



What Type of Leader Should I Be? | An Interview with Elder Clate Mask

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Kurt Francom:

Have you ever tried to help youth with their mental health? That's a tricky road to travel. I have to tell you about an inspiring presentation we recorded with the one and only Jodi Moore. Yes, that life coaching Jodi Moore. A few years ago, she recorded a fantastic presentation covering topics like normalizing tough feelings with youth, a more positive understanding of stress, how to minimize shame, and mastering the skill set of empathy and better understanding anxiety. I want you to see this presentation as soon as you finish this podcast episode. You can go to [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14) and this will get you access to the entire video library at no cost for 14 days. Jody's presentation is in the Mentally Healthy Saints library and you'll be a better leader or parent when you finish it. Again, go to [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14) or check out the show notes for the link. Hey, welcome to the Leading Saints podcast. Now, for many of you that are brand new to Leading Saints, it's important that you know that Leading Saints is a nonprofit organization, 501c3, dedicated to helping Latter-day Saints be better prepared to lead. And we do that through content creation. We get so much positive feedback on the podcast, our virtual conferences, the articles on our website. You definitely got to check it out at leadingsaints.org. And on their homepage at leadingsaints.org, you can actually find the top six most downloaded episodes to the podcast. So, if you're new, like the content, want to jump into some of our most popular episodes, head there after you listen to this episode. All right, welcome back to the Leading Saints podcast. Today, I'm in the Gilbert, Arizona studios for Leading Saints, which is really what is this, Rocket Media, right? Derek's off camera here helping us out. So and today I'm welcoming in Elder Clayt Mask. How are you? Fine, thanks. Nice. Now, we are sitting right across from each other. And that's how you'll see our view as well. So now, Elder Mask,

you are a as they call an emeritus general authority. Is that I mean, how do you people ask you what you know, what are you? What do you say?

Elder Clate Mask:

Yeah, that's what it is. They put you on a merit of status when you arrive at a certain ripe old age of 70.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And then how long did you serve as a general authority? Six and a half years. Nice. Nice. And it was one of the things you get called and you know, well, I have about till my 70th birthday type thing. That's about it. Cool. And where are you originally from? El Paso, Texas. Nice. And, but you spent most of your time in Gilbert, Arizona?

Elder Clate Mask:

We raised our family here in Gilbert, Arizona. Mason Gilbert.

Kurt Francom:

Nice. And I guess, I mean, 82 years of your life, we could spend hours and hours talking about different dynamics of your life, but let's just go to your career, which is you were a seminary teacher.

Elder Clate Mask:

Seminary and institute teacher for 30 years.

Kurt Francom:

And as a little boy, did you dream about being a seminary teacher? Where did the desire begin?

Elder Clate Mask:

I just always wanted to be able to affect the youth of the church and help them any way I could. Wound up after my mission and after the BYU experience, I wound up in Southern California teaching early morning seminary. Then I'd go out and be a salesman.

Kurt Francom:

Oh yeah? So that was like your calling as a seminary teacher?

Elder Clate Mask:

Yeah. And I just went out and did that, but I got enjoying it so much that I looked into it and decided to stop my career in Los Angeles and get involved with church education, which I did.

And my first assignment was Mace, Arizona. Oh, okay. And we came over here and raised our six children here and loved every minute of it.

Kurt Francom:

So seminary is what brought you to Arizona? Wow. And what was the process back then as far as getting certified or becoming a full-time seminary teacher?

Elder Clate Mask:

Well, first you had to have the desire to do it. And sometimes they'd like you to have a college degree and then some specialized training. And then they'd put you in the classroom and check you out, see if you could survive. See if they'd chew you up and spit you out or if they'd just chew you up.

Kurt Francom:

I'm sure in some days it felt like you were just getting chewed up. Sometimes you got chewed, but it was great and I loved it. Yeah. So were you at like a specific high school for the majority of your time?

Elder Clate Mask:

Initially with seminary I was... First assignment was about two years, and then about three years and another one. Then they sent me back to Los Angeles to open up a Spanish institute in the Los Angeles area. And it wasn't going in Spanish. And I had gotten involved in it when I was living in LA because I was a branch president of a Spanish branch. And our kids weren't really going to missions and temples, they were going to prison in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. And I would call up Salt Lake and say, you know what we really need here is a Seminary Institute program in Spanish and their culture and their language so that we can give them the opportunities that all the other kids are getting. And they said, well, we have it in English all over, they just need to learn English. It sounds good, but it's not happening. And they basically said, if you want to do it, do it yourself. And so I kind of got involved in doing it myself through the proper channels, of course, but I just loved it. I just loved being able to get in there with the kids. And bottom line, as I looked into it seriously, took the class as necessary and signed up, and they sent me to Missouri, Arizona. And they were going to send me to Latin America. And about that time, they decided to hire locals from down there. And they said, hope you like Mesa. We love it. Five years later, they called me up and said, we need somebody to move back to Los Angeles, California, and open up the Spanish Institute program there. Would you go back over there and do that?" And we did, and we loved it, had a wonderful experience. We opened up about 18 programs in that first year in Los Angeles, all over from Fillmore and up to White Magic Mountain, all the way down to San Diego, all these little Spanish branches all over the Los Angeles area. There were 18 of them that got going that year. Wow. And it was great. I loved it, came back over here.

Kurt Francom:

And you serve your mission in Guatemala, so you were fluent, especially in teaching the gospel.

Elder Clate Mask:

Yeah, I served in Guatemala and Central America.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. So what was it about teaching like? What do you feel like defined you and your style of teaching seminary?

Elder Clate Mask:

I just felt that all of the young people I wanted to lift and inspire him to want to be more like Xavier, more like him, wanting desires to serve the fellow man. I loved everybody and I hoped everybody loved me and I thought we really ought to love our neighbor and wanted to help the young people have a real desire to do that. And the Seminary Institute was a wonderful vehicle to do that. And it turned out 30 wonderful years of I'm teaching it. It started out all in English, and then it went to Spanish, and then it went to both. And ultimately, they sent me back over here, and we got the Spanish program going in Phoenix, and we got it going over here in Resa. And now, it's a different situation because most of the kids go to English-speaking schools, and it's not the same as it was. But in those days, it was quite unique and necessary and filled a real void. It worked out great.

Kurt Francom:

So, if you were talking to a brand new seminary teacher who's excited as you were to, you know, inspire youth and teach them the gospel, what's some general tips and their guidance that you'd give those new teachers? Love the kids. Yeah.

