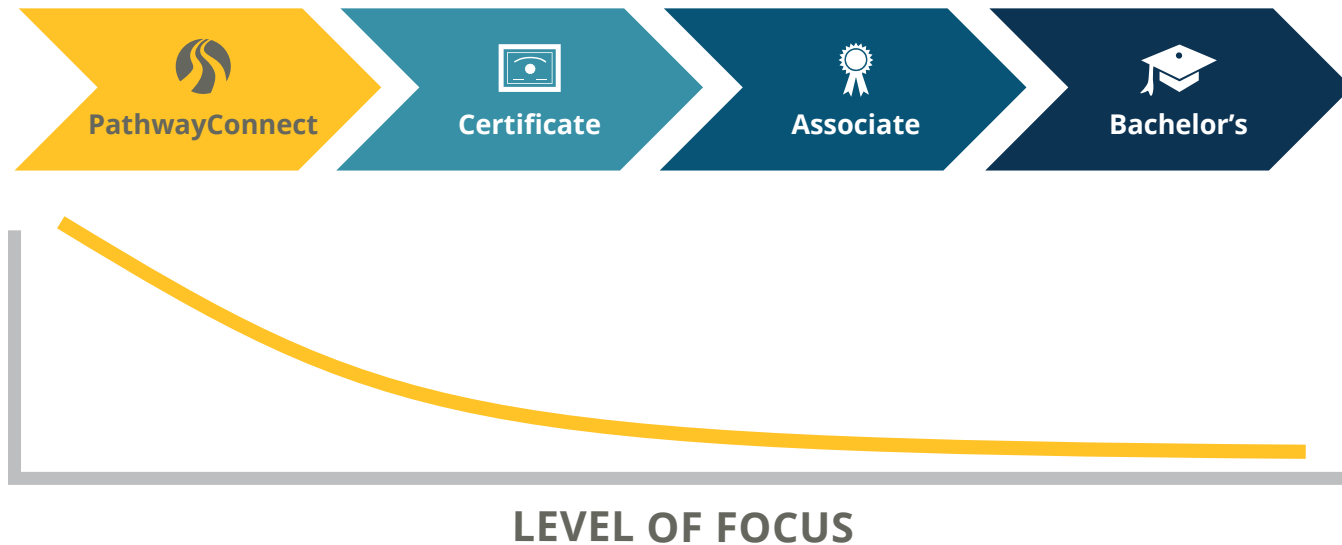
was revisited in Elder David A. Bednar’s 1998 Ricks College inaugural response^{ix} and again in Elder Kim B. Clark’s 2005 Brigham Young University-Idaho inaugural response.^x

But the initiatives of the Lord “move in their times and their seasons,”^{xi} and it wasn’t until 2009 that the first Pathway sites were launched. The program would take advantage of an emerging online capability at BYU-Idaho. It would also leverage the infrastructure of the institute program to enable local gathering and religious instruction across the world. Each of these pre-conditions were known to the Lord long before the creation of Pathway and were called upon in their needed time and season. Like Karl G. Maeser, the first president of Brigham Young University who once foresaw temples of learning on the campus hill, we too can see new temples of learning that have already been prepared in centers of strength across the Church.^{xii}

Today’s Challenges Cannot be Solved with Yesterday’s Tools

As the Pathway and online degree programs expanded, the number of students who never came to the campus at BYU-Idaho eventually exceeded the number who did. At my own BYU-Idaho inauguration just two years ago, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf stated that “today’s challenges cannot be solved with yesterday’s tools.”^{xiii} Two years later, he announced the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide saying it would have the responsibility to coordinate all online certificate and degree programs in the Church Educational System. Subsequent counsel from the Church Board of Education suggested that because BYU-Pathway needed to operate wherever the Church is organized, its focus would be on access and not the broader resources that come with a full-service university. In other words, while education remains a religious priority, it is also a personal responsibility. The Church will help you jump-start your path, but it won’t pave every possible road on your journey.





