

## ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

**B**RETHREN, I believe this is the first time I ever stood before a congregation of this many men that didn't have a good number of seventies in it to give it color. You have seven of us on the stand, but we feel perfectly inadequate.

I wish to send, through you stake presidents, to all those seventies out there, our regrets that they are not here with us, and our good wishes. We are just a bit worried about them. Brother Merrill has told us what he expects them to do in a quorum capacity. They have been told that they can't drive their automobiles to get together. They are scattered all over from Dan to Beer-sheba. There are only about twenty-six quorums out of one hundred which are confined to but one ward. Those twenty-six will be able to hold their council meetings and their quorum meetings without much difficulty. The other seventy-four are scattered over from two to eight or ten wards.

Now, we hope that you brethren will remember that when they divide up into groups and go into their various wards, that they are still a quorum, under stake jurisdiction conjointly with that of the First Council of the Seventy that you will try to retain your interest in those seventies, and provide ways that they may occasionally get together in full quorums.

I imagine your high priests will have the same difficulty that the seventies will experience. In many of the stakes where I have visited I fear that the monthly quorum meeting is going to be next to impossible. The leadership meeting does not provide the opportunity for more than a quorum council

meeting. I hope that some time, at least, in the quarter, that we can get all of our seventies together, so that they will still remember that they are a quorum, and that they have a responsibility to the stake organization, as well as to the First Council.

Brethren, if you will help us I am sure that you can open up the way for them so that they can retain their interest in their quorum, and function in a quorum capacity.

Now, we have another thing that bothers us. We have already noticed, in the report for January of this year, that there has been a very definite and distinct let-down in the missionary work of the stakes. We hope that in view of this recent instruction that missionary work may be reorganized so that it can carry on without too much hindrance and too much obstruction. To you, brethren, you stake presidents, we give that responsibility to see that your stake missions and your seventies' quorums function naturally.

We have faith in you. We believe in you. We know that many of you, if not most of you, have passed through our organization, and we hope that you will be able to retain an interest in the seventies, that you will help them, and in doing that help us.

I am happy for this opportunity to bear my testimony. I feel that we are in the hands of the Lord, and I feel that regardless of the obstacles that may come our way, this great work will go forward. I believe there is nothing under heaven that can interrupt its progress, although we may meet serious difficulties at times.

God bless you. Amen.

## ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**A** GREAT deal has been said in this conference about our interest in the boys who are in the service, and I am sure it is opportune. There are two things, however, my brethren,

that I would like to suggest here. I can only suggest them, because of the lack of time.

Heretofore we have taken a pride in our rural, peaceful communities, and

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with justification we have talked of our culture and refinement—a culture developed through faith in God and a devotion to high purposes. The Church has had a refining influence on all who have lived up to its teachings and participated in the strength of its organization.

Now a great transition is taking place. Our boys are having to leave the influences of their youth, and are being transplanted into a life that has for its goal, not peace, but war; not the refining influences of the gospel, but the hatreds, and coarseness that can only come from the cruellest war of all time. Then, too, we are witnessing an industrial transition that is fast changing our heretofore pastoral communities into active humming commercial centers. These new enterprises are also bringing an altogether different influence into the lives of our youth.

These changes should give all of us great concern for we have never had to meet these influences before, but this is only part of the problem. We cannot picture what the transaction will be when the war is over, and our boys return from the army, and from the mills and factories, back to the farms, where returns for their labor may not be very remunerative—and where many of them will find no work at all.

Lack of time will only permit the suggesting of the problems. We, who have the responsibility of the directing of Priesthood activities of the Church, need to be thinking of this. It will require all of the ingenuity and organiza-

tion at our command to meet these problems. May we keep in touch with our boys and help them in their thinking and in the adjustments that are to come.

One other thing, and that is this: We are already beginning to feel the animosities and the hatreds that are being engendered because of the war. President Clark warned us of this a long time ago, and we are beginning now to see and feel it, and we are feeling it with our own people. We have in our midst people who belong to the Church, who have come from foreign lands, people who have sacrificed, and whose faith is just as firm as those of us who were born and reared in this land, and yet they are becoming the victims of these hatreds. May we be cautious about this, and may we use all the influence we have to preserve the love of the gospel in the hearts of the people, and to caution them that the feelings of our Saints, who are the victims of these unfortunate circumstances, are tender, and that they should be safeguarded against these hatreds.

May we always remember that there is a difference between sin and the sinner. If we can do that, it will help a lot. There isn't a stake of Zion that isn't feeling this thing, and as this war continues, and the casualties begin to come in, this spirit is going to become intensified, and the problem is going to become acute.

May God help us, that we may not fail in our responsibilities, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ELDER JOSEPH L. WIRTHLIN

### *Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric*

As I looked into your faces today, brethren, the question occurred to me, "I wonder what it is that motivates these men to render such a generous, splendid service?"

I noted that some of you have come as far as two thousand five hundred miles to attend this conference, leaving your families and businesses. The spirit that has motivated you to attend this conference and to carry on in the

work of the Lord that has been assigned to you, is the same spirit which has built up the Church in these, the last days—the spirit of testimony.

In considering our achievements in the valleys of these mountains, I always think of our pioneer fathers and the pioneer leadership who were willing to sacrifice life itself and all they possessed for the gospel's sake. And why were they willing to do it? Because in