

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

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printed in the second number of the *Evening and Morning Star*, back in July, 1832, as I recall:

The old world was destroyed for rejecting the revelations of God given to them through Noah. The Israelites were destroyed in the wilderness for despising the revelations given to them through Moses; and Christ said that the world, in the days of the apostles, would be condemned for not receiving the word of God through them: Thus we see that the judgments of God in the past ages have come upon the people, *not so much for neglecting the revelations given to their forefathers, as for rejecting those given particularly to themselves.* (*Doc. Hist.*, vol. 1:277)

Since the restoration there has never been a time in the history of this people when the leadership of this Church has not given direction concerning those things which vitally affect the temporal and spiritual welfare of this Church and this people; and the present and the immediate past are no exceptions to this general statement. Those who have not seen the way in which that direction has pointed have not seen it, either because they have been too indifferent, or because they have chosen not to see it.

I hope that this fact will be burnished upon our hearts and not only upon ours but upon the hearts of all of our young people, as they leave the shelter of our homes, of necessity, as they become uprooted from their native soil in this surge of humanity that floods here and there, these days, that they may be led to know, with us, that truth is not a

matter of convenience; that principles and ideals are not a matter of geography or environment; that there is only one set of rules—that a thing that was not right at home is not right away from home—if it was not right where we came from, it isn't right anywhere.

MAY we go with them—these young people of ours—with our prayers and our letters—with our teachings before they leave, and with the example of our own lives always to fortify them, so that they may look back to us, to their homes, to their Church for strength and comfort in critical times.

Concerning all that has been spoken and shall be spoken during this conference, and at all times, by the leadership of this Church, I close with the words of Joseph Smith, the Prophet:

Therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellow men than their eternal salvation.

May God help all of us to have strength, in the days to come, no matter what may lie before us, to adhere to those principles which were dearer to our fathers than life itself. No matter how we may be called upon to shift the superstructure of our lives, and to change the superficial habits of our living, may we never shift our foundations, I ask, in the name of Him whose work this is, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER STEPHEN L RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

IN June I had the privilege of visiting some of the shrines of the Church, places made sacred by memorable events in the history of the restored gospel. I am happy to report that wherever these places are owned or controlled by the Church they are maintained in good condition, creditable to the great cause and momentous things they commemorate. So significant to Latter-day Saints is every shrine that a discourse might be built around each one. That, of course, is

infeasible. I must be content merely to give you a little of my reflection and feeling as I came into the atmosphere of these historic places.

Many of them are in western New York, centering around the city of Palmyra. The Prophet's boyhood home, the Sacred Grove, the Hill Cumorah, scenes associated with the translation and publication of the Book of Mormon, the Peter Whitmer home where the Church was organized, and the site of the first baptisms—all are