So what does this mean? A focus on access means our core emphasis will always be on the first-year PathwayConnect program and its role in building hope and confidence. Our secondary emphasis will remain on highly relevant gateway certificates. BYU-Idaho President Henry J. Eyring described these certificates as engaging students “early in the practical elements of a discipline, with the goal of stimulating curiosity and boosting confidence.”^{xiv} After completing their certificates, students can progress to a limited number of valuable degree programs that meet the following criteria: 1) high employability; 2) high student demand; 3) consistent degree structure including credit requirements and stackable, standard degrees; and 4) consistent online course design standards. This curricular focus allows us to offer more prescribed student advising, freeing resources for mentoring and retention efforts.

Working with Partner Institutions

It is not by accident that BYU-Pathway Worldwide would grow out of BYU-Idaho, with its student focus and modest beginnings. It is not by accident that it would come from BYU-Idaho, with its prophetic charge to “reach a little lower” and “lift ... a little higher.”^{xv} Without BYU-Idaho, our students would not have access to the high-quality online courses developed by the campus faculty and online course design teams in Rexburg. In turn, BYU-Pathway injects an understanding of remote online-degree students in a way that not only strengthens the online programs, but also offers BYU-Idaho a window into the needs of everyday students on their own campus — needs that are sometimes hidden in the ever-increasing pull of specialized bachelor’s programs.

BYU-Pathway will also work closely with LDS Business College in creating a flagship Pathway site in Salt Lake City as a hub of educational innovation for job skills and career preparation. We will continue to coordinate across the Church Educational System, Self-Reliance Services, and the missionary department as we construct this temple of learning. Only in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints could so many resources work in such remarkable harmony.

Our Deeper Purposes

The creation of a temple, no matter how beautiful its structure, must still achieve its deeper purposes in Christ. For BYU-Pathway Worldwide this includes efforts to:

- 1) Get the gospel down into students’ hearts,
- 2) Help students become capable learners, and
- 3) Prepare students to lead and support families

President Henry B. Eyring has stated that “[e]very innovation, every change, will be measured against this test of the heart. How would this proposed change build testimony and true conversion to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ in the heart of a student?”^{xvi} BYU-Pathway is not just about earning a degree or finding a job. Our focus is grounded in the fundamental work of building disciples of Jesus Christ.

To help students become capable learners, we seek for what Elder Clark has called deep learning, where students lift

one another in developing the whole soul.^{xvii} Note that the very design of our courses allows students to teach and learn from each other. President Henry B. Eyring counseled that while “it would be easy to look for ways to help learners learn alone, using the wonders of technology. The same technology could give learners the experience of helping others they love to learn with them.”^{xviii} Our courses are cohort-based, interactive, and provide opportunities for students to work together. When they exercise faith and teach one another, students invite the Holy Ghost to become the true teacher, and they learn at an accelerated pace.^{xix} This point is particularly important as we look to expand this organization across the Church because our students will have opportunities to learn at a rate and a level they could not do without the help and guidance of the Holy Ghost.

Learning to lift others is part of preparing students to lead and support families. And while this certainly includes the principles of spiritual and temporal self-reliance, President Henry B. Eyring also foresaw the emergence of “natural leaders” who would become “legendary for their capacity to build the people around them and to add value wherever they serve.”^{xx} Look closely at these images of BYU-Pathway students teaching and building one another. It is precisely this form of natural leadership that will prepare them to lead and support families and to serve in the Church. And it is this capacity to lift and build others that is the essence of BYU-Pathway.

CLOSING

In closing, I reiterate our commitment to the students of BYU-Pathway Worldwide. Please know of our love for you and our admiration for your courage, determination, and faith. I promise you that as you lean unto the Lord and seek the Holy Ghost in your life, you will be blessed in ways you can’t imagine. To our partners, we pledge to continue



to work together to meet the needs of online students around the world. To the Board, know of our commitment to stay within the boundaries of an educational offering that must work wherever the Church is organized. We will seek ongoing guidance and counsel as this new temple of learning continues to take shape. In Longfellow’s words to the Builders:

Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house, where Gods may dwell,
Beautiful, entire, and clean.^{xxi}