Elder Clate Mask:

Just love them and let them know you love them and point them to the Savior and help them get the Spirit. And they can do wonderful things in this life as they grow and develop and progress towards being more like, more Christ-like.

Kurt Francom:

So, was it the type of thing that obviously was like a release time seminary? So, there'd be part of their schedule back in the day just like it is today? Yeah. Okay. And you come over to the seminary building and there you were ready to teach them the gospel, right? Right. Yeah. Was there a particular like scripture or set of scriptures, scripture block or whatever that you got excited about teaching or what comes to mind?

Elder Clate Mask:

Whatever we were teaching that year, that's what I loved. Yeah. Nice. And it was always, every year was exciting. Every year was enjoyable.

Kurt Francom:

Do you know about how many students who maybe came through your classroom?

Elder Clate Mask:

About 5,500.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And they're all spread out, I mean, in this area.

Elder Clate Mask:

But I run into him all over the world, literally. It's been strange how I would bump into, I'd be down in Puerto Rico as an area president of the Caribbean, and I'd go to a state conference, and there'd be an FBI guy there that would be part of the securities team, and he'd come up to me and he'd say, Brother Basque, do you remember me? I had to look up at a six-foot-six giant of a young FBI kid. He said, help me out. You look familiar. Help me out. Tell me his name. And to my mind, I'd see this five-foot-a-hundred-pound kid, you know, that I taught in Mesa when he was 14. Now, here is a 6'6", 300-pound FBI agent. ISKRA Wow. But still remembered you. MCGREGOR He still remembered, but he changed a little bit. Much bigger, but I could recognize him and we had great times. But I had that experience literally everywhere I went. ISKRA Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

That's cool. Really rewarding, right? To hear those. Yeah. So, you taught up until that first call to be a mission president? Is that accurate?

Elder Clate Mask:

I taught from, I went into the program in 1972 and taught till about 1997 when I went over to Spain as a mission president to Barcelona. And then after that, in 2000, I came back and I kind of finished up for about a year, a year and a half and then retired. And I was teaching Spanish Institute towards the end there. And I retired and we had lots of things going. I was a bishop of a young adult ward over at ASU, and that kept me pretty busy, and I just had a lot of projects going, and so I retired a little early. And then after I retired, kind of got a little surprised one day when somebody called on the phone and said, this is President Hinckley's office, and he'd like to talk to Bill DeMasque. And I thought, like everybody, yeah, sure. Who is this really? And she

said, yes, this is President Hinckley's secretary. And I said, oh, okay. He got on the phone, got the mask, yes. He said, the Lord wants you to go, he asked me some questions. Then he said, the Lord wants you to be a general authority and travel all over the world and testify of Jesus Christ and lift the saints. Will you do it?

Kurt Francom:

Is it random from a normal day to a phone call to a call to serve?

Elder Clate Mask:

Just an ordinary day and out of the blue I get called to serve. Wow. And that's kind of how it happened and I said yes. Yeah. And it just turned out to be the most wonderful experience you can imagine.

Kurt Francom:

So take me back. What's the story behind being called as a mission president? When did that phone call come?

Elder Clate Mask:

It was in about 1997, about 96, last of 96, by December, I'm teaching my class, and I look back at the back door, and there's a window, and my secretary is looking in the window, waving her hands and going, and I looked at my watch, and I kind of looked like, you know, hang on a second, I've still got a couple of minutes here, I need to wrap this up, and she goes, she waves her finger, you know, like, no, you come right now. and pointed, you know, down like that, you come now. I thought, this must be important. So I walked back in, she says, Elder Oaks wants to talk to you on the phone. I said, who? She said, Elder Oaks, the apostle. And I thought, oh, this is really, who is it really? I thought, I got on the phone, it was him. And he said, Brother Mask, I'm going to be in Phoenix this weekend doing some training, and I want to interview you and your wife for possible future church service. Will you be in my hotel and meet me in the lobby? I said, of course. And so, you know, I went home and I told my wife what had happened. What's this all about? And I said, I don't have a clue. And we went and we had the meeting that weekend, and he said, you've probably wondered what this is all about. And he said, this is an interview for a possible future church service as a mission president begin this summer. And I'd like to ask you some preliminary questions to find out your worthiness, your willingness, and the timeliness in your life. And these are preliminary questions that this preliminary interview, you may hear from us again, you may never hear from us again, so don't tell everybody you had this reading because, you know, nobody knows where it's going to go from here. But number one, how is your health?" And he just started asking us, series of questions, and at the very end, he said, well, this looks very promising. And my wife said, well, will we or will we not be called a similar? Our house is in escrow right now. We just sold it. And we're moving into another house and we need to kind of know what we're going to be doing. What are the odds that we'll get called? And he said, well, listening to all of your answers and feeling what I'm feeling by the spirit, I think it's pretty 90 to 95% chance that we'll probably call you this summer. And sure

enough, about a week and a half later, President Monson called on the phone and officially extended the call. to serve as president and companion to the Spain-Barcelona mission. And our life changed dramatically.

Kurt Francom:

Did you know, did President Monsanto tell you where you were going at that time, or did it come later?

Elder Clate Mask:

In those days, they didn't wait till the spring, they waited till the springtime to tell everybody. He just said, it's gonna be a mission, Spanish speaking. So we thought, well, you know, with Latin America, we had both served missions early on in the 60s in Central America, and mainly Guatemala and El Salvador. But we were all over Central America back in the early 60s. And we thought, oh, wouldn't that be great to go back to that area? And so we were thinking, well, there's a mission open in Honduras. We know that. We saw that in the church news. And we, you know, we know this and we know that. And then we got the call to Spain. We'd never even looked that direction. It was just all Latin America where they speak Spanish. Surprise, surprise, they speak in Spain, too. That's right.

Kurt Francom:

I think that's where it originated from. So, and one thing to note in this, when you were called, I mean, here you are teaching seminary, you had no immediate plans of retiring or stopping teaching, right? You were a few years out, I would imagine, right?

Elder Clate Mask:

You know, it was 1997 and we were just, we were teaching, at this point, we were teaching institute and we're doing it in Spanish and we're doing it in English. And we were talking one day and we said, you know, If we want to be able to go on a senior mission in a few years, we need to get everything in order, and we need to pay everything off and get in a position where we can go out and serve. We would really like to serve wherever the Lord needs us. We're willing to go wherever, whenever, but we need to put our house in order. And so I'm going to sell this big house that we've been building on for years and years, and we need to just pay everybody off and put ourselves in a position of where we can go on. One of the questions on the preliminary interview was, if you were to be called, could you sustain yourself for three years? And he said, he says, what I'm really asking is, other than your house payment, do you have debt? We looked at each other and kind of grinned and said, no, we paid everybody off. We sold our house and we were putting ourselves in a position to where we could serve if called someday. We didn't have a clue it would be then. We're thinking more down the road. But it just turned right out that he called us on a weekend when we could say, yeah, we have no debt. Because most of our career, we had plenty.

