

into the world and partake of those things that the world partakes of—you don't, because those very men with whom they were eating came to me afterwards and said, "Well, we thought they were Latter-day Saints," and I would have to make excuses. I have never found in all my life a greater asset than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The people throughout the United States have known where I stood and the belief which I possess, and may God bless me in this work that is now upon my shoulders, that I may carry that belief and make it a part of the Brigham Young University, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I humbly pray that I may enjoy the blessings of the Spirit of God. Just a word of appreciation for the life of Samuel O. Bennion and Rufus K. Hardy. These last few days, as I have seen the pictures taken from the walls, the spears of New Zealand chiefs, finally the flag of Maori land, New Zealand, from Brother Hardy's room, and like treasures of Brother Bennion's, I felt in my heart that something had gone out of my own life. These were great and good men. God bless their sacred memory.

Because of my work for so many years in the auxiliaries of the Church I want to pay tribute to a lovely lady, a lovely sister in this Church, who has just resigned from her office as president of the Relief Society, Amy Brown Lyman, a fine efficient leader, a woman of clear vision and clear mind, of great courage and service for the kingdom of God. May the Lord bless her as she continues in her lovely life.

MISSIONARY WORK IN THE STAKES

I want to thank you brethren here today for what you have done for the cause that we as the First Council of the Seventy represent. Last year we had approximately twenty-nine hundred missionaries in the stakes of Zion. We baptized twenty-three hundred. Since this work was assigned to the First Council of the Seventy in 1936, there have been approximately seventeen thousand souls that have been baptized and made members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We thank you brethren for your fine cooperation and leadership in this work. I have thought, as I attended these sessions of this conference, what a glorious thing it would be if you would just give us one more missionary from each ward for the stake missions of the Church, that every ward that is represented would just carry back in their hearts that one obligation. What a blessing it would be, and what blessings it would bring to the people!

In connection with our missionary work, recently, I read these words from President Lorenzo Snow: "There is a way to every human heart, and the Lord will show you that way if you will be humble, prayerful, and study his holy word."

How simple, but how great and far-reaching in its meaning! One of our greatest tasks is the task of meeting men, understanding them, placing them right, that their lives may unfold in strength and beauty and joy to themselves. This admonition may be applied in many different ways.

Only a moment ago I was listening to news over the radio. God bless the men who meet in San Francisco April 25. God bless the President of the United States and the Secretary of State of our great nation. God bless the delegation that represents our great country at the San Francisco conference. No such year has ever come to us as 1945, fraught with the things of destiny. May God be with them. May they be humble. May they be prayerful. May they study his holy word, that the destiny of humanity on this good earth of ours may be made safe and beautiful.

I pray that the Lord will bless us abundantly for the work that I feel is just ahead. The great missionary work that is coming to us—I feel confident in my own thinking, in my own praying that God has a great work before us to perform in our missionary service.

Recently I was asked to the home of a friend, the dean of one of the largest universities in the United States. I was somewhat surprised at the invitation, but after we had finished the meal we were sitting in the parlor and he said, "Mr. Kirkham, it may be of great interest for you to know that the real reason I had in inviting you here was not so much personal as it was for what you represent. Not long ago I walked down the streets of Boston, and I saw a young man standing on the curb. He had his companion out in front of him seemingly to draw passersby to listen to him. I was so struck by the picture that I stepped back in the shadow of a building and listened. What he said was very interesting to me. His English was not the best. I saw he paused and hesitated in his effort to voice what was on his heart, but finally said, 'Friends, I want to bear my testimony to you that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and that through him the gospel of Jesus Christ was restored,' and in a humble way he continued, "Well," said my friend to me, "Kirkham, I've never quite got that off my heart. That testimony rang deep within my own soul, and I wanted to talk it over with you, so I invited you here."

Yes, there are thousands and hundreds of thousands of men and women to whom God is saying, "Search for the truth. Have the courage when you hear it to accept it."

May the Lord grant to us humility, a prayerful heart, and a desire to study his holy word, that we may be prepared for the destiny that awaits us, that we may magnify the callings which are ours before our Heavenly Father, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.