May we realize we are building temples of learning in our own lives and in the kingdom. I share my testimony and my love for the Savior Jesus Christ. I know this is His work. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. 🙏

i.	Howard W. Hunter, “The Great Symbol of our Membership,” <i>Ensign</i> , Oct. 1994	xiii.	Devotional, Sept. 2002
ii.	Doctrine & Covenants 109:15	xiv.	Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Inaugural Address,” BYU-Idaho, Sept. 2015
iii.	1 Corinthians 3:16	xv.	Henry J. Eyring, “Inaugural Response,” BYU-Idaho, Sept. 2017
iv.	Doctrine & Covenants 115:14-15	xvi.	Gordon B. Hinckley, “Dedication of Gordon B. Hinckley Building,” BYU-Idaho, Oct. 2002
v.	Russell M. Nelson, “Focus on Values,” <i>Liahona</i> , Feb. 2013	xvii.	Henry B. Eyring, “A Steady, Upward Course,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 2001
vi.	Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Two Principles for Any Economy,” <i>Ensign</i> , Nov. 2009	xviii.	Kim B. Clark, “Learning for the Whole Soul,” <i>Ensign</i> , Aug. 2017
vii.	Henry B. Eyring, “Education for Real Life,” CES Fireside, May 2001	xix.	Henry B. Eyring, “The Temple and the College on the Hill,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, June 2009
viii.	Henry B. Eyring, “Inaugural Response,” Ricks College, Dec. 1971	xx.	Elder David A. Bednar, “Seek Learning by Faith,” <i>Ensign</i> , Sept. 2007
ix.	David A. Bednar, “Inaugural Response,” Ricks College, Feb. 1998	xxi.	Henry B. Eyring, “A Steady, Upward Course,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 2001
x.	Kim B. Clark, “Inaugural Response,” BYU-Idaho, Oct. 2005		
xi.	Doctrine and Covenants 88:42, 73		
xii.	Jeffrey R. Holland, “Nailing Our Colors to the Mast,” <i>BYU Devotional</i> , Sept. 1985. See also Merrill J. Bateman, “Temples of Learning,” <i>BYU</i>		



BYU-Pathway Worldwide: A School in Zion

KIM B. CLARK

Commissioner, Church Educational System

BYU-Pathway President's Dinner - October 11, 2018

It is a privilege and a blessing to share a few remarks with you tonight. I begin with two stories about the beginnings of what is now BYU-Pathway Worldwide.

The first took place in Mesa, Arizona, one of the first three PathwayConnect sites. After the program had been running for a year or so, the missionaries at the site declared, "This program will never work. There is little interest in it, and the priesthood leaders don't support it." And in fact, the priesthood leaders did not support it because they saw little need for it. There seemed to be many opportunities for education of their young people right there in the valley and of course there was BYU.

Now, hold that thought as I tell you the second story. This one I experienced personally. It took place in Washington, DC, a couple of years later. One of the Area Seventies there said to me, "We don't need Pathway here. We have a great scholarship program with Southern Virginia University that works fine." I asked him, "How many students are involved in that program?" His answer: about 25. I then asked, "Do you have any young adults in your area who are struggling in their lives, who are not making progress." He said, "Oh yes, there are thousands of them." My response: Pathway is for them. He looked at me in surprise, and said, "Oh, I didn't see it that way."

In both of these cases and in many others we encountered in the early days, the people we sought to reach with Pathway were simply invisible to the leaders, at least as far as higher education was concerned. We were after those who had never been to college, or who had been but were no longer attending. Many, many of them were struggling in their lives both spiritually and temporally.

One of the wonderful things BYU-Pathway has done is to open the opportunity for education to those who have been invisible; who believed that education, especially a Church education, was for someone else, not for them; who had little hope for a better future.

Brothers and sisters, we live in a day of miracles, when our Heavenly Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ are moving with power in the earth to build up the Kingdom of God and establish Zion in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.ⁱ I believe BYU-Pathway is one of those miracles. It has a role to play in strengthening the Kingdom of God and establishing Zion.

In 1832, in Independence, Missouri, the Lord gave the Prophet Joseph the following revelation. As I read this, please keep in mind what happened in Mesa and Washington, DC:

For Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged; her stakes must be strengthened; yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.

