

we have done and thought, at home and abroad, in all the occupations and in all the pursuits that we may be called upon to undertake, is all a part of the eternal record of all of us, and it stands unalterably for us or against us.

#### PREPARATION FOR LIFE SHOULD GO FORWARD

And to those young people who are inclined to be discouraged by the course of events, those who are oppressed with the spirit of "What's the use?" we say to them, there will always be a future. Again quoting from Genesis a passage that is a comforting assurance: "While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22.) And we must not cease in our preparations or in our living of life to the fullest that we are able to do it in accordance with the conditions and opportunities of our own generation. If we make the best of all our circumstances of our own generation and time the Lord will ask no more of us.

Life is not very long, I think. In the normal course of events mine is now half over, and I feel that I have scarcely put my foot in the door. I am sure that it isn't long enough to gamble any of the values of eternity against the values of time. And this thought recalls one of the most impressive passages from the Doctrine and Covenants, in which the Lord spoke to the Prophet Joseph Smith in one of his hours of deepest despair:

My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; and then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes. (Doctrine and Covenants 121:7, 8.)

And so I say to these young men of my generation: Go forth and live your lives in all of the fulness that is possible for you, and remember who you are and what you are, whether you are at home or abroad, in the army or out of it, and the Lord will bless you and prosper you and comfort you and reward you, and bring good out of all the circumstances of your lives.

I leave you my testimony that I know that God lives; that Jesus is the Christ; that Joseph Smith and all of his successors have been prophets of God, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ELDER RUFUS K. HARDY

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

From "away down under" there is this that is said by that people: "A rain drop above and a chrysalis beneath,"—their way of stating that God's beneficent kindness produces a beautiful race of human creatures. I think if that great race of lovely and intelligent people could have the privilege of seeing this gathering, they would know that what their forefathers and immediate ancestors declared to them is absolutely true.

## CONFERENCE GATHERINGS IN THE TABERNACLE

We come here twice each year, in April and in October, and have been doing so since 1867, the year this Tabernacle was dedicated, and each Conference since has been fraught with the splendid advice, the wonderful counsel, and the lovely and beautiful testimonies which have been borne here in the past and given to us already in this great April gathering of 1941. We have had one hundred and forty-eight Conferences in this building since we started to hold Conferences here, and I think if there were gathered together that which has been expounded from this pulpit, the world would be greatly enriched as it never has been before, and we would know and understand better that which God desires us to understand, and feel assured of our future safety and of our daily and present actions.

## PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

I am prompted somewhat along the line on which Brother Evans has just been speaking, for I have met with many mothers of boys who have been called away, and in my weak way I have tried to comfort them, and I fear all too hopelessly and inadequately.

You know that in this old world and earth of ours today, mankind are running to and fro like ants whose hives have been disturbed, whose homes have been uprooted; and that over the great expanse of the oceans these monstrous steel vessels are zigzagging the lanes of travel, bearing their precious burdens, while underneath dives the submarine to lurk beneath the waves and wait to destroy the floating vessels. Over and above all come the hissing sound and the roar of the bombing planes, which spread destruction and bring to us such fear.

There is, however, a thought which comes in connection with this, and that is this: that in China and Japan, in Italy, in England, in Germany, in Norway, in Rumania, in almost every spot of the earth men are preparing for that which Satan himself desires. He, if possible, would have his own way, and that is the death of mankind. Away down underneath us, in those beautiful jewel-like islands of the Pacific, even in them, men are dressing and robing themselves in the attire of the soldier, and the accouterments of war are being gathered by them. Their faces are stern; smiles have left their countenances, unless it is the smirk; and their hearts are as lead. The cries of their women-folk go up to heaven for the assuaging of their sorrows and the bringing of relief from that which they face.

## PROPHECIES OF WARNING AND OF COMFORT

God has said some things in prophecies concerning this. All this evil is done in order that some may acquire that which they do not possess or rightfully claim. To each and every child born upon this earth God gave a portion of it. It has been bestowed upon him by right of heirship from Adam, and even before this earth was formed, the Lord said:

We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; and we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them.

Now, out of all this greed and lust for power comes, as I say, this terrible confusion. I am impressed more each day with the fact that God is my refuge.

We, the people of this Church—and I say this not in any way of arrogance, no, but from my youth and from my earliest recollections there has come ringing down to me, through the various voices of the Presidents of this Church whom I have known, this great cry—and I believe that you and I, we all of us have answered it; it is significant that from almost every nation of this earth there are people here assembled who have answered this cry:

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

So that, so far as we are concerned, unquestionably we have complied with and listened to the wisdom that is from above, for "the hearing ear and the seeing eye, God hath made them both."

And then declares Isaiah this:

He that walketh righteously and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

He shall dwell on high; his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

#### THE PROMISES OF THE LORD SURE OF FULFILMENT

God is not unmindful of His children. God will do that which in His own way He has seen from the beginning, that which is today and that which has come before, that which He directs and continues to control, as surely as we live upon this earth.

There is a promise, and that promise has been repeated and reiterated from this stand hundreds of times. I would like all the Saints to remember that promise. It is this:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

So I say, let all of us draw in from our wanderings and distress of mind, and rely upon God and what He has promised. Surely there shall come to us comfort and there should come to us a greater knowledge than to any other people upon this earth, that if we do that which we profess, God is with us, His people, and all others that obey Him, and that all is right in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

## THE STAKE MISSIONARY WORK

We are doing not only all that we can do for our own beloved land, as a nation, but we are doing for those who dwell in our immediate vicinity that which God commanded us to do. Our missionaries are scattering abroad the truths which they have received. It was my pleasure to tell you, a year ago, that during the year 1939 the Stake missionaries had performed 2,220 baptisms; and again I say to you that last year, in 1940, the same missionary group of splendid men and women brought into this Church 2,203 converts.

This work goes on apace, and God is calling more unto the fold each day and doing more for them and for our communities as a whole. With cheerful hearts these missionaries have gone out and performed this labor of love with the help and assistance of the splendid Stake presidencies which we have in the Church. So I say, with grateful hearts let us give unto God the honor and the glory and the praise.

Above everything else may we have that sweet assurance which He has given through His servants to us, from this stand, and from His servant, Joseph Smith, and all the revelations of scripture which have been given to us, that we shall, through obedience to the laws and ordinances of this Gospel, not be destroyed but ultimately gain salvation and our reward. I ask that in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Blackfoot Stake Choir sang an anthem, "Jesu, Priceless Treasure"—Bach.

**ELDER MARVIN O. ASHTON***First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric*

Some of you wonder why some of us who have the responsibility which is mine at this particular moment frequently ask for guidance from above. If some of you had this responsibility I believe you would be asking for the same help.

It has just been my pleasure to make a visit to the Hawaiian Islands. I am sure those who have been to this beautiful country will not be at all surprised if, in the few weak words I may say on this particular occasion I refer to these islands and those wonderful people.

## A LESSON DRAWN FROM FISHING IN HAWAII

In speaking of guidance from above, I am reminded that some of us take ourselves very seriously, in fact too seriously, sometimes. If we would continually seek for guidance from above, we would all be better off. In the Hawaiian Islands, they catch fish in different ways. One of the parts played in the most popular way of fishing is to have one of the natives go to a precipice or high mountain overlooking the bay, or the place where they fish, and he, from that particular viewpoint, directs the fishing. By the way, as you go over the islands in an airplane and you look down in the water, you find it as clear as crystal. You can see the coral below. Of course, he can see the schools of fish as they move