

the information of the radio audience to make some announcements which to you here assembled may seem unnecessary.

There have been provided 1500 homes for Conference visitors. Only about 100 have been called for as yet, although it is reported a number could not find accommodations in hotels last night. Reservations may be made through Marion G. Romney, 312 Union Pacific Building.

May we also ask that all members of the Priesthood try to be at the gates at least five minutes before the opening of each meeting. If you will do this the brethren of the General Authorities will have time to get into their seats by the opening of each session.

Elder J. Spencer Cornwall will direct the music at this session, and Elder Alexander Schreiner will be at the organ.

The Choir and congregation sang the hymn, "O Ye Mountains High."

Elder Spencer Kimball, President of the Mount Graham Stake, offered the invocation.

President David O. McKay: This vast audience of Priesthood, filling as it does the Tabernacle to capacity, and many listening in over the radio, will be delighted to know that President Grant has dictated a message for the opening of this Conference, and has asked that I read this message.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

To the Latter-day Saints all over the world I send my love and my greetings.

My physician, Dr. Gill Richards, pleaded with me not to speak at this conference, but he gave me perfect liberty to dictate anything I wanted to say, I am therefore sitting down to dictate, and if I were to dictate all I would like to say I fear my sermon would be so long very few would read it.

SYMPATHY FOR THOSE WITH SONS IN THE WAR

I want to say that my heart goes out in the deepest sympathy and in the most sincere and earnest prayer that I have ever offered for the comforting influence of the Lord to be given to the brethren and sisters who have sons in the war at the present time. I pray that the Lord will bless each and every boy who has been called or who has gone into the service, and that He will help each of them to live in accordance with the principles of the gospel, so that each may have a claim to the blessings of the Lord to the full extent that accords with His wisdom. I pray that, so far as it accords with the providence of the Lord, each of them may be preserved from accident, sickness, and death to return in due course to his loved ones. I pray God to help them to stand up under the terrible strain which they must meet. I appeal to the Lord to bring the war to an end

at the earliest possible date. My heart goes out to all of you. One of my daughters has six boys, five of whom have been called to the service. Her two daughters are married, so that her family consists of herself, her husband, and one son. There are many others in the same condition. Each one of my daughters has sons or daughters that are in the war, and I pray earnestly for the comforting influence of the Spirit of the Lord to be given them to assist them in carrying their burdens. I am praying with all my heart and soul for the end of this war as soon as the Lord can see fit to have it stop, and I am praying earnestly for the sweet and comforting influence of the Spirit of the Lord to be with each and all who have their loved ones in the war.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR RETURN TO HEALTH

I expressed my delight in the following language years ago when I came back after a serious operation :

It is a source of great pleasure to me to once more stand before the Latter-day Saints in this Tabernacle. As most of the Latter-day Saints assembled are aware, it is nearly a year since I occupied this position, during which time I have undergone a very serious surgical operation, which, according to medical journals, should have ended my life. It is recorded that it is impossible for a man to recover who is in the condition that I was found to be at the time of the operation. But I am grateful to be here; and I feel to thank my Heavenly Father, and the brethren of the Priesthood who administered to me and blessed me during the ordeal and promised me that I should recover. Since that time I have also been very sick with pneumonia. Some years ago I tried to insure my life, but the companies refused. Their physicians told me that if I ever took pneumonia I would die. But I am still here, notwithstanding the report of the physicians of the life insurance companies. It is a source of pleasure to me to again mingle my voice with the Latter-day Saints and to bear testimony of the knowledge that I possess of the divinity of the work in which we are engaged.

ARCHITECTS OF OUR OWN LIVES

I express my delight once more today in dictating a message to the Latter-day Saints. Years ago I made a short speech that lasted a minute and a half to the effect that we were the architects of our own lives, and that we and we alone are responsible for not making a success of life. What I said was as follows :

If you want to know how to be saved, I can tell you: it is by keeping the commandments of God. No power on earth, no power beneath the earth will ever prevent you or me or any Latter-day Saint from being saved, except ourselves. We are the architects of our own lives, not only of the lives here, but the lives to come in the eternity. We ourselves are able to perform every duty and obligation that God has required of men. No commandment was ever given to us but that God has given us the power to keep that commandment. If we fail, we, and we alone, are responsible for the failure, because God endows His servants from the President of the Church down to the humblest member, with all the ability, all the knowledge, all the power that is necessary, faithfully, diligently, and properly to discharge every duty and every obligation that rests upon them, and we, and we alone, will have to answer if we fail in this regard.