Therefore, I give unto you this commandment, that ye bind yourselves by this covenant... And you are to be equal, or in other words, you are to have equal claims on the properties, for the benefit of managing the concerns of your stewardships, every man according to his wants and his needs, inasmuch as his wants are just—

And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse, to become the common property of the whole church—

Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God.ⁱⁱ

This is the spirit and power of the law of consecration. It is essential in establishing Zion, where there are no poor — in spirit, in opportunity, in necessities of life — among us.ⁱⁱⁱ

What the Lord describes in these verses stands in sharp contrast to this scene from the Book of Mormon:

But it came to pass in the twenty and ninth year there began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride and boastings because of their exceedingly great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions; For there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers.

And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches and their chances for learning; yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches.^{iv}

Like that time in the land of the Nephites, we live in a world society in which there is great inequality in opportunities to learn.^v Even in a country as developed and wealthy as the United States of America, 40 percent of people age 18-30 have a high school education or less, and almost 20 percent have some college, but left without getting any kind of degree.^{vi} This is a time when education beyond high school and the acquisition of valuable skills developed through higher education are more important than ever. Those with a high school education or less, or who have started but not finished a program of higher education, face a large gap in opportunities for productive work and income.^{vii} We know from our experience with BYU-Pathway and the studies of many others that much of this gap has its roots in the absence of access to, and opportunity for, learning.^{viii}

The Lord has put BYU-Pathway on the earth to open up those opportunities for our brothers and sisters who have been educationally invisible for a long time. Many of them fear they cannot do the work of higher education. Many of them see the cost of education as a huge barrier. Many of them have been told all of their lives that education and learning is not for them. Many of them have believed that false doctrine, until now.

Along with all of the institutions of the Church Educational System, BYU-Pathway is here so that those who choose to participate will find new hope for the future. If they choose to enroll and work hard they will improve upon their God-given talents, and gain other talents, even an hundred fold. BYU-Pathway has come in this time so that our brothers and sisters can strengthen themselves and their families, and contribute in a more powerful way to the building up of the Kingdom of God and the establishment of Zion. And all this, so that Zion may grow in beauty and holiness, her stakes strengthened and her people prepared for the Second Coming of the Lord.

President Russell M. Nelson has made it clear that to prepare for the Lord all of us must rise up and

- Do our duty as God’s mighty army
- Truly receive the Holy Ghost
- Open the heavens through personal purity, exact obedience, earnest seeking, daily feasting in the Book of Mormon and commitment to family history and temple work
- Stretch beyond our current ability to receive personal revelation
- Minister to our brothers and sisters in the Lord’s way, with His power and His love

When people enroll in and complete PathwayConnect, and continue on to do a certificate, and even a degree, they rise up as the Prophet has called us to do. Many of the students are not active in the Church when they start



PathwayConnect. Many face serious struggles spiritually and temporally. Even those who are active in the Church step up to a greater level of spirituality and faithfulness.

Let me describe what happens to these good people when they fully engage in the weekly gatherings, the online courses, and the religious education classes in Pathway.

First, the Gospel goes down deeper into their hearts

- They exercise greater faith in Jesus Christ and have greater hope in Him. They see the opportunity and they feel that wonderful hope that the Savior gives us. But they have to act on that faith and that hope.
- PathwayConnect and the certificate programs are real school and they can be hard. The students have to overcome their fears, and they have to develop new understanding and new skills. They have to study! And they have to sustain all of that over many, many months, even years. They see that they cannot realize their hopes without prayer and without the Lord’s blessings. The Atonement of Jesus Christ becomes immediate and real in their daily lives.
- They are immersed in the scriptures, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of the Lord. This is a central part of PathwayConnect.
- I believe one of the most important things that happens to our students is the gratitude that wells up in them as they experience the Lord’s love. For them, PathwayConnect is an expression of the love of Jesus Christ for them. They go to Church and partake of the sacrament with renewed love for Him, and gratitude for His blessings.

