

bring about that which Christ wrought, which is sung by the millions upon this earth here today. Then think of the marvelous thing that He did in His quiet, unostentatious manner; how Moroni appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, to bring forth this great work that you and I are now engaged in.

All this being true, all this having been revealed to us, we knowing of its truth and virtue, I think it quite necessary that we bring ourselves to understand that with the establishment here upon this earth of God's prophet, God's servants, we can say in our hearts that these are the servants of God, chosen absolutely and literally by Him for the guidance of His people here upon this earth.

#### SUCCESS IN LOCAL MISSIONARY WORK

Now, just one word: I am thrilled with that which has been told to you people by Brother Richards, Apostle George F. Richards, concerning the work which is going on here in the Stakes of Zion. Your sons and daughters have been sent abroad. They have been marvelously blessed. But here in your own Stakes, up and down these great stretches, your sons and husbands and daughters and wives are in this great missionary work, and up to July of this year we were just fifty-one baptisms ahead of the same time last year; and during this last month one hundred ninety-four men joined this Church, who never knew of its truth before.

So I rejoice, and say to you I feel that it is not necessary that we should feel overly concerned about what will happen to us, if we will do that which God desires us to do.

God bless you, I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

#### ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

##### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

I had rather half-heartedly cherished the idea that the broadcast tomorrow morning would be accepted as my contribution to this Conference. It was almost the case six months ago, but five minutes at the last of the closing session saved the establishment of such a precedent, I am sorry to say.

Usually when I occupy this position, which is at least once a week and often two or three times a week, I have the benefit of a radio script in front of me. It is much more comfortable, but not nearly so spontaneous. I ask at this time that if the Lord has a message that He would like me to speak, He will prompt it. I feel very weak in addressing this congregation.

#### THE NEED FELT FOR TRUE LEADERSHIP

In our conduct of the Tabernacle Choir broadcast over the nation-wide Columbia network each Sunday morning, and over the nation-wide Canadian Radio Commission stations, and also by short wave and by electrical transcription across the seas and into other continents, we

receive mail postmarked from almost every section of the globe, and literally from every nook and corner of America.

This mail reveals that people are hungry for leadership, that they are searching earnestly for a foundation on which to place their feet, for a fixed destination toward which to strive, and that they are sick to death of the confusion and the contradiction that they see about them. This hunger for leadership in one sense is a very happy thing, and in another sense it may be a very dangerous thing. When people are in that frame of mind it makes it much easier for a false leader to win their following.

I am impressed with the fact that our responsibility in this Church is the responsibility of leadership, and that we must take it, whatever it may cost us, because the Lord has told us that we have been sent to be a light unto the world and to be saviors of men; and if we don't give this leadership, others will assume it, to the sorrow of mankind and to our own condemnation. I feel sure that this leadership must enter into all of the activities of living.

President Clark mentioned here, yesterday morning, the fact that our fathers and grandfathers had prayed over the land and the water and the air, and all of the physical elements of production, much to their credit and to their blessing. I feel sure that we need to pray over a good many other things, including our scholarship, our academic activities, our political activities, our social activities. I am sure that we need to pray over every phase of thought and of life.

It is a very difficult thing to take leadership in this day—so much is being discovered; so much is happening; so confused are the issues, I think it safe to say, without contradiction, that in a public sense we can't be sure of much of what we hear or much of what we see or much of what we read; that the phrase, "evil and designing men," has a much broader application, than the limited sense in which we use it in connection with the Word of Wisdom. Those things that are printed and spoken to shape our thinking, in all fields of communication and human contact, are largely designed and colored and adulterated and modified to bring men into the line of thought of other men, often without regard to the facts or the truth of the matter in question. It is very difficult to know, and I think man unaided, of himself, and without some Higher Help, cannot know what to believe and what not to believe of the maze of material that daily passes before our eyes and comes within the range of our hearing.

#### THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

A cherished friend of mine, whose life paralleled mine for many years, up to a few years ago, when there was a parting of the ways, is now in one of America's greatest institutions of learning, and has achieved international eminence in his scientific field. A few weeks ago he wrote me and said: "I am conducting researches in many fields, and I am just beginning to learn the high cost of finding out the truth about anything."

And he continued: "The problem is so complex that all we can do is arrive at half-truths and first approximations."