Kurt Francom:

ISKRA And another thing to know is that this, I mean, it's not that you had been a stake president or been a bishop or anything. I mean, this is really the first, like, a formal assignment to a leadership role. I don't know if that's the best way to put it.

Elder Clate Mask:

MCGREGOR Other than the Spanish branch in California. ISKRA Oh, okay.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

Elder Clate Mask:

So, I mean... MCGREGOR I didn't have been in a bishopric and a high council. Stake Sunday School president. I had some opportunities to serve in a lot of the different organizations of the church, but I'd never had one kind of four or just both quite like this did.

Kurt Francom:

So did you feel like you were more inexperienced than maybe some of the others that were going or, I mean, was that a benefit or maybe, I don't know?

Elder Clate Mask:

You know, when President Hinckley called me on the phone, he said, let me ask you some questions. He said, have you ever done anything It was really bad, it would cast a bad shadow on the church if it would disclose. How have you lived your life? I said, well, I've lived it, you know, tried to be a good boy. I can't think of anything, you know, particularly that would embarrass the church. And then he said, well, can you go all over the world and testify of Jesus Christ? I said, yes. He said, tell me, tell me how you feel about the Savior. And I was able to bear my testimony to the prophet on the telephone, and I did. He says, the Lord wants you to go all over the world and testify of Jesus Christ and lift the saints. Will you do it? And I said, with the Lord's help, I can do that. But I thought at the time, my initial reaction was, no, how are they going to get my name? Who knew my address in Salt Lake? I'm just minding my own business down there in Range, Arizona, teaching in the Seminary Institute. But the Lord knows your address.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, He'll call if He needs you.

Elder Clate Mask:

He needs you, He'll call, and that's the way it works, I discovered.

Kurt Francom:

So, tell me about like going to Spain, you're walking into that experience, like, what do you remember about just finding your footing there or stepping into that leadership role? What comes to mind? Any stories or experiences?

Elder Clate Mask:

Everybody going out as a new mission president feels inadequate. Yeah. Everybody does. And the more they get into it, the more inadequate they feel until they discover, and people tell them, but at one point you discover that you're not alone out there and the Lord does help you and he will guide you. Angelic visitors will help you out. And there are opportunities to feel the Spirit every day and opportunities to watch your missionaries grow and develop and progress. Every missionary is like an apple seed when they first come in the mission. And you look at them and you see them as an apple by the time they leave. and you are there to help them grow from that little apple seed into the great missionary they can become. And when you get that vision of, Lord wants me to be here to help in that process, but I'm not alone. He'll help. Can't do it by myself. I need help. It's a very humbling situation. But it does put you on your knees, and you do need a lot of help. But it comes. And President Monson always used to say, whom the Lord calls, qualifies. He'll help you out. There'll be angels on your right, and there'll be angels on your left to help you and bear you up. And they do.

Kurt Francom:

That's right. And so tell me about just with like when you walk into that and you're trying to like connecting with those missionaries because you're their leader now and they, you know, there is this feeling of, you know, I just, we just hadn't, the last guy I kind of liked, but you know, how now he's gone and here's, you know, president mask. And was there any routines or things you did to effectively connect with those missionaries?

Elder Clate Mask:

The first thing we did is walked in the office and met the office elders and the staff there and phone rang. I mean, we hadn't been there 10 seconds and the phone rang and it was a frantic missionary down south. And he was talking to one of the office elders and he said, Mr. Second, President Mask, there's an Elder Taylor wants to talk to you. No, it's Elder Martinez wants to talk to you about his companion, Elder Taylor. Well, what's the problem? I don't know. He says he's dying and wants to talk to you. I mean, hello? Who am I speaking to? Elder Martinez from Spain. He was a Spaniard. and we're talking along in Spanish, and he says, I think my companion's dying. I said, well, what's he doing? And he said, well, he's just screaming in pain. I said, push his stomach in a little bit. He said, oh, that really, really hurt. I said, oof, you know, that could be sinusitis. I said, where are you? And he says, we're working in Elche. And I, you know, I'm in charge. I just walked into this place, and I'm 10 seconds into it, and we've got someone who just says he's dying. And I said, where are you at? And he says, Elche. And I

don't know where Elche is. And I turned to one of the missionaries and said, where is Elche, Spain? Where is it? So it's about six hours down the railroad track. And so I said, when's the first train out of there? I said, six o'clock tonight. Elder Martinez, you get Elder Taylor and get him on that train and I will meet you at the at the train stop at midnight. They came, we got them in the hospital, called the Missionary Department. I had to get the Mission President Emanuel to find out what do you do in a case like this? What is the procedure? And I'm looking through everything and trying to figure it out. And called the Missionary Department, we got a hold of the parents, got a hold of the State President, and everybody decided that it was appendicitis and they did operate and everything worked out beautifully. But that's how I was introduced. With a crisis. With a crisis. Somebody saying they're dying and not even know where they are, not knowing where Elche happens to be. And I felt this for a second, this could be a long three years. If I'm going to be doing this 24 hours a day, and you wind up spending 24 hours a day, it's three years nonstop. It's like no other assignment you've ever imagined. It's the best of times, it's the worst of times. It's just, but it's mainly the best of times. And everything was just, it just got better from there and it was a wonderful experience.

Kurt Francom:

So with those, like for example, your own conferences, did you feel like you could sort of slip back into seminary teacher mode and just teach the gospel?