Second, they learn how to learn deeply; they become lifelong learners

- The courses are well designed and full of useful knowledge to be sure, but there is more in the design than the knowledge in the courses. The model of learning that underlies BYU-Pathway calls for the students to take responsibility for their learning and to take action. They learn how to learn deeply: to gain knowledge, to take effective righteous action, and with the Lord’s help to become more and more like Him.

- The students grow in confidence — confidence in the Lord, and confidence that with His help they can do hard things. They grow in diligence, and capacity for hard work. They grow in humility in their reliance on the Lord. They develop their talents, and new skills that have value in work, in their communities and in their families.

- I believe one of the most important things they learn is the power of unity of heart and mind. The Thursday-night gatherings are remarkable experiences. Students bond together, learn to help each other succeed, and learn how to love and appreciate one another. Every week they see the power of the Lord’s promise: “...where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”^{ix}

Third, Pathway students strengthen their capacity to lead and support their families

- Of course, everything I have noted so far will help students find better jobs to support their families. But Pathway is also a powerful leadership development experience. Students learn how to establish a vision for their lives and their families, how to set goals, how to plan, and how to carry out their plans. The students learn how to teach, and how to engage others in learning together.
- All of these experiences will help them lead their families. But there is one thing more I want to emphasize. Their very participation in the program, their very diligence in carrying it through, their work, their prayers, their righteousness, their seeking the Holy Ghost, all of this sets a powerful example for their families. In this way, the students who truly engage in PathwayConnect, and go on to certificates and degrees, will establish in their homes a house of learning. As the Gospel goes down deep in their hearts, as they learn to learn deeply for a lifetime, and as they strengthen their support of their families in righteousness, God will bless them to lead their families to eternal life, and to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

When you think about BYU-Pathway I want you to think about it this way. It is not just another online educational organization. It is a critical part of the Lord’s plan for the

gathering of scattered Israel, for strengthening the stakes of Zion, and for preparing the world for His return. It joins with all the other amazing things the Lord is doing in Church Education, in family history and temple work, in teaching in the Lord's way, in missionary work, in doctrinal mastery in seminary, in focusing our attention on the ordinance of the sacrament and keeping the sabbath day holy, and many other things. This is the Lord's holy work, and He is hastening His work.

Let me illustrate the hastening with this fact. When the Pathway program that eventually became BYU-Pathway Worldwide was officially approved by the Church Board of Education in April of 2011, there were 365 students enrolled in 23 sites. In 2018, we have served 42,000 students in 575 sites. Think about that for a moment. In seven years, we have gone from 365 students to 42,000.

I also am happy to tell you that BYU-Pathway is flourishing in Mesa, Arizona, and in Washington, DC. In Mesa, we have over 400 students enrolled this term, and more than 3,400 have been served to date. In Washington, DC, we have 125 students enrolled and almost 1,000 have been served to date.

Now let me put all of this in context for you. Those 42,000 students include young adults 18-30, and older adults over 30. This is a remarkable number of students all across the world. But let's look at the size of the target group for BYU-Pathway — that is members of the Church who have not had any higher education, and those who have had some but are no longer in school. How big would that group be?

A rough and ready answer for 2018 is 3–4 million. 42,000 in seven years is amazing, but there is a lot of opportunity out there, and a lot of work to be done.⁸

In 1833, during a time of severe persecution, the Lord gave this revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, recorded in the 97th section of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Behold, I say unto you, concerning the school in Zion, I, the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion...

Verily I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice—yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command—they are accepted of me.

For I, the Lord, will cause them to bring forth as a very fruitful tree which is planted in a goodly land, by a pure stream, that yieldeth much precious fruit.⁹

In our day the stakes of Zion are the strength of Zion. Zion is everywhere the Lord has established His Church. Brothers and sisters, it is a miracle that we can say today that BYU-Pathway is a school in Zion, wherever Zion is. This scripture captures in a beautiful way the people of BYU-Pathway — the students, the teachers, the missionaries, the developers, the leaders. They are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice, yea every sacrifice which the Lord commands. I hope it is clear to all of you that the Lord has caused them already, and will continue to cause them to bring forth as a fruitful tree...that yieldeth much precious fruit.

