



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Hour of Your Mission Is Come

Bishop Sean Douglas · Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

Words to remember

- *“You are what you preach. You are not only the messengers but also living examples of the message.”*
- *“I wish to wholeheartedly add: There is still plenty of room and a special place reserved for each one of you! We need you! ‘Come join the ranks!’”*

In Bishop Sean Douglas's own words, from the talk.

Bishop Sean Douglas of the Presiding Bishopric serves on the Church's Missionary Executive Council. He said he has a deep love for missionaries, who are divinely commissioned by the Savior. He quoted President Dallin H. Oaks: We invite all of God's children to come unto Christ by repentance and baptism and confirmation in order to open the doors of the celestial kingdom to the sons and daughters of God. No one else can do this. Missionaries are called to assist in this great work. He said that today more missionaries are serving in more missions, and more people are being baptized, than ever before.

Speaking to missionaries of all ages, he said, “You are an army of righteousness with the doctrine of Christ as your purpose. You are a force of faith, power, love, and joy. You are what you preach.” They are not only messengers but living examples of the message. “Make no mistake—you are doing the most important work you could be doing.”

A few months earlier, he watched two of his great-nephews, brothers, speak in sacrament meeting before leaving for missions at opposite ends of the earth. They were beaming and eager to go. They reminded him of the sons of Mosiah, who wanted salvation declared to every creature for they could not bear that any human soul should perish. Their desire to serve rose above every other goal, and that is what makes missionaries special and helps them radiate the light of Christ.

For a season, he said, school, dating, careers, family time, and even sleeping in on Saturday take a back seat. “Yes, the Lord's expectations are high for you! But, oh, is it worth it!” He quoted President Russell M. Nelson: “Nothing else compares in magnitude, nothing else compares in importance, nothing else compares in majesty.” He told youth they were taught and prepared before they were born to invite others to come unto Christ. “Take care not to become distracted. Prioritize it; don't let anything get in the way. You are needed!”

While Bishop and Sister Douglas led a mission in Lima, Peru, one of their missionaries was Elder Merlin Sanchez. Merlin was baptized at almost 24, then stopped coming for a while. A faithful friend helped him start his mission papers anyway. At 25 he came back to church, and a desire to serve swelled in his heart. Because his papers were mostly done, he could go, and the Lord removed obstacles one by one. When asked why he wanted to serve, he said, “I only want to be close to Jesus Christ and to follow Him.”

He served with the same companion twice, eight months total. They had opposite personalities but became united in purpose. A few months after his mission, Merlin met his wife. On their wedding day, he was called as a bishop: “Quite the wedding gift!” Today they have three children, and he serves as a stake president. They cannot fathom what their lives would be like without his mission.

To converts he said, “To you wonderful young converts of the Church, a mission may not have been on your radar, but it ought to be now.” To the rising generation: put a mission high on your list and don’t be distracted by things of far less worth. He mentioned Amulek, who said, “For I was called many times and I would not hear.” Prophets teach that the Lord asks every worthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission, and that for young women it is a powerful but optional opportunity to pray about. “There is still plenty of room and a special place reserved for each one of you! We need you! ‘Come join the ranks!’”

He ended with the Lord’s words to Thomas B. Marsh in 1830 and asked us to put our own names in them: “Lift up your heart and rejoice, for the hour of your mission is come; and your tongue shall be loosed, and you shall declare glad tidings of great joy unto this generation.” The Lord promised to prepare a place for missionaries’ families and to open the hearts of the people.

Scripture to look up: Doctrine and Covenants 31:3. The Lord told Thomas B. Marsh, “The Hour of Your Mission Is Come” Bishop Douglas invited us to put our own names there.

Let’s talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/18douglas](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/18douglas)