Elder Clate Mask:

Well, I was teaching the gospel and I was in Spain at the time and Europe in general. It wasn't easy to go out on the street, find somebody to teach and teach them and it wasn't easy because there was a lot of, oh, what do you call it? Rejection. A lot of discouragement, a lot of rejection. So much so that I just felt that everybody who came to his own conference the first time, it was like they just came in and they were very deflated because it was a tough old month out there. They've all been rejected for 30 days. They kind of had to come in there to get, you know, get their spiritual batteries charged up, you know, for this own conference. And so I kind of found that, boy, you know, my first thing is, how do you deal with the discouragement? How did you deal with no day after day, hour after hour? how do you deal with it? And I had to kind of devise a way to try to curb what I was finding. I felt inspired to pick up a pencil with an eraser on it like this. And I thought, you know what's happening? And I got a little pencil to teach an object lesson, to teach a concept that I wanted to get across right there, right then, that's what they needed. And I said, you know, as I watch you out on the street and as I walk around with you and I see what's happening, I feel like you are getting driven into the ground like a pencil. And it's like you go up and smile at somebody to introduce yourself and they just say no. And it's like they pound you. and it pounds you into the ground like a stake, and just no after no after no, they're pounding the eraser apart like a pencil, and the stake is going into the ground. I said, and then, boy, you get discouraged. It's really hard to get out of that situation. I said, what you gotta do is turn it around and make a pogo stick out of it. And so now the pencil lead is pointing up and the eraser is on the bottom and you're going to be able to bounce along on your pogo stick rather than getting driven into the ground with every pound of no, no, no. And so how do we do that? You know, when you get pounded and they say no, you just remember something

like, chin up little flock, do good. Let earth and hell combine against you, and boy, you feel better. And they leave, and you go, and you don't feel quite so bad. And it kind of lifts you up, and you're kind of bouncing along, and then you get another no, and it pounds you into the ground. And what do you do? Be of good cheer and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you and will stand by you. What am I doing? When I'm getting pounded, I don't sit there and cry about it. I recite something I learned and studied that morning, a scripture, a favorite, just something that lifts you, something that helps remind you who you are, why you're there. and that the Lord's nearby and He's going to help you." I said, but you need to do that every time you get a pounding on the head. You got to turn it around and make a pogo stick out of it. So what we started doing is looking for favorite Scriptures and make, you know, whatever it is that makes you happy and reminds you of who you are, memorize it, and put it on a card. And we had them all, you know, start doing that and put little cards and carrying them and they would go around it, and we found that after 30 days of doing that, when they came back into his own conference the next time, they were a whole lot better off because they weren't just absolutely, totally discouraged. They weren't half driven into the ground. And so it was easier to start working on other things when they weren't so totally discouraged and wanting to go home.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. Is that discouragement that can be really tough to overcome?

Elder Clate Mask:

Oh, it's extremely difficult. Some parts of the world are easier, but somebody said one time, there's not an easy mission anywhere. Every mission's got its unique challenges, but our particular mission, I felt that moment in time and history, historically, at that time, it was difficult to get anybody to listen to your message.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, yeah. Any other interactions or ways that you helped with discouragement, maybe meeting one-on-one with missionaries who are really having a hard time or anything else come to mind as far as helping them overcome the discouragement?

Elder Clate Mask:

One of the things that I started doing as I, again in this process, if I would try to see the missionary as a little seed. And what do we do to help them grow and progress and develop? Because as you start growing and achieving things and accomplishing goals, and as you're growing and progressing and developing, you feel like you're winning and you feel happy. On the other hand, if you're not growing, if you arrive at a mission as an apple seed and you go home two years later as an apple seed, something's wrong. You're really out of, you should have grown some, and most of the time they do. And the ones that grow are happy, and they brought joy to their, it's just a wonderful experience after two, two and a half years. But there has to be that growth so that you feel like you're, you know, doing your job. And it does bring joy. But when I started noticing For many years, I had noticed in seminary with the people that I taught,

all these kids, you know, those kids are similar. They're not identical. If you're a parent, and you have a first child, and you have the second child, what's your first big surprise? They're not identical. They're not the same. And they don't respond the same way that the first child, you know. And you notice that as a parent. Well, as a mission president, you notice it too, that all the missionaries are not identical. So what do you do and how do you help people grow and develop and progress that are so different? But I started noticing a pattern way back, and I started noticing that there were people like Brigham Young, and there were people like Spencer W. Kimball, and there were people like Howard W. Hunter, and people like Prophet Joseph Smith, in a lot of ways. In what ways? In Christ-like attributes. But they had different attributes sometimes, and some were stronger on this one and were not quite as strong on that one, and some emphasized this attribute and noticed a different attribute. But I started noticing that long ago. But while I was there, I felt inspired to start teaching my missionaries. You know, it's an amazing thing. that some of you missionaries remind me an awful lot of Brigham Young. You're organized, you're a doer, you're a strong leader, you're goal-directed. That's kind of the way he was. And I've also noticed a lot of you right here are a lot like Spencer W. Kimball. You're loving, you're caring, you're understanding, you're nurturing, you're inclusive, like President Spencer W. Kimball. And I see others that are very patient, calm under stress. kind, peacemaker, like President Howard W. Hunter. And then I see some of you that are cheerful, fun-loving, optimistic, and charismatic, like the Prophet Joseph Smith. And interesting, Prophet Joseph Smith would get criticized by some for being so playful, so fun-loving. You know, he'd go out and play with kids. Well, if prophets aren't supposed to, then he'd get criticized by some. Well, That's the way he was. Yeah, that's the way he was. That's the way he was, and he enjoyed it, and that was all well and good. And calm under stress? I don't know if you ever remember President Howard W. Hunter, when he was giving a talk at BYU at the Marriott Center, and a guy comes up to him when he's talking with a little briefcase, and he tells him, in essence, he tells him that, I'm going to be the next prophet, and you announce that I will be the prophet, or I'm going to set off this bomb.

SPEAKER_00:

And how?

Elder Clate Mask:

I was in Arizona watching this on the big screen at the Stake Center with my Institute students, Spanish Institute students. We're watching this and all we heard was bomb and the screen just went staticky. Wow. And we waited for it to come back on, waited and never did. We waited about a half hour and went home. Our daughter was going to be one of you at the time. She was at that thing, and she was there telling us all about it, that that guy had literally come up and said he was going to shut off the bomb if President, that's a form of the 12th, Howard W. Hunter didn't announce this guy as the new prophet. I wasn't there to see it, I just heard bomb. But what happened is I talked to security much later than that. I talked to some people who were there and they said, he just calmly looked at the guy and said, no. I mean, I would have probably went, ah, bomb. But he was so calm under stress. Look at President Nelson. I was in a meeting with the general authorities at the end of the month in Salt Lake when I was there on

assignment at the missionary department. And I was in the meeting where President Monson said, as we got ready to start the meeting, he said, Elder Nelson, who was a member of the Twelve at the time, would you share with the brethren the experience you just had in Africa? And nobody knew anything at all about it until that point. And then he told about the famous episode where they were robbed. They kind of held hostage. Kind of the hostage situation. And he kind of told the whole story and then said, you're not at liberty to tell anybody about any of this. But we got the details right off, you know, Russia, right after it happened. And we just, wow. But what did he do when the guy says he's gonna kill him and he's gonna rob him, he's gonna do this, that, and the other? And what did President Nelson say? He looked right at the guy and said, I'm prepared to meet my maker. Are you? calm under stress, you know, but you can see these Christ-like attributes in all these four different prophets.

