

## ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

*Of the First Council of Seventy and President of the Mexican Mission*

My brethren and sisters, I am delighted with the privilege of adding my testimony to those which have already been given during this conference, although I should very gladly have surrendered my portion of the time to those who are perhaps more able to instruct you.

As you know, I represent the Mexican Mission, and as such I bring you greetings from perhaps the largest branch of the house of Lehi. We had a pageant the other night, celebrating the dawn of the day of the sons of Lehi. We are laboring among those very people, and we bring you their greetings.

The Mexican Mission feels to congratulate itself especially at this time, in that it has two new representatives, we might say, among the presiding authorities of the Church. We feel extremely fortunate in the selection of these two brethren to fill the vacancies that they now occupy, because we know that both of them are friendly to our people and to our mission. We pray that God will bless them, that they may measure up fully and completely to the responsibility that rests upon them. We bear them up, and will support them wholeheartedly and without reserve.

The Mexican Mission is making some progress. We are not able, however, to report the same advancement that some of the other missions are able to do. Our numbers are few. We have not available the same excellent quality and quantity of part-time missionary service as the other missions are enjoying. It seems to me that it is through this effort that they are making their best contacts at this time, and we miss that force very, very much.

We have in our mission some of the best young men and young women in the Church. We wish to assure the fathers and mothers of all of them that they are now well, happy, and working hard; and if there are any others who have sons and daughters that they would like to get a wonderful experience, send them to us. We would like to have them now. It is the work of the Lord. There is no greater work in the world, and your sons and your daughters are interested in its advancement.

I don't feel that I should stand here and talk a long while this afternoon, but I just want to add my testimony to those that have already been given, to say that we support and uphold the authorities of this Church. We are especially interested in the campaign that seems to have been initiated for the Word of Wisdom, the slogan, if we may call it such, of this conference.

I can bear the same testimony that has been borne here already two or three times, that the observance of the Word of Wisdom is no detriment in the world. I have spent ten years of my life laboring with people who are not of our faith, almost all of whom are non-observers of the Word of Wisdom, but I found, without exception, that they expected me to observe the Word of Wisdom. They almost demanded it of me, and I was mighty glad to think that it was a habit with me.

I pray that the Lord will bless us; that he will make our shoulders equal to the burdens that we have to bear; that we may carry on this work in honor and in dignity before him; that eventually, in his own proper time, it may fulfil the purpose for which it was established in the earth. With these few words I give way, praying God's blessings upon us all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ELDER JOSEPH F. MERRILL

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

Brethren and sisters: No doubt you have come to this 103rd annual Conference of the Church to hear the word of the Lord as it shall fall from the lips of his servants who shall address you. So far as I am concerned I assure you that I have but a single desire and that is to speak only as my brethren and the Lord shall approve. And so I have earnestly prayed that the Lord will direct me in what I shall say.

#### SUCCESS THROUGH DIVINE LEADERSHIP

This is the Lord's work—not man's. It will prosper only if he leads it. It cannot prosper if directed by the uninspired wisdom of men. This is a fact that we should keep clearly in mind. For it applies not only to the work of the Church in general and as a whole, but also to any part of the work and to individual efforts in the Church. I am, of course, only stating a fact that is well known in the Church, the recognition of which is the beginning of wisdom of the person who would serve acceptably in teaching the word of the Lord.

#### AN ANALOGOUS SITUATION

The current economic conditions still form a major topic of discussion. Many members of the Church look to its leadership to show them "a way out." Is not the situation somewhat analogous to that which prevailed when Jesus lived among the Jews in Palestine? The Jews were looking for a Messiah. But they wanted a savior who should lead them out of political bondage and establish them as an independent nation strong enough to cope successfully in a test of arms with any other nation. Even some of the followers of Jesus hoped and expected that he would develop into such a leader. They were disappointed that he did not do so and therefore saw their fond hopes blasted when he was lifted upon the cross. They failed to see in him the promised Messiah.

So in this day I am very sure that the Lord through his servants, the Presidency of the Church, has already very clearly pointed a way out from our present difficulties. But it appears that even many members of the Church, and certainly the peoples of the world generally, have failed to see the Lord's plan of economic recovery as given in the inspired words of the First Presidency of this Church. In this day we are so accustomed to striking headlines in the announcement of even many unimportant things that we are wholly unprepared to see a way out of