The fruit of BYU-Pathway is manifest in faithful, consecrated, self-reliant individuals and families, creating houses of learning, building up the Kingdom of God and establishing Zion. It is a joy to see the Lord work with such love and power to prepare the world for His Second Coming.

I bear you my witness that our Father in Heaven's plan is marvelous and perfect. Jesus is the Christ, our glorious, redeeming Lord, whose love never fails, and who has all power to sanctify, bless, strengthen, and lift us up. BYU-Pathway Worldwide is on His errand. I so testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. 🙏

- i. See Doctrine and Covenants 1:17-39. This is the thrust of these verses in Section 1. There are many other passages in the Doctrine and Covenants that send the same message. See, for example, Doctrine and Covenants 84:119. We live in a day when we can see the hand of the Lord exerting the powers of heaven to prepare the earth for His return.
- ii. Doctrine and Covenants 82:14-15, 17-19
- iii. See: Moses 7:18
- iv. 3 Nephi 6:12-14
- v. For a comprehensive review of the learning and education in the world, see: World Bank. 2018. World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise. Washington, DC: World Bank. The report highlights the distinction between schooling, or attending school, and learning. There is a lot of school, but not a lot of learning in the developing world.
- vi. See: Report on 2017 Educational Attainment Based on U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey 2017, Annual Social and Economic Supplement: OECD (2017), Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2017-en>.
- vii. There is no question about the lower earning capacity of individuals with less than a high school education, or even graduates of high school. It does vary with the economic cycle, but over the longer term there is no doubt that these individuals will have difficulty supporting a family. See: <https://www.goodcall.com/news/wage-gap-09776> and <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/01/12/pay-gap-between-collegegrads-and-everyone-else-record/96493348/> for recent analyses and data on this issue. Note also that the wage gap is only part of the story, since college graduates tend to have much better benefit packages than high school grads or those with less than a high school education. When the analysis is based on total compensation, the gap is much wider. It is also important to recognize that the advantage conferred by a college degree depends very much on the field of study. There are some college majors that confer very little earnings advantage over high school graduates, while some fields in high demand like engineering or information technology can earn 2-3 times what a high school graduate will earn.
- viii. Access and opportunity depend both on the availability of educational programs, and the extent to which a prospective student is prepared, ready and perceives themselves able to take advantage of the program. See, for example: Laura W. Perna and Anthony Jones (eds.) *The State of College Access and Completion: Improving College Success for Students from Underrepresented Groups* (Routledge, New York, New York, 2013).
- ix. Matthew 18:20
- x. There are about 2.7 million Latter-day Saints 18-30 years old; and about 7.2 million Latter-day Saints over 30. Based on current rates of high school graduation, leaving college before getting a degree, and degree completion, on average about 70 percent of those people are potential students in BYU-Pathway. If we adjust for activity in the Church, that percentage will be lower, although many PathwayConnect students are not active in the Church when they enroll. These adjustments result in a rough estimate of 3–4 million potential students in BYU-Pathway.
- xi. Doctrine and Covenants 97:8-9





PROPHETIC STATEMENTS

BYU-Pathway Worldwide

The desire and need for a higher education organization like BYU-Pathway Worldwide has been prophesied for decades. The following quotes from Church leaders highlight some of these prophecies, as well as other sentiments regarding the blessings provided through BYU-Pathway Worldwide.

“We must also find ways for this college to serve young people whose needs are shaped by a great variety of cultures and situations, and who may not be able to come to this campus.... We will find direct ways to move the blessing of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and women everywhere.”

HENRY B. EYRING
Inaugural Response, Ricks College Inauguration, December 1971

“It will be necessary for us ... to serve ever better the thousands of students we have on campus while simultaneously reaching out to bless the lives of tens of thousands of young Latter-day Saints throughout the world.... We must learn how to assist and bless institute students and other LDS youth in Rhode Island and Rome while effectively serving our students on campus in Rexburg.”