Kurt Francom:

So with your missionaries, you would like paint the picture of these different prophets and their identities, right?

Elder Clate Mask:

I would do that. And then I would say, you are a lot like these great prophets. all of them had natural strengths. So, a lot of these character traits are gifts, and people are born with them, and they develop them, and it's easy to develop because it's natural. But others you have to work on, and they're not so easy. You were born with a gift, and it becomes obvious in life pretty quickly. It's not easy to develop all of these simultaneously. But all of these prophets had natural strengths, all of them had weaknesses, but they all overcame their weaknesses. They all became Christlike, and so can you. The Lord loves each prophet. He also loves each one of you." And then I'd ask him, you know, of all these prophets, these four prophets we've illustrated, who does the Lord love the most? And every time, the entire group of missionaries would just be silent. I'd say, right now, look at these four prophets, just the profile. Look at these four Christ-like attributes. Which one feels more like you? Are you a Brigham Young type of a missionary, or are you a Joseph Smith type? Spencer W. Kimball, Howard W. Hunter. I've noticed, I've watched you, I've worked with you. You're not all identical. All of you do remind me of these prophets. And then I said, everybody close your eyes, be very honest, and just raise your hand when I ask you. How many of you identify with President Brigham Young? How many of you are kind of like that, kind of an organizer and a doer? I noticed about 25% of the hands went up. And I said, okay, put them down. How many? And I went through all four and it was amazing. As I looked around, it was about 25%. Yeah, just even all around. Even all around. I did that through the entire mission, that first round. We did mission tours, zone conferences, and went all over the mission and did that and found it was pretty darn uniform. Wow. And then I said to myself, so how do you get, how do you develop these Christ-like attributes so that you can become more like the Lord? I want to be more like these prophets. But you can develop it, they developed them, and so can you. And so that kind of became a challenge. to everybody, whoever you are. He doesn't love one of you more than another. It doesn't matter which prophet you like, but all of you are like they are. And it just lit a fire under the missionaries that, you know, the workshop, we can do that. And that kind of became a theme for the whole mission of

the workshop. We can do it. And, you know, talk about optimistic, what Joseph's gonna say, you can dig a pit in Nova Scotia and throw me in the bottom of it and pile the Rocky Mountains on top of me, and I'll come out on top. Why? He just never quits. He just keeps on going. He just goes and goes, and he just never quits. And Joseph had that that optimistic ability. Well, he didn't quit on anything. He just kept going. So at any rate, that seems kind of what we started with, and we've carried it on for about three years.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, and I appreciate that because sometimes we, you know, I prefer focus rightly so on the Savior and becoming more Christ-like, but sometimes we sort of need something a little more obtainable in the moment, right? Okay, it can't be perfect today, and these prophets weren't perfect, but they were something at least to reach towards on our journey and quest to being more like the Savior, right? At least we'll be in the right trajectory doing that. That's really helpful.

Elder Clate Mask:

But the better they learned the lives of these prophets and the more that they follow them and try to emulate them and try to become like them, the more like Christ they are becoming.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. Anything else when you think about the mission and connecting and leading those young missionaries come to mind, tactics, routines that you did, anything else worth mentioning during that, those three years?

Elder Clate Mask:

You know, it seemed like every time that we would get together for our zone conferences, you know, there was a, there'd been a crisis that month. There'd been something.

Kurt Francom:

Somebody else had been dying.

Elder Clate Mask:

So, you know, with something, something was always happening. And we would generally have to kind of remind everybody about rules and remind them that, you know, that if we don't change directions, we're going to wind up where we're going. And so there are times we need to make little course corrections along the way and repent regularly. And I would use a lot of different little object lessons to kind of try to get that theme across the whole mission. Like Joseph Smith, making that statement that he was, you know, I can put him in the bottom of that pit and put the Rocky Mountains on him and he just, you know, he wouldn't quit. He would just keep on, keep it on. That whole keep on keeping on attitude. And so I got a jar, kind of a ball quart jar, glass jar, filled it with almost full of wheat and put a ping pong ball in it and screwed the top on and say,

okay, you're out there on the street and you get a no. And you turn the thing upside down, you got a ton of wheat on top of the ping pong ball, right? But do you quit? No, not a Spain Barcelona missionary. We don't quit. We just keep on keeping on and you start wiggling the thing. And as you wiggle it, what happens to the ping pong ball? It goes to the top, right? And see that? Shame that we made it on the top. And then the next little comes along, you turn it over and you just got pounded by a wheat. Do you quit? Not yet. Not yet, we don't quit, we keep on keeping on. We got this keep on keeping on going. Just about that time, I went to a different president's training seminar with our area president, it was Elder Edita Rubendorf at the time. And he said something to us, and I went back and I put it in a little, I took his quote, and put it in their little monthly bulletin, the missionaries. I said, you know what President Uchtdorf said? He said missionary work reminds him of flying a huge commercial jetliner. He said that he loved a taxi at the edge of the runway on a cold, dark, snowy winter. day in Germany and then pull back on the throttle. As he gathered speed down the runway, it always thrilled him to fuel lift-off. He then head steeply upward through the dark, almost black, foreboding clouds that seemed that they would swallow him up at any moment, but he knew that there was light above if he would just keep on keeping on. He knew He would break through the discouraging darkness into the brilliant rays of the morning sun. My beloved elders, hermanos, and priesthood leaders, I too know that there is light and truth up above and that if we will continue pulling back on the throttle and give it our all we've got, if we will just keep on keeping on, we'll burst through that discouragement and despair that so often accompanies the work of the Lord and into the light of the sun, S-O-N. But we would take a theme and we would kind of build on it and use it in a lot of different ways and take it all through the mission. And after a while, you know how difficult it is when you get a door slammed in your face? Time after time after time, there was a little girl's movie, a Walt Disney movie, They came out years ago, there was a book written years ago, about a little girl named Pollyanna. And it sounds kind of ridiculous, you know, they, oh, she's just a little cheerful girl, and she's happy, and this is, you know, just a ridiculous story, many missionaries would think. But as I would tell the story, and I would analyze this little girl. Did you ever see that movie as a kid?

Kurt Francom:

I don't know if I ever saw it, but I know I've heard of Pollyanna, yeah.

