

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

YOUNG MEN

50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2088  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-8020  
Phone: 1-801-240-2133  
Facsimile: 1-801-240-5767

September 20, 2008

Dear young men of the Aaronic Priesthood,

Congratulations!! You did it! You made it to the top of your mountain! I wish that I could be standing by you and look at the magnificent views and sights before you. The view and feeling from the "top" of a mountain is only reserved for those that keep going, work hard, and make the honest effort to finish their goal of getting to the top. That is special!! Congratulations to each one of you in reaching your goal and reaching the top. I am happy and proud of each of you!

President Thomas S. Monson has challenged you and all of us to become "finishers" in our lives. We need finishers or young men and individuals that set goals and complete them. They finish what they start to do – just like you young men as you prepared to hike this mountain with the goal to reach the top so you could signal to others and the world that you made it!!

In life each of you will make goals or have tall mountains to climb. They will be goals that will prepare you for the future. They will help you face the challenges of life and make you strong to become steadfast in becoming successful as a husband, father and leader. You have great support and help to accomplish these goals from your parents and family, friends, and Priesthood leaders. Please listen and follow their wise counsel.

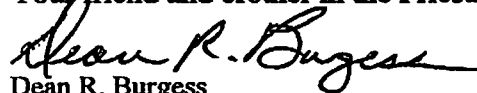
Don't be afraid to do hard things. You are a special group and generation of young men. You have been saved to live today at this time, when challenges of the adversary are abounding everywhere you turn. These temptations can also be mountains to climb as you avoid and resist the evil temptations that come to you each day. You can do it! You have the ability and determination to accomplish anything you set your mind to do. You can become successful in living all of the standards and commandments that Heavenly Father has given to each of you. We find these standards in the "For the Strength of Youth" booklet. The prophets have told us that when "you keep these standards and live by the truths in the scriptures, you will be able to do your life's work with greater wisdom and skill and bear trials with greater courage."

Always be true to your faith. Be true to your heart in doing those things and making choices that will strengthen you personally in spirit and mind. Be committed to the right. Have integrity and be honest in all that you do. Be trusted by everyone. Have the courage to stand tall, steadfast, and immovable in always doing good. (Mosiah 5:15)

You will gain experiences in your Priesthood service and your scouting to prepare you to become a great missionary. I know each of you have that potential and ability to do just that. President Monson has challenged each of you to "do your very best." Not just your best, but your very best!!! Don't take "shortcuts" in life, but finish the task and the goals you set to do. Become that good student, great athlete, strong Priesthood brother and a young man of integrity.

I promise you that as you continue to climb mountains in your life, you will become better prepared for life. You will become who Heavenly Father wants you to become. You will be happy and you will be able to do many great things. We love you. We are proud of you and who you are. We pray for you to be strong and steadfast. We know you can do hard things in your life. May God bless you in all the good things you are doing.

Your friend and brother in the Priesthood,



Dean R. Burgess

1<sup>st</sup> counselor, Young Men General Presidency