

black man, 'A few years ago a missionary came to this island, and he told me the story of Jesus of Nazareth, and he told us if we had real happiness it must come from within.'

"Well," said the young man to his father and mother, "I want some of that. I want what the black man had. I want that in my life." They went to church.

I sincerely feel that 1944 will probably be one of the greatest years in all recorded history, and I try to say those words very thoughtfully. From what has been said by our commanding officers of the armed forces of the allies and what has been said by thoughtful men, this is to be truly a great year. I do not know when battle shall cease, but the leaders all declare this is the hour of destiny.

We are facing a great election in the United States, and men are going to be tried. We have positive opinions in America. I hope we always will have, and that we will understand each other when we speak freely in the defense of our ideas. We must learn to live together and face truth and speak it as God gives us light.

I appeal to you, my brethren, and I talk most to myself, may God help us that we shall have faith in youth. May we live worthy of their leadership. May we search deeply into our own lives for the troubles about us, and may God give us strength to go to him humbly in prayer and obtain His spirit, for with that spirit we shall be powerful in their sight, to our own satisfaction, to the glory of God and the furtherance of this great work for which I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.**

*First Counselor in the First Presidency*

We have just heard from Elder Oscar A. Kirkham of the First Council of the Seventy. Our next speaker will be Elder Mark E. Petersen, the newly chosen member of the Council of the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder John A. Widtsoe of the Council of the Twelve.

Brother Petersen, for the people and for your associates, I want you to know that you are welcome, that we love you, and that you have our unbounded sympathy and support.

### **ELDER MARK E. PETERSEN**

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

Thank you, President Clark, I deeply appreciate those words.

#### **AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR BLESSINGS**

My brethren, it is extremely difficult for me to address you this afternoon. I was greatly shaken by the call which came to me yesterday. I feel that I am the least among you all. I have never felt so humble in all my days, as I do at this present moment.

I am indeed grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am most happy that the Lord permitted me to be born in a Latter-day Saint home, where my parents taught me to believe in the message which they had received in a foreign land, the message which I shall bear to all the world through the rest of my life.

I am indeed grateful to my parents for this great thing which they did for me, as well as for all other things that they have done.

I am thankful for the beautiful home life that I have always had, and that I enjoy at the present time, with a lovely family and a wife who stands by my side and supports me in every endeavor in the Church.

I am grateful for you, my friends, so many of whom have expressed to me your good wishes, in telephone messages and letters which I have received.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT GRANT

My testimony has been strengthened through the years by the visits I have made to the Church offices as a representative of *The Deseret News*. Twenty years ago it was my pleasure to make my first visit as a reporter there, and to become acquainted with President Heber J. Grant. He has thrilled me throughout those twenty years. I know as I know that I live that he is a prophet of Almighty God. I love him with all my soul; my family loves him. We are grateful that we can say with you that "We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet."

I am grateful for my association with these other brethren who stand at the head of the Church. Most of them I have known for years, and I also love them with all my heart. They have been most kind.

#### A PLEDGE OF LOYALTY

I know that God lives. I know that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. I know it as well as if I had seen him, and I shall take great pleasure in declaring His word for the remainder of my life.

I am thankful for my testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I love him. I have read all I could find about him. I know that God spoke to him and appeared to him, and I know that his testimony, for which he died, is true.

I willingly and gladly, although most humbly, accept this great call which has come to me. It certainly has humbled me; it has humbled my family. I pledge to you my best effort. I love the work. I shall give it my full strength and all the talent which God may give to me.

I know that without the help of the Lord I am powerless to do any good in His ministry; but I know that if I live righteously, He will be with me. I bear you my testimony to the truth of this work, and I do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.