Elder Clate Mask:

But you've heard of Pollyanna. Yeah. And all the missionaries have heard of Pollyanna, but we kind of got into the Pollyanna principle because that kid came to town and just changed the entire town. I mean, their attitude in that town was negative. It was pessimistic. It was the town had some real serious mental problems. And this little girl that came to this town to live with her this little orphan girl came to live in this town with her Aunt Polly. And in the movie, the whole thing turns, you know, everybody's sour, everybody is. And this one little girl with her attitude is able to turn the whole town. It's a marvelous story that to this day We've heard from many of our missionaries, 25 years later, say that they've taught that story to their kids, the Pollyanna principle, and that you look for the good in people, expecting to find it, and you surely will. Kind of the theme of the whole thing. But you're going to find what you're looking for. And there are

good people everywhere you look. And there are good people you work with. And we need to learn to look for the good in people. And that's what that Paulian principle would teach. And she learned to play the glad game. Basically, she would count her blessings. When things went wrong, she would count her blessings. We sing about it in church. We read about it in the scriptures. In fact, I think the Savior taught that principle. And all the way through this book, you start realizing that this little girl's dad, who had passed away as a Protestant missionary in the West British Indies, wasn't it? He was a Protestant preacher, and he taught his little girl the doctrine of Christ. Wow. in a really interesting way that was easily transferable to the actions of the missionaries. In the movie, at one point, this little girl walks, she's helping her friend, a boy, a 10-year-old boy, she's helping him to get into this house of the meanest man in town. She just walks right up to that door, and she knocks on that door, and this old crotchety old man opens up the door very menacingly, and one of you kids walked. And she smiles at him, and she starts talking with him, and bottom line, she just works her way right into the house. and does away with all the negativity and the fear and the danger and everything else and just walks right. And I'd say to the missionaries, any of you ever have that experience at the door? What's your door approach like? And they'd say, oh my goodness, that Pollyanna's got a great door approach, I gotta try that. And you know, we'd practice some of these little techniques of playing the glad game, techniques of, you know, what's my door approach like? And, you know, those kinds of things, and we'd role-play, but we'd take a Scripture and apply it, you know, to something simple like that, and then we'd role-play. We don't have a son doing it.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And what I appreciate about a lot of these principles is you're not just teaching them a concept, but you're like couching it in a, a visual or a story or, you know, the Pollyanna principle. Like, so when these things happen, I think the brain can retrieve them more and be like, Oh yeah, I'm, I'm just a ping pong ball right now. And the weights on top of me, but just keep on keeping on and, and you'll come out on top. Right.

Elder Clate Mask:

And we had a lot of those kinds of things, blockhead. We had a big old piece of wood, we call it a blockhead. It was about a one foot by one foot by about eight inches cut off of a du-lam beam, big block of wood. And I painted some ears on him, put a little nose on him and had a wig that I put on him. And I got a great big giant nail about a foot long and about as big as your little finger in diameter, this big old nail. And I wanted to teach a principle of why we have our own conferences regularly, and why we read the Scriptures every day regularly, and why we do the things we do here in the mission field. And I'd say, how did you get this nail into this blockage, into Elder Blockhead here? Can you do it in one whack? How many can get up over here and get a hammer? Say with one whack, who thinks they can get that into that blockhead? And I'd always have a challenge and they'd come up and I'd say, well, don't do it. You'll probably chip something off and hurt yourself. Don't do it. But you sit up here and do it, just one little tap at a time. Instead of one great big old whack, you're gonna get hurt. Just one little tap. And if you tap long enough, What's going to happen to that nail? That nail's going to go all the way in. It's going to get that in that head. I said, how many of us are like Blockhead? And how are you

gonna get that idea or that principle or that doctrine or whatever into your head, into your heart, into your soul, where you act on it? How do you do it? One little tap at a time. You're teaching repetition, but you're doing it visually. And you're doing it in a way to where people today, what I run into missionaries, they'll talk about blockhead. Yeah. Or Pollyanna, or a lot of these little principles. Now keep on keeping on. These are kind of little mottos that became, they became very, very common throughout the whole mission. And we had a lot of fun with it.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And I bet every one of your missionaries can, I could probably just say blockhead and they could break that down, or Pollyanna principle, right? So.

Elder Clate Mask:

He stole my blockhead. Your son did, yeah? I'm pointing to my son that he uses it from time to time when he's teaching missionaries. Love it.

Kurt Francom:

Very cool. So you come over your mission and that's then you're served as a YSA Bishop for a little bit?

Elder Clate Mask:

I was serving as a YSA Bishop over at Arizona State University having the time of my life. It was wonderful.

Kurt Francom:

And then they got interrupted.

Elder Clate Mask:

And I got interrupted by a phone call from President Hinckley.

Kurt Francom:

And you're announced in conference?

Elder Clate Mask:

Sustained? We were announced and sustained and we couldn't tell anybody. For how long? It was about two weeks before conference where they called and said, you can't tell anybody until a conference. So we had tickets to return to Spain. This was, see we came back from Spain in 2000. In 2003, when the other president was going to be leaving, and he was going to be left, we wanted to go back and just go back and see all the people and visit. But we didn't want to do it, you know, with the president that replaced us. You know, we wanted to get... Yeah, just let

