

now on, we of the organizations of seventy will glorify our work as never before, for I believe that the world is waiting for the truths of God. Every one of us has a sacred duty and trust, and while we as missionaries have our daily vocations, the most joyful recreation is in going to the homes of people with the gospel message. Remember the divine injunction: "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Our hearts need not be troubled or afraid, if we have the simple faith in God and the work He has given us to do. We remember the words of the Prophet Micah:

... in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. . . . (Micah 4:1-2)

The nations have come to the mountain of the Lord, and they will continue to come and be taught by you, my brethren, for the prophet continues and says:

... they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Micah 4:3)

You stake mission presidents should

call your brethren around you and teach the gospel. Remember when you approach people, you will receive from them the same thought that you give them. If hate, you will receive hate; if love, it will be love. God will be the judge of institutions and people; it is your duty to "love the Lord thy God with your might, mind, and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself." In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of the grace that is given each one:

... for the work of the ministry . . . Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

We pray that the missionaries of all the stakes of Zion will from now on have new life. We must turn our thoughts forward, for the gospel will meet every man's wants, and protect and guide his life. You will see your labors rewarded. Sowers and reapers will rejoice together. You are committed to nothing but the truth. People will listen to you. God bless all the missionaries in the Church, that they may see the importance of the work as never before, and go forth with the Light of God in their hearts, I humbly pray. Amen.

ELDER THOMAS E. MCKAY

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

THE singing of the beautiful hymn, "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief," followed by the inspirational message of our beloved President, and then the solo so well rendered by Brother Bennett, "The Seer, the Seer," has brought us all, I am sure, nearer to our Father in heaven—nearer to many of our loved ones who are on the other side. I am very grateful today for my parents. I am very grateful that I have been considered worthy to be associated with this splendid body of men bearing the Holy Priesthood and am especially thankful for my rather close association with our beloved president, Heber J. Grant, his counselors, the Quorum of the Twelve

and the other General Authorities of the Church. I appreciate today, more than ever before, my membership in this Church—the great organization of the Church—an organization which furnishes not only just a favored few but all the members the opportunity for service.

I am very happy to report that our members in the European mission are also still carrying on. From some of them we have not been able to hear lately but because of my acquaintance with them and my love for them I am sure I am safe in saying that they are carrying on also as are the members from whom we hear. We receive letters and reports regularly from the

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British Mission, from Sweden, and from Switzerland, also occasionally from the Palestine-Syrian Mission. Through Sweden we have been able to hear from Denmark and from Norway, and through Switzerland, from Belgium and from Valence in the southern part of France. The brethren and sisters are holding their meetings as usual: sacrament, Priesthood and auxiliary meetings. They are holding their district conferences; they have held their M.I.A. June conventions. They also celebrated the Relief Society Centennial in nearly all the branches on March 15th and 17th. Some of the missions show a very substantial increase in tithing and fast offerings, also baptisms. The following is taken from a recent letter from the French-Swiss District with headquarters at Neuchatel, Switzerland:

Thank you very much for your letters dated June 13th and July 28th which arrived within a fortnight of each other. Also the *May Era* and two *Relief Society Magazines*; one has been soaked in sea water.

The District Conference will be held in Geneva branch on the 17th and 18th of October, the date most suitable for everyone. Some will come out of military service at that time, and just after some will go. The branch there is going on strong and we are hoping for some baptisms in the near future. Next Saturday we shall have four or five baptisms in the branch of Neuchatel.

The last letter from Palestine-Syrian Mission, among other things, states:

I am very happy I hear from your side and I can write to you all my desires, that is a blessing of the Lord to us. All members are in good condition in present time, but wheat that we bought a year ago is finished and we are much in need of wheat, and life is too hard to live, but we only trust to Lord and prayers from Zion and all will be well. Some members can't pay for living, and the wheat we give to them. As far as we hear we carry on in gospel and all Saints in good standing in faith.