This would be forty-odd years ago. These were my sentiments as

expressed then, and I repeat them as my sentiments today, with all my heart and soul.

DAYS FULL OF JOY

I want to thank the people for their prayers in my behalf. I have not been well now for a period of more than three years, and yet during all that time I have never suffered any pain. My days have been full of joy. I have seen the Church grow in these years as I have never seen it grow before. It has been wonderful. The business institutions in which the Church is interested—the sugar business, the key to the establishment of which was given through the inspiration of the living God to Wilford Woodruff—have been greatly prospered. In every respect the advancement of the Church during the time of my illness has been so great that this has been a period of real, genuine joy and happiness to me. I want to thank all the people connected with the various institutions in which the Church is heavily interested, for the wonderful work they have done. I have not the language to express the gratitude I have felt and the joy I have experienced during these three years because of the marvelous growth of the Church and the prosperity that has attended it on every hand. During this time my Counselors have been most helpful to me. I have been relieved of the drudgery of the work. I have been informed on everything that was going on, and I repeat the Church has never before experienced anything like the prosperity it has enjoyed during this time. The way in which these brethren have assisted me, relieved me of burdens, responded to every suggestion, fills my heart with unexpressible gratitude to them and to my Heavenly Father.

I am grateful for the prosperity that has come to me and that I have been able to help in the erection of temples and in contributing to a fund to be used in the erection of other temples not yet built. One of the joys of my life fifty years ago was the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. As a child I commenced by donating the amount of twenty-five cents a month and continued making contributions for that purpose until finally the little stake over which I presided—the Tooele Stake—raised fifteen thousand dollars as a special contribution just before the dedication. I am grateful to join with you in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of its dedication.

The Lord has been good to me, and he has answered the prayers of the people as well as my own prayers that while the Lord should leave me here upon earth I should be able physically and mentally to go forward in the furtherance of His work. I feel that the recovery I have made has been really miraculous.

GRATITUDE FOR INCREASE IN TITHING

I am grateful to the Lord for the way in which He has opened the hearts of the people and led them to pay their tithing. The Church has never in all its history been in as strong a financial position as it is today. When I think that in President Woodruff's time the credit of the Church was so low that he could not borrow a thousand dollars and that now the

credit is so high we could borrow any sum that we might need, I am made happy beyond all expression. We have enough money to do all the things which it is necessary for us to do in carrying on the work of the Church. I want to say to the people that we are guarding the funds which you place in our hands. We are spending them only for the advancement of the work of the Lord and we feel that these are trust funds of the very highest character. Our tithing for the year 1942 was more than fifty percent greater than in 1941, and notwithstanding the enormous burden of taxes which the people now have to pay and notwithstanding the many and great calls which are made upon them to buy government bonds, to make Red Cross contributions, to contribute to community chests, and to make also their regular Church contributions such as Fast offerings, Welfare contributions, and the like, nevertheless for the opening months of this year our tithing is far and away beyond what it was for the same period in 1942.

TEMPLE BUILDING TO CONTINUE

I am happy to tell you that we have purchased in the Oakland area another temple site. The negotiations have been finally concluded and the title has passed. The site is located on the lower foothills of East Oakland on a rounded hill overlooking San Francisco Bay. We shall in due course build there a splendid temple.

We are prepared to go forward with the building of the Los Angeles Temple on the beautiful site we have there just so soon as it is possible to do so in view of priorities and other war-time conditions.

The Idaho Falls Temple is nearing completion. This is a beautiful building. It is being artistically decorated and furnished, and we look forward to its dedication in the not distant future.

PRAYERS FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS

I am grateful to our Heavenly Father for the faith and faithfulness of this great people, for their devotion to His service, for their effort and determination to live in accordance with His laws and commandments.

I thank our Heavenly Father that He has given them the strength and courage to resist evils as well as they have been able to do so. I pray that He will bless the youth of the Church and give them strength to overcome temptation. I pray that He will bring into the heart of every boy and of every girl a knowledge that cleanliness is next to godliness, that they must live clean both in mind and in body, that they will understand that the sin of unchastity is to the Lord next to the sin of murder.

I pray that the Lord will give to the parents of the youth an understanding and appreciation of the dangers and temptations to which their children are subjected, that they may be led and guided to encourage their children, to direct them, to teach them how to live as the Lord would have them live. The Lord has said He would sift His people, and I pray that when that sifting comes no parent may have failed to do his duty, and no child shall have failed to obey the commandments of the Lord.