him do his thing. Let him do his thing. We'll go back and visit the people. Got our tickets, got all ready to go back. And we got that phone call from President Hinckley, and so we were going to be at general conference. Everybody knew we were going to Spain. I told the stake president what was going on, he said, okay. And I talked to all of our kids, the neighbors, everybody knew we were going to Spain. And then suddenly you're not going to Spain? All of a sudden we're not going to Spain. And everybody said, wait a minute, what's going on? Why aren't you going? Well, we're gonna go to conference instead. In fact, Seth, why don't we all go as a family? Why don't we just all go there? Let's all be there. Oh my goodness. And so for two weeks, we just had to kind of play dumb and not tell anybody what was going on. But our kids were saying, something's up. You know, what is going on? They want us to all go to conference. And dad says he can get us all tickets to conference this time. And he wants us to be there and what's going on? And one of our voices, something is afoot. They were right. Something is afoot. So we got up there and we were called and it was announced the world. And we had two months, two months of training with the brethren up there. And then they sent us off on our assignments. But in that two weeks, I had the opportunity to go out with eight different, six different senior brethren on stake conference assignments. And they would generally, five of the six were new stake presidents. I had never been a stake president. I didn't know the process of how you do it. Like to call a new stake president. To call a new stake president. But I'm on a plane leaving Salt Lake on the way to San Diego, sitting next to elder at the time, now president hiring. and we're on this plane going to San Diego. And he says, you know, Elder Mask, we're not going to San Diego to find the new stake president. We're going to find out who the Lord has already found. And we're there to find out if that's the correct person the Lord has prepared and wants to put in that position. Okay, and the process is, and he said, we're gonna interview about 25, 30 people that are on the list that the stake president's prepared. We're gonna interview them, ask them all basically the same questions, and then we're going to pray, and we're gonna find out if that's the right man. And so we interviewed all of these men, and he'd ask the questions to one man, and the next one would come in after that, and it was my turn, we'd switch back and forth, and it was kind of learning how to do it and what to ask, and we got through interviewing all of those men, They all left and President Eyring, Elder Eyring looks at me and says, well, Elder Mask, have we talked to the new stake president yet? That's a lot of pressure. A lot of pressure. And I looked right at him and I said, yes. Then he got real close to me in my eyes and he says, what's his name? At that point, I knew what revelation really is. I've heard about it a lot. But man, right at that moment, I needed it badly. And I looked right into his eyes, and I told him the name that I had in my head and my heart. He said, that's exactly what the Lord told me. Let's pray about it and confirm it. We did, and we found the new stake president. I had never had that kind of a revelation quite like that under those circumstances, under that pressure. For the next six weeks, I went out with Elder Maxwell, and I went out with Elder I knew in Schwander and who was one of the seven presidents.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, former guest of the podcast.

Elder Clate Mask:

So he's great. He was, he was one of them that I went out with and all of them. It was wonderful to be with those brethren and, and learn from them, from all of them. But you know, every one of them at the end of the interviews would look at me and say, have we spoken with the new stake president, Elder Mask? And I would look at him and say, yes, what's his name? And all six that I went out with during that eight week period, all of them, he said the same exact name as I looked into his eyes. So now that's our two months training period. He sent me off to Mexico. Now I'm in the area of presidency on my first assignment. And I get assigned to go out and organize a stake, and I've got an Area 70 along with me.

Kurt Francom:

You're the senior companion now.

Elder Clate Mask:

And I'm the senior companion. And I've got this, and it's in Spanish, and everything's differed a little bit. You know, the language and the culture and everything around me was a little different, but it was the same too. Because after we asked all the questions, I looked at him and I said, "élder de hoyos? Have we spoken to the new stake president yet?" And I just looked into his eyes, and he said, yes. What's his name? And he told me. We got on our knees and prayed about it. Same spirit told me the same thing that I'd heard before. I had that experience with an area 70 as my junior companion for about 16 stakes down there at about that time, that we went out and found the individual the Lord had already found. and already prepared. There was only one out of all of them that scared me. Because in this particular one, my companion happened to be Elder De Oyo, he was in Area 70, he was in the Area Presidency at the time, and he was my companion. And we'd had about 29 that we had talked to, and I looked over at him and I kind of went, you know, like, look on my face like, I haven't felt anything yet, have you? Kind of, I look on my face. And he was looking at me like, I haven't either." And they said, we've got one more coming in. And we looked up and there was a man standing in the door. Ta-da! It was like there was a light around him. It was like, there he is right there. I looked at that man. I looked at my companion, Elder Deoios. He looked at me. It was absolute revelation right when we needed it. But that was the only one that was not even close. But I found going out and doing the assignments, representing the 12 and using their keys for that weekend, I know what revelation is. And that phrase that the church is led by revelation, that the church leaders receive revelation, that's not just an idle phrase. I mean, it's real, and it happens all the time.

Kurt Francom:

Wow. That's inspiring. I appreciate you sharing all that. Obviously with going around visiting different areas, you're speaking a lot. And I mean, again, as a seminary teacher, I mean, I don't know if you say elder blockhead with you around, but, but I mean, any, any thoughts or perspectives you learned during that time of, of, of speaking so much as a, as a general authority?

Elder Clate Mask:

I found myself doing just what President Hinckley asked us all to do, is to go out and testify of Christ and point everyone towards him and bear my testimony. And I did it not all by myself. I mean, as a seminary teacher, sometimes, you know, you're given lesson after lesson after lesson, day after day after day. It's hard to have the Spirit guiding you every single minute. When the crazy things are going on in the classroom, you know, from time to time. But as a general authority at a stake conference, boy, you just gotta have the Spirit with you, and it can't be just you. You've gotta have help. And it's very humbling, and it's very, but I learned that the Lord will help you. He guides you, and it's real. That whole thing about following the Spirit, that idea, one thing happened with Elder Maxwell. He was my last one that I went out with on assignment. I was his junior companion. Like during your training period? During my training period. It was during the training period. Number one, I was a little bit intimidated because he was going to come pick me up on a street corner in Salt Lake City on Saturday afternoon, and we were going to drive out to Fruit Heights, north of Salt Lake, to a state conference there. And we were going to, on Saturday afternoon and then evening and then on Sunday. And he was going to pick me up, and I was going to be standing on the street corner in front of our apartment complex there in Salt Lake. And I was thinking, you know, I love his talks, but I have to read them three times to really understand.

Kurt Francom:

Is that all? It was six or seven for me.

Elder Clate Mask:

To really understand what he's saying. I've got to really dig. Yeah. What if he starts talking to me? I don't understand him the first time. Should I have he repeated three times? I mean, this was going through my head, and I was thinking, man, what do I do? What do I say if I can't understand him? We got in the car. He was fabulous. He was kind. He had the spirit with him, like it was just a phenomenal experience, a lifetime choice moment to be in the presence of Elder Neal Maxwell. Yeah. And be his companion. But it was just great that whole afternoon. The whole conference was wonderful. It was over. We're sitting there after we'd talked to the state presidency and everything was over. And he says, now you probably have a few questions for me. And I said, yeah, I do. He says, what would you like to ask me? And I said, well, I'm a little bedazzled and confused by everything that I've experienced for this eight weeks. I mean, this is eight weeks of training like I've never had in my life. And I've seen so many different ways of doing it and so many styles. And, you know, I'm a little confused. Sometimes I'll see somebody, you know, a little bit harsh on teaching a particular principle. or sometimes I'll see somebody that was a lot kinder than somebody else in that instance, or what kind of a general authority am I supposed to be? Am I supposed to be, you know, and he just looks at me and says, you just be you. You be you and listen to the Spirit and follow the Spirit and you'll be fine. And that just hit me and it reinforced what I've been teaching my missionaries all that time. It's all about trying to be Christ-like, and trying to be more like Him, try to develop our Christ-like attributes. Now today, we've got chapter six in Preach My Gospel. We didn't have that 25 years ago. And we were out there without that. But today, the missionaries have that. And the principles that you learn in chapter six are just invaluable. But that's really what he was saying.