DAVID A. BEDNAR
Inaugural Response, Ricks College Inauguration, February 1998

“I am convinced that we will find new ways to use information technology to reach more students and to deepen the learning experience of those we touch. In a day not far from now, we will be able to break down the barriers of time and space and connect our students ... to each other and create outstanding, interactive educational experiences. In these experiences students will teach one another in new and powerful ways. This capacity to educate effectively across time and space will allow us to leverage the capacity of the university and reach many more young people.”

KIM B. CLARK
Inaugural Response, BYU-Idaho Inauguration, October 2005

“Losing sight of that need to climb with others could slow our progress toward dramatically improved teaching and learning. For instance, it would be easy to look for ways to help learners learn alone, using the wonders of technology. The same technology could give learners the experience of helping others they love to learn with them.”

HENRY B. EYRING
“The Temple and the College on the Hill,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, June 2009

“Inspired revelation here is intended to bless millions of people all over the earth.... Everywhere I go in the world where Pathway is, people who have no hope, have hope.”

DAVID A. BEDNAR
BYU-Idaho Employee Q&A, February 2016

“The creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide brings an innovative approach to education — one unique to the Church Educational System, and to the world.”

RUSSELL M. NELSON
Inauguration of Clark G. Gilbert, BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, November 2017

“At BYU-Pathway Worldwide, we are constructing temples of learning — both in the lives of our students and in the organization that serves those students. From the young man in Puebla who traveled hours for the first PathwayConnect gathering in Mexico City, to the single mother in Utah forced into a situation she never

planned, to the father in West Africa seeking to provide for his family, to the returned missionary in Boston who never thought college was a possibility — BYU-Pathway students are constructing temples of learning in their own lives.”

CLARK G. GILBERT
Inaugural Response, BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, November 2017

“One of the wonderful things BYU-Pathway has done is to open the opportunity for education to those who have been invisible; who believed that education, especially a Church education, was for someone else, not for them; who had little hope for a better future.”

KIM B. CLARK
“A School in Zion,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide President’s Dinner, October 2018



“We live in a day of miracles, when our Heavenly Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, are moving with power in the earth to build up the Kingdom of God and establish Zion in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. I believe BYU-Pathway is one of those miracles. It has a role to play in strengthening the Kingdom of God and establishing Zion.”

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“A School in Zion,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide President’s Dinner, October 2018

“Zion is everywhere the Lord has established His Church. Brothers and sisters, it is a miracle that we can say today that BYU-Pathway is a school in Zion, wherever Zion is.”

KIM B. CLARK
“A School in Zion,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide President’s Dinner, October 2018

“We’re part of a monumental moment in Church education in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is one of those pivotal marks in our history that we won’t fully understand until we look back at it years and maybe decades from now....”

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND
Special BYU-Pathway Worldwide Broadcast, November 2018

“BYU-Pathway is part of the great gathering that is happening in our time. It connects people from many different places around the world to education, progress, and the blessings of the gospel.”

SHARON EUBANK
“Rejected, Rescued, and Redeemed,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide Devotional, May 2019

“I think that the possibility of BYU-Pathway coming into people’s lives early on is a tremendous blessing that the Church has to offer not only to just members of the Church, but now, to other individuals who are seeking a better way.”

M. RUSSELL BALLARD
BYU-Pathway Worldwide President’s Dinner, October 2019

“Education not only improves lives in the short term but it can be life-changing in the long term. Students from all around the world are experiencing the blessings of a BYU-Pathway education. From Angola to Armenia, England to Ecuador and Vanuatu to Veracruz, from Nigeria to New York, tens of thousands of students have improved their lives both temporally and spiritually through enrollment in BYU-Pathway Worldwide.”

JEAN B. BINGHAM
“Relieve Suffering and Save Souls,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide President’s Dinner, October 2020



“BYU-Pathway is an answer to my 50-year prayer that we could find an equitable way to serve the entire Church with the blessings of education.”

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND
“Monumental Moments with a Pioneer’s Heart,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide Employee Development Day, April 2021

“I consider the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide to be the most important and most far-reaching development in the Church Educational System of this Church since the creation of seminaries and institutes of religion over a century ago.”

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND
“Inauguration Remarks,” BYU-Pathway Worldwide Inauguration, March 2022

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