BLESSING AND COMMENDATION OF FAITHFUL SAINTS

Under the authority and power given to me, with all my heart and soul I bless the Latter-day Saints. Again I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their faith and for their prayers in my behalf, and I am grateful to have had their faith and prayers. I believe that all true, faithful, diligent Latter-day Saints have given to me the best that is in them, in supplicating God in my behalf, for His Spirit, for health, for vigor in body and mind. I pray that God's blessings may be upon Israel and upon all honest men everywhere. I pray with all my heart that those who have made mistakes will repent; and by this we may know that they have repented—they will confess their sins and depart from them.

I desire especially to extend my blessings to all the men and women who preside in all the stakes of Zion throughout the Church, in all the missions, in all the wards, in all the quorums of the Priesthood, and in all the auxiliary organizations. I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that there cannot be found in any part of the world other men and women giving so unselfishly of their time, of their talents, and of the best that is in them, for the salvation of the souls of men. I am satisfied that there are no other people who are devoting so much of their time, of their money, of their thoughts, and of their very being for the advancement of God's work at home and abroad, as are the Latter-day Saints. And with all the power that God has given me, I desire to bless the men and women who are thus giving their time and thought and are setting examples that are worthy of imitation, not only of those over whom they preside, but of all men. Every man and woman who is laboring for the salvation of the souls of men and keeping the commandments of God is entitled to be blessed, and I pray God that His blessings may come to them.

A TESTIMONY OF THE TRUTH

I want to bear you my witness that no man or woman ever lived and kept the laws and commandments of God and who lived according to the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that God did not love and honor. This gospel of Jesus Christ which I have embraced and which you have embraced is in very deed the plan of life and salvation which has been again revealed to the earth. It is the same gospel that was proclaimed by our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

I bear witness to you here today that we have the truth, that God has spoken again, that every gift, every grace, every power and every endowment that came through the holy Priesthood of the living God in the days of the Savior are enjoyed today. I rejoice in knowing that these things that should be enjoyed—the blessings, the healing power of Almighty God, the inspiration of His Spirit whereby men and women have manifestations from Him, the inspiration of the Spirit of God whereby people speak by new tongues and have the interpretation thereof, and each and every grace and gift—are enjoyed today by the Latter-day Saints.

I know that God lives. I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I have reached out my hand. I

have plucked the fruits of the gospel. I have eaten of them, and they are sweet, yea, above all that is sweet. I know that God chose His prophet Joseph Smith and gave him instructions and authority to establish this work, and that the power and the influence of Joseph Smith are now being felt as the angel promised. His name is known for good or evil all over the world, but for evil only by those who malign him. Those who know him, those who know his teachings, know his life was pure and that his teachings were in very deed God's law. I know that we have the plan of life and salvation, not only for the living but for the dead. We have all that is necessary both for our own salvation, that we may be in very deed saviors upon Mount Zion and enter into the temples of our God, and also for those of our ancestors who have died without a knowledge of the gospel.

I say again: This is the same gospel that was proclaimed by our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, for which He gave His life in testimony, and that the lives of our own Prophet and Patriarch were given as a witness to the divinity of the work in which we are engaged. Mormonism, so-called, is in very deed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given me a witness of these things. I know them, and I bear witness to you, in all humility, and I do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

TABERNACLE CHOIR AND ORGAN BROADCAST

During the period from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m., the regular Sunday morning nationwide broadcast of choral and organ music and brief spoken comment was presented as part of the general conference proceedings. This program, which will complete its fourteenth year of continuous nationwide broadcasting in July of this year, was presented by the Tabernacle choir and organ, and broadcast through the courtesy and facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting System's coast-to-coast network, throughout the United States. The broadcast, written and announced by Elder Richard L. Evans, originated with radio station KSL, Salt Lake City, and was presented as follows:

TABERNACLE BROADCAST

(The organ and choir broke into "Gently Raise" singing words to end of second line, from which point choir hummed for announcer's background to end of verse.)

Richard L. Evans: As another week of life begins for all men, we beckon your thoughts again unto the hills, according to the custom of many years. Each week at this hour Columbia presents the music of the Tabernacle choir and organ from Temple Square in Salt Lake City. This is the 716th nationwide performance of this traditional broadcast from the Crossroads of the West.

The Tabernacle choir is conducted by J. Spencer Cornwall. Alexander Schreiner is at the organ. The spoken word by Richard Evans.

Evans: We begin with a musical setting by Arkangelsky, the text