I wrote him back and said: "It must be a great comfort to you, in your work, to know that you are a member of a Church that will accept everything of truth that you ever find in your researches, in whatever field of thought or activity, and all that we ask of you is to pursue them beyond that stage of half-truth and first approximations of which you have spoken, and conduct them to their final end, where there will be no question about their eternal verity—to that point where the generations to come will not of necessity repudiate them."

I have a strong feeling that our young people who go into our universities and colleges should have before them constantly the promise of Moroni, that "by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things," which is repeated in substance in the Doctrine and Covenants to the effect that "the Holy Ghost . . . showeth all things and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom." I never remember having gone into an examination of any consequence in my life without making it a matter of prayer. I know that the young man or young woman who approaches any problem in the academic field, or any other field, would have a great advantage if he would keep as his constant companion the spirit of our Father in heaven, which would give him an active sense of warm assurance when he was in the presence of truth, and would give him a contrary feeling when he was not in the presence of truth. It wouldn't give him knowledge without study, or discovery without search, or truth without effort, but, granted that he pursued his work intelligently and diligently, he would have a great advantage in all of his findings and doings, academically and otherwise, if he made the spirit of all truth his constant guide.

#### STRENGTH COMES THROUGH PRAYER

This is the thing the Latter-day Saints have that helps them to take leadership regardless of the confusion and the contradiction about us. I know that in my home my widowed mother was constantly in an attitude of prayer. My most vivid memory of her—and I cherish it dearly—is a memory of her on her knees, pleading with the Lord, her Father in heaven, for a solution to the many problems and difficulties that beset her life. I suppose that I had had as much formal education by the time I was fourteen years old, in terms of days spent in school, as she had had in all her life, and yet after I had had the privilege of acquiring university degrees I could still go to her when I was troubled, and find the right counsel and the right answers to whatever was confronting me, and I am grateful to have had such a mother and such a home, and to have had evidence of the effectiveness of that approach, that promise which through prayer and through diligence and through walking in the ways of our Father, makes it possible for the Latter-day Saints to assume leadership, and we can do it in no other way, except by keeping constantly in touch with the spirit of our Father in heaven, by which we may know the truth of all things.

This is our promise, if we live for it. It is the means whereby we can take leadership in spiritual matters, in economic affairs, in social conditions, and in all the ways of life—and the only way.

#### SAFETY IN FOLLOWING TRUE LEADERSHIP

Besides this we have our living prophet, for whom I am grateful, and I hope to follow after him all the days of my life. I know that when I don't follow him I am wrong, and I know that when I do I am right, even if I don't agree with him. To those who only follow him when they do agree with him he is not a prophet unto them. I am grateful to the Lord for preserving the life of President Grant. I know that the leadership of this people is a responsibility that weighs heavily upon him, and that he would avoid it if he could, oftentimes, but he has no choice in the matter; and by looking to his counsel and example we may also be helped to know when we are right and when we are not right in the presence of all the confusion we see about us.

I wish to leave you my testimony that I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that He shall one day reign upon this earth, in His own time, and that all those things that the prophets have spoken in all generations will come to pass, regardless of the belief or unbelief of men; and that he who leads us today speaks for God in the affairs of this world in this generation.

May the Lord bless you and be with you and help you to give the leadership that the Lord intends that you shall give, lest others take it, and lest we thereby be condemned for not having taken the place that was rightfully ours, and for which we had the guidance if we had lived according to the laws of God, our Father.

May He bless us all, I ask, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A bartone solo: "If Christ Came Back Today," (by O'Hara), was sung by Elder Walter Welti.

#### ELDER JOHN A. WIDTSOE

##### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

This crowded house on a week-day with beautiful weather, is an answer to the cry of the ancient prophet of Israel: "There is faith in Israel." It is good to be one of you in this, the Church of Christ.

I have been impressed to speak to a theme which may not be strictly spiritual, but which in its relations to Gospel living seems to me to be of prime importance.

#### PREPAREDNESS A PART OF THE GOSPEL PLAN

Preparedness is today on every tongue. There is danger ahead, and defenses must be set up. Preparedness is not a new word to Latter-day Saints. For one hundred and ten years our voice has been one of warning to prepare against the commotion and calamities of the last days. We have taught and continue to teach that full preparedness and complete