And so I've tried, and I tried during my entire time, to try to be like those brethren that I was serving with, because it's really a privilege to be in the presence of prophets. I hear a lot of bad-mouthing these days. It hurts my heart to hear how some people bad-mouth some of the brethren. And I just want to tell you, they really are men of God, and they are really worth listening to. You know, President Hinckley, in 1961, I was getting ready to go on my mission, and I'd been interviewed by the stake president and the bishop, and in those days, you had to have a general authority interview, too. So there were about six of us in Texas, El Paso. We didn't see general authorities very much at all, but here was one coming. He was an assistant to the 12. And he was coming to the state conference and interview us six potential missionaries who had already, you know, were ready, you know, for this our final interview. And they walked in and they walked out and they walked in. I was the sixth one. I was the last one. I walked in and he sat me down and he looked at me and he just said, are you worthy to be a missionary? And I looked at him and I said, Yes. Then he kind of got out of his chair and got a little closer to me and says, are you worthy to be a missionary? And I said, yes. Then he got real close, right in my face. Interesting tactic, okay. Oh, I never experienced anything quite like it. And he got right in my face and he said, are you worthy to represent the Lord Jesus Christ as a missionary? I said, this I am. I've tried my whole life to be worthy. Yes, I'm worthy. He looked at me, and he broke into a big smile, and he threw his arms around me. He says, Elder Mask, you are going to be a great—never forget. That was August of 1961. A few months later, this obscure general authority I'd never heard of, this assistant to the Twelve, was made an apostle. The Lord chose him and put him there. His name was Gordon B. Hinckley. 1961. Came to El Paso. And years later, He called me on the phone when I lived in Mesa and called me to be a special witness of Jesus Christ, a Seventy, to go all over the world and testify of the Lord. And then, when it was time for Him to be transferred, And the very last meeting we had with him, I was called on to say the opening prayer. And as I walked up there, I got right up close to him, and he got out of his seat and came up to me and grabbed my hand and pulled me right close to him, eyeball to eyeball. I said to myself, I'm looking into the same piercing blue eyes that I first looked into in 1961. And now I didn't even know who he was then, but I know now. I'm looking in the eyes of a prophet of God. You can't be around the prophets and the brethren for very long without realizing they are special witnesses of Jesus Christ. But President Hinckley was, and working with President Monson, what a delight. And President Nelson, oh, what, I had an experience with Elder Nelson. where they do some training seminar and they do some training all over the world with priesthood leaders and they'll send out an apostle. It's kind of a four-man team of an apostle and one of the seven presidents and a general authority 70 and an area 70. And that team of four will go out to a certain area and have conferences that weekend and do training and so forth and so on. When I went out to do some training, the apostle was Elder Nelson. The president of the 70s that went out with me, and I went out with them, was Elder Anderson, who's now of the Quorum of the Twelve. I was the general authority, and there was an area of 70 from New York with us. President Nelson was standing there, and he looks at all these, there must have been 800 men in that stake center. all over Ohio. We were in Columbus, Ohio. And they were from all over that area. And President Nelson said, before we start the meeting, you don't get a chance very often to be able to shake hands with an apostle, but this is the time. We're going to all four stand right here, up here, underneath the mic here, and form a line right there, and I want to shake everybody's hand and look in your eye. Do you know what happens to your

arm, your wrist, your shoulder, your back, your knees, your hips after about a hundred handshakes? Do you know what it's like after about 500? I mean, I'm sitting there thinking, how is he doing this? He was 85 years old at that point, and I just could not believe how strong he was and how capable and able to do what he was doing. And we were, most of us were kind of wilting over there next to him. And he was just absolutely, but he wanted Nobody knew, and nobody will ever know, how that ached and hurt, you know, because he sure didn't let on. And on the way back, Salt Lake, we're on the plane, and I have just had a spiritual feast all weekend long, just being in his presence and being with those great men. It was just a marvelous experience. As we're going back, I thought, when he had me sit right next to him on the plane from Columbus, Ohio to Salt Lake. And I thought, he's going to crash in about two seconds, because I'm going to make it about one second. I am just absolutely exhausted. He talked me and taught me from Columbus, Ohio to Salt Lake. He didn't let up at all. And one of the questions I asked him, I said, What are you planning on doing tomorrow on your day off? He says, I'm going skiing with my grandkids. I said, you're 85 years old. He said, oh, I know. I said, sure, I'm gonna take some of my grandkids and go skiing. And I just thought at the time, what an incredible example that nobody could say they were tired around him. Yeah, yeah. But being in his presence just was absolutely an amazing experience and I'll never forget. That's awesome.

Kurt Francom:

Well, as we wrap up, I mean, again, we go on and on and so many stories and experiences, but just what you share is so precious and sweet and to gain a new, different perspective of some of these roles and assignments and leadership principles that you implemented, that you discovered. As we wrap up, the last question I have for you is, considering your time as a leader, various assignments you've had, how has being a leader helped you become a better follower of Jesus Christ?

Elder Clate Mask:

I've kept my eye on the brethren and watched what they do and tried to be like them. And as I've done it, I realize that people are called and people are released and it happens all the time in the church. But it doesn't matter what your particular position is in the church. The key that I've learned is to just be as Christ-like as possible, and follow the Spirit, and everything will work out. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and put your trust in Him, and it'll all work out.

Kurt Francom:

That concludes this episode of the Leading Saints podcast. We'd love to hear from you about your questions or thoughts or comments. You can either leave a comment on the post related to this episode at leadingsaints.org or go to leadingsaints.org contact and send us your perspective or questions. If there's other episodes or topics you'd like to hear on the Leading Saints podcast, go to leadingsaints.org slash contact and share with us the information there. And we would love for you to share this with any individual you think this would apply to, especially maybe individuals in your ward council or other leaders that you may know who

would really appreciate the perspectives that we discussed. Remember, the Jody Moore presentation about youth and mental health is waiting for you at [leadingsaints.org slash 14](http://leadingsaints.org/slash/14).

SPEAKER_00:

It came as a result of the position of leadership which was imposed upon us by the God of heaven who brought forth a restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When the declaration was made concerning the only true and living church upon the face of the earth, we were immediately put in a position of loneliness. The loneliness of leadership, from which we cannot shrink nor run away, and to which we must face up with boldness and courage and ability.