From England we heard this sad news:

Brother John Cook and his family have suffered in a recent air raid. The incendiaries destroyed most of their bedding and linen. We have sent them a sum of ten pounds to meet their immediate needs and

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learn that the government has also given them a smaller sum, with a promise of further help towards the end of the war. Unfortunately, the cost of replacing the lost bedding is so high that the family will have to deny themselves for the time being. Nevertheless, they are all well and Brother Cook, being a genealogist, is delighted that all his records and papers have been preserved.

The British Mission is doing exceptionally well in its missionary work.

A letter from Oslo, Norway, recently came by way of Sweden. Some of our letters have been returned since we entered the war, with the words printed upon them, "Service Suspended—Return to Sender," but as I stated we are able to hear through Sweden from the other Scandinavian Missions and through Switzerland from some of the other countries.

This letter from Oslo informs us, among other things, that:

The Saints are still faithful in paying their tithes and offerings so we are well situated financially. We have had six baptismal services this year, and in hopes of having more. Our mission paper *Lys Over Norge* is published as before and comes out regularly. Nearly all the branches in the mission celebrated the Relief Society centennial with public meetings and banquets on March the 15th and 17th, and all the places had a very fine time. The lessons for our organizations we have to work out ourselves as best we can, as we can't get anything from the headquarters. How long these conditions will last is hard to tell, but we will do our best to keep everything going till we get regular connections with you again. We trust in the Lord for whom we labour, and I am glad for the many blessings we receive from Him.

The following came direct from the Danish Mission, via the Red Cross:

I send you greetings from all of us. We are well, safe and happy. Extend our love and best wishes to all.

This is from the Swedish Mission:

It is only a year since the unemployment on account of the prevailing shut-out from other nations was very much felt in our nation. Now the condition has turned the other way about, and the outcry for lack of laborers is heard over the land. There is especially a deficiency in farm help and also for cutters to get out wood from the forests.

This condition exists probably in part because of Sweden's military training of men and their calling to encampments.

With regard to the food rations, they are usually sufficient, and it is of inestimable value that such an important article of consumption as milk is still on the free list. Vegetables are also plentiful. There has been a further downward cut in the meat rations, but the procurement of fish is good.

From the mission viewpoint the activities are singularly lively, compared with earlier periods. An especially fine unity prevails, and the willingness to serve is great. As regards the financial situation it is still good, which is shown by the means of the mission having nearly doubled in comparison with the previous year. Even the branch cash shows a balance of almost twenty percent.

The Royal Society of Social Administration Index shows that the living cost has increased forty percent. The tithing, however, shows an increase in 1940 over 1939, and 1941 over 1940.

And the following paragraph from a letter from Beirut:

We receive some of the Church publications you are sending and by reading them we understand something about the Church, and especially we received the 112th Semi-annual Conference Report, and we are exceedingly glad for it. Would that we had a chance to attend a Conference like that! From it we are receiving a lot of information and advice to the Saints here in Beirut. The lessons sent by President Amy Brown Lyman for the Relief Society sisters were translated and delivered to the sisters. We get a lot of benefit from studying them. We receive a lot of lessons and high ideals. We were also exceedingly glad to read the report of the one hundredth anniversary of the Society.

At present our thoughts are over there, and I pray that in another year we will have peace with us.

All our members in these war-torn countries are doing their best to carry on—God bless them. They appreciate the gospel and know that by living its principles they can have joy and happiness even in these trying times. They appreciate the prayers of you brethren and other members here at home, and we hope that you will continue to remember them. I appreciate very much the opportunity that I have of contacting them even in a remote way.

I appreciate also the opportunity of visiting and getting better acquainted with you brethren in your various stakes. I congratulate you upon the splendid work you are doing. I have enjoyed my visits with you in your homes. Especially have I appreciated the flowers and shrubbery around these homes, thanks to your wives, I suppose, and also the well kept grounds around your chapels. I commend you for that. I hope you will observe the beautiful trees, shrubbery and flowers here on these sacred tabernacle grounds and also the flowers near the Church Office Building on the sides and especially on the north end.

