

## ELDER RUDGER CLAWSON

*President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My brethren, at the set time Columbus appeared, and the new world was born. At the set time Joseph Smith appeared, and it was predicted that a great and marvelous work was to commence. Both characters were here and had their part to play among the children of men. Columbus discovered the new world on October 12, 1492. Joseph Smith organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints April 6, 1830, and it is destined to fill the whole earth.

## A VISION IN THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE

I am impressed this afternoon to read a few words from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 110:

The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.

We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber.

His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:

I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father.

Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice.

Let the hearts of your brethren rejoice, and let the hearts of all my people rejoice, who have, with their might, built this house to my name.

For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.

Yea, I will appear unto my servants, and speak unto them with mine own voice, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house.

Yea, the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house.

And the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands; and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured out upon the heads of my people. Even so. Amen.

After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

After this, Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed.

After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:

Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come—

To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—

Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands;

and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

It is shown here very clearly that before this marvelous work and wonder should be accomplished certain keys should be given to the earth, and I have read in your hearing concerning these keys, and it throws a great deal of light on this subject. It emphasizes the responsibility resting upon Latter-day Saints to familiarize themselves with these keys and laws and testimonies that are given.

#### A TESTIMONY

I testify to you, my brethren, that this revelation was given for our profit, and I express to you my testimony in these words, that I know the Lord is with us, that Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of God. We are engaged in a glorious work. It is a marvelous scene to look out upon this gathering of Priesthood.

I trust that I may never lose this testimony that I have.

God bless you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

Ninety years ago, on the sixth of April, 1853, three missionaries were called to go to China to carry the gospel message to the people of that country. One of those young men was Hosea Stout, then a Regent of the University of Deseret. They were to go to San Francisco, and there take a sailing ship bound for Asiatic ports. The history of that missionary endeavor is among the most thrilling in the history of the Church. During that same year, Elder Lorenzo Snow laboring in Italy edited and printed the Book of Mormon in Italian, and Elder John Taylor supervised the printing of the same book in French, in the city of Paris. What a far-reaching work was done in those early days by the missionaries of the Church!

#### IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL MISSIONARY WORK

When the First Presidency issued their decision in 1936 that every stake of Zion should maintain an organized mission, the message was received by all the stake presidents as a clarion call. Within a few months, every stake had its local organization, and hundreds of missionaries had begun their work. The splendor of their spirit and the nobility of their achievements have already become known, for by their efforts, hundreds of souls have been brought to a knowledge of the gospel.

The call of these local missionaries is just as important and sacred as the call of the missionaries to go into foreign countries. While it comes through the stake presidents, it is none the less important and divine, for the First Presidency has delegated the stake presidents to attend to this important work. The mission is for two years, and when a brother or sister accepts the call, it is a sacred promise to God that he

or she will go forth with joy and faith to explain the message of eternal life. They may have felt at times something of fear, but they recall the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy :

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear ; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (II Tim. 1:6, 7)

#### ADVICE GIVEN TO MISSIONARIES

As you go to your work, remember that the value of your teaching depends upon the spirit in which it is done. With your gifts and opportunities you converse with people of all classes, and you show them how they may glorify their lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The call you have accepted is much larger than can be met by any ethical code or teaching of philosophy. You put into your work your best thought, and that dignifies your lives. You are capable of doing better work than ever before, for you are to give every minute of your spare time to filling your minds with knowledge, for to be missionaries, you must be good teachers. Plan your work and devote your lives to it. You missionaries are not to do any other Church work than that of the true missionary, and no gifts of God can make good unless you give your spare hours to quiet and devoted study. Your success will depend upon the spirit of genuineness, of faith, and of humility, which characterize your words. Thousands of people have come recently to live in Utah. Remember that the world is full of good people everywhere, and it is for you to stir up the gift of God within them. It is not only the matter but the manner ; not only the doctrine, but the man that count. Read the Church works with deep intent and purpose, and with prayerful hearts. You will appreciate the growing strength of your own powers. A noted scholar of Oxford University spent thirty-eight years in studying the book of Exodus, and think of the many scholars who have given their lives to the study of the book of Job. If you will read carefully the first chapter of the first book of Nephi in the Book of Mormon, you will see why one student has spent months in analyzing its fine content. The greatest and most enduring satisfaction comes from your studies and in your influence on individuals ; in guiding them, helping them, saving them.

There is something noble, something ineffably rich and magnificent about your work. All that is expected of you besides your labors in the field and your hours of study is your attendance at sacrament meetings as well as your regular quorum and Priesthood meetings. Fulfill your missions with all your hearts and may God bless you in your noble work. Look to the future. Build upon the past, but look to better days. Strive for more knowledge and a better understanding of the "spirit of true religion." Glorify your Father in heaven by glorifying the divine gifts that He has given you. Then you will have power and strength, and people will sense your sincere purposes and your deep and abiding testimonies of the glory of the Lord.

If you missionaries will accept your call as a divine purpose, then

you shall walk unafraid every day and enjoy your hours with the people whom you meet. You will trust instinctively and naturally the guidance of the Holy Spirit on which you learned to rely in the days of your strength. May the Lord bless you in your sacred endeavors, I ask in His name. Amen.

### ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

Since October Conference six months ago, a most unusual experience has been mine. With Brother Roscoe W. Eardley, I have visited in more than one hundred and twenty of the one hundred and forty-three stakes of the Church in what may be called an inspection tour of Welfare projects and activities. We have held regional Welfare meetings in sixteen of the seventeen Welfare regions. I have appreciated this assignment and the gracious manner in which you brethren have received us.

#### PURPOSE OF WELFARE PLAN

Being thus intensely engaged in the activities of Church Welfare, I am led to refer to some of them here. In April, 1936—just seven years ago—the First Presidency, in “An Important Message to the Presidents of Stakes and Bishoprics of the Church,” stated the guiding principles of the “Church Welfare Plan.” At the October Conference following, they read a report of what had been accomplished during the intervening six months. Their reason for inaugurating the plan was stated as follows:

Our primary purpose was to set up, insofar as it might be possible, a system under which the curse of idleness would be done away with, the evils of the dole abolished, and independence, industry, thrift and self-respect be once more established amongst our people. Work is to be re-enthroned as the ruling principle of the lives of our Church members. . . . The Church aims to help provide for the care and sustenance of those on direct relief—federal, state, and county, as also for those for whom the Church has heretofore cared.

The progress made in Welfare production since the beginning has been remarkable. The evidence of it is apparent in every stake. A record of the time, means, and enthusiasm voluntarily contributed to Welfare production and processing would fill volumes.

From those first general instructions given in April, 1936, that “every bishop should aim to have accumulated by next October conference sufficient food and clothes to provide for every needy family in his ward during the coming winter,” has developed what has come to be known as “the annual Churchwide Welfare budget,” prepared each year with great care. The one for 1943 now in your hands, if produced, processed, and delivered to bishops’ storehouses, will supply eighty percent of life’s necessities for thirteen thousand people. We are getting some very valuable experience in producing.

There are, however, two objectives of Church Welfare, for the accomplishment of which we must accelerate our efforts. First, we must