

ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

MY brethren, I have been touched, as you have, by the timely, comprehensive, straight-forward, and inspiring message submitted by the Presidency of this Church, to which we have just listened. I share with you an unusual emotion as we see this large gathering of Priesthood, for here are represented the workers and the leaders of the Church. I rejoice in the quality of leadership represented and manifested here.

A great responsibility rests upon the Latter-day Saints, a responsibility which consists, not only in teaching, but in living the restored gospel. The spiritual crisis existing in the world today is a challenge to every church and to every devoted church member.

Roger Babson, within the last week, has endeavored to answer the question: "How long will the present war last?" He said:

It will end only when we repent of our sins, readjust our wasteful standards of living, and once more make God the ruler of our homes, schools, businesses, and nation.

Mr. Babson's statement reflects the wisdom of a man who has spent many years in the study of economic trends and business cycles. He has come to the conclusion that man cannot live by bread alone, and that we have reached a juncture in the history of this world, when it is either "Christ or collapse."

This Church has supplied a background before which our nation can go forward triumphantly, victoriously and gloriously. No nation is greater than its spiritual concepts. Spirituality is a recognition of God's power in the universe and in the affairs of men and nations. It is a recognition of divine commandment as a guide to humanity in their struggles and strivings. It recognizes God as ruler and creator and proclaims the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

This Christian doctrine is the very cornerstone of freedom, and it is the mission of this Church to promote it, and to inspire faith in the hearts of men. In this solemn obligation we must not fail, for faith is the bedrock of human life, without which the soul of man has no anchorage. Despotism may govern without such faith, but democracy will die without it.

May we appreciate the opportunity we have, as members of Christ's Church. May we recognize in Jesus Christ the only safe leadership which we can follow in these days of uncertainty and confusion.

May God give us strength and wisdom to walk in the way of righteousness, that our daily example may be a sermon to our friends, far and near, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

As I face this body of people, I always feel under the necessity, it seems, of calling upon the sustenance and direction of my Father in heaven for what I shall say, and I do so at this time.

I think it would be enjoyable some time when the pressure of life is not so great, to indulge in the luxury of long and leisurely sermonizing. That is a luxury, however, that sometimes is enjoyed by the speaker more than it is by the audience.

First of all this morning I should like to welcome to his new calling, Brother Joseph F. Smith. I have enjoyed the intimacy of his home, and he of mine. I have stood by him in some of the critical days of his life, of which he spoke here this morning. I know him to be a man of faith and courage, and I look forward to the coming years of close association with him in the councils of the Church.

I should like to read a statement which I found the other day, first