

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

June 30, 2004

YOUNG MEN

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Dear Fellow Scouters:

Congratulations on your participation in the 2004 Varsity “Operation on Target.” How well I remember my years of being with the Varsity Scouts on top of the mountains looking over the valley and signaling from one mountain peak to another. You are to be congratulated not only for where you stand but, more importantly, for what you stand for.

The values of Scouting have never been needed by the people of the world more than they are today. As war rages in various parts of the world and disrupts the peace of society, and as the youth of today are tempted more than ever to compromise their moral values, it is time that more of our youth made a commitment to stand on higher ground, morally, and to lift their friends and associates to safety as well.

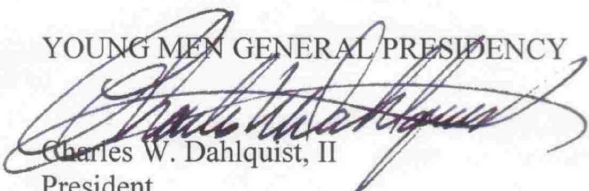
Not many weeks ago I was in the eastern part of Germany atop a mountain overlooking the city of Königstein. Atop this mountain, a fortress had been built to protect the citizens of times gone by. Because of that preparation and the fortress which had been built, never in the history of that fortress was it overtaken – never did it experience defeat.

As you stand atop these mountains today, I challenge you to build a moral fortress around you that will help you to come away victor over all of the challenges and temptations that would drag you down. You have been sent here for a particular purpose and a particular mission. Each of you has been given talents and abilities that are singular to you. I challenge you to commit in this early morning hour as you stand atop this mountain peak to utilize those talents and abilities not only to become that which a kind Heavenly Father would have you become, but to use those talents in serving others, for true joy comes only in service.

I congratulate you for your accomplishments to this point. I congratulate you for your personal and team accomplishments. And I pray that you will be firm and true and steadfast as these mountains in keeping your bodies clean, your minds awake and alert and your morals strong. May God bless you, your Varsity team members and your leaders.

Sincerely,

YOUNG MEN GENERAL PRESIDENCY



Charles W. Dahlquist, II
President