God bless you brethren for the splendid work you are doing. I think I have detected, however, a little hesitancy, on the part of some with reference to the Welfare Plan. You seem afraid of it; you are standing on the bank shivering. When I was a little boy, there was a group of us fellows who used to go from school direct to the swimming hole instead of going home. In the spring we could hardly wait for the snow to melt before hurrying to our swimming place. I remember one spring we were there when there was still snow under the willows and on the north banks. We prepared for the dip. Some of us felt of the water with our fingers, then with our toes; it was cold and the air was chilly; we remained on the bank shivering. There was one boy in the group, however, a leader—he has always been a leader—who didn't touch his toe to the water, nor feel of it. He just *ducked under* and enjoyed the swim. Some of us went home without ducking under, and naturally we didn't enjoy the swim.

Well, some of us are on the bank, hesitating and shivering with reference to the Welfare Plan, and perhaps some of our other responsibilities in the Church. Brethren, let me advise you to *duck under* and you will have great joy in your labors. Give to this work the best you have. "Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you." Look for the good

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and the beautiful, and the good and the beautiful will also come back to you.

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God help us to do this, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ELDER JOSEPH L. WIRTHLIN

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

I SINCERELY trust, my brethren, that the same spirit that has guided and inspired those who have spoken to us during this conference may guide and direct me the moment or two that I stand before you.

I have been deeply impressed with the spirit of prophecy and revelation that has characterized this conference. And why shouldn't there be a spirit of prophecy and revelation? For we declare to the world, "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."

This declaration of faith is wholly consistent and compatible with the Lord's dealing with His children on the earth whenever the Priesthood has been bestowed upon men. Declared Amos of ancient times, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7) The writer of Proverbs declared, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Prov. 29:18)

It is needless to go into the annals of history to prove definitely that where there has been no vision, no revelation, and no prophecy, the people have indeed perished. In the days of Moses and Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Peter, and Paul, revelation was in the present tense. Consequently doubters, disbelievers, critics, and those who stoned the prophets, were to be found in great numbers, and time alone has proved the validity and the authenticity of the revelations of the Most High to His servants in all dispensations.

We declare to the world that we do not only believe all that God has revealed but we believe that He does now reveal His mind and will to those who are His chosen servants upon the earth today. And yet there are those who propound this question: What of present-day revelations? Is God actually revealing His mind and will to those

who guide and direct the destiny of His Church? To such I would say that they are seekers of a sign, and as the writer of Proverbs says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7) We can point out many instances wherein the Lord is revealing His mind and will to those who have been anointed to guide and direct the destiny of this great work.

Seven years have elapsed since the Presidency of the Church requested stakes, wards, and Priesthood quorums to set in motion the great Welfare Program. Well do I recall there were those among us who doubted that such a plan was necessary and feasible. For, on one hand, those in governmental positions advised and counseled the people to destroy food surpluses. Farmers were paid for crops that were not produced. And yet in the face of such counsel and advice the leadership of the Church admonished us to produce greater abundances of foods and to erect storehouses wherein this food could be stored. There have since been erected milk-processing plants, grain elevators, and sewing centers which afford sufficient food, fuel, clothing, and shelter to care for every worthy member of the Church in case of an emergency.

Seven years of plenty, of abundance, are about to come to an end, and we may face seven years of leanness and the possibility of famine. The best authorities in the United States are now indicating that a food shortage for the year 1943 is not a remote possibility due to several conditions, too many to enumerate at this time. In retrospect we can all go back in our minds and consider the counsel of the brethren with reference to this matter and observe present-day conditions, which definitely prove that the Welfare Program was the mind and the will of the Lord made known through the power