

and so they did. Soon they were spending five evenings a week of their time visiting people and teaching the gospel to them. Within sixteen months after holding a series of cottage meetings and promulgating the truths of the gospel to their neighbors, they had baptized, after conversion, the unbelievable number of twenty-two adults—twenty-two adults in sixteen months! You can find no more fruitful field than that in this day anywhere, and those brethren told me that as they went down the street to do their tracting, very often they felt the whisperings of the spirit saying to them, "Turn into this place," and having turned into that place, they were able to convert the family. I cannot recall ever hearing my father or any of my relatives telling any better stories of missionary experiences than that. That happened right at home, right among our own people. These brethren did not spend any money going into the mission field. They were right where they could be every night with their families after getting through with their evening's labors. The Lord blessed their labors, and he will bless your labors.

So, brethren of the seventies' quorum, (there are about somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty thousand of you), when you say to the presidency of your stake, "What may we do?" when you inquire of the Lord what he desires of you, perhaps the reply will be, "We shall call you to a mission, as your office requires; and we shall ask you to spend what spare time you have in teaching the gospel to our friends who do not belong." If such a call should come to you, it is my personal hope that you will accept and go forth with your might and reap while the day lasts. I believe that is the call to us as seventies. It matters not whether we go far afield or whether we stay at home, so long as the call comes, and our brethren who preside want us to do it.

I have only a desire to preach the gospel personally. I am to be sent away from you for awhile. All I can promise in that respect is that I shall do my best to build upon the foundations laid by those who shall have been my predecessors, and to teach the people of the New England States, through your lovely missionaries, the gospel of Jesus Christ, for I know it is true. It is an honor to me to be sent to do this thing with your boys and your girls, who are so anxious to tell the world, as they know and I know, that Joseph Smith was a Prophet; that through the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith was able to bring back the gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth. This is my hope and my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ELDER MATTHEW COWLEY**  
*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

President Smith first announced me as Matthias F. Cowley. He has been dead for a number of years, but nothing would please me more than to have him speak through me at this time. I only wish that I were as well prepared to propound the scriptures and explain

the gospel after my many years in the missionary service as my father was at the age of nineteen when he first went to the Southern States, at which time he knew by heart four hundred eighty-three passages of scripture.

I am very grateful to be at this great conference today. I am grateful for the privilege I have to engage in the missionary service in this Church wherever the call may take me.

#### VISIT TO THE LEPER SAINTS

A week ago yesterday I was in a little settlement known as Kaulapapa on the Island of Molokai in the Hawaiian group. That is a leper settlement. I flew over there to spend an afternoon with our leper Saints. It was my first experience with those people. I went expecting and apprehending that I would be depressed. I left there knowing that I had been exalted. I attended a service with those people. I heard a chorus sing our beautiful anthem, conducted by an aged man, blinded by the dread disease. I heard them sing, "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet," and as long as I live, that song will never ring in my soul with such beautiful harmony as came from the hearts and the voices of those emaciated lepers of that colony.

#### PRESENT DAY PIONEERS

When I heard the brethren from Europe speak this morning, my heart went out to the people who live in those countries. We are here today paying tribute to the great pioneers who came here a hundred years ago to make this desert blossom as the rose. I have often wondered if we still had great pioneers in this great Church, as great as those who came here a hundred years ago. After hearing the two brethren from Europe this morning, I am reassured. We have just as great pioneers living today in this Church as we had one hundred years ago. When we think of those who pioneered through the great war years of Europe, who have suffered the horror and the devastation of their homes and cities, but who have pioneered through all those experiences faithfully and devotedly to the gospel of Jesus Christ without such leadership as our pioneers had when they came to this desert wasteland, I say we still have as great pioneers in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as we ever had.

#### FASTING AND FAST OFFERINGS

I have a message for you, my brothers and sisters. It is based upon one of the things that was referred to in the statistics this morning, and I offer this message in connection with our people in the war-torn areas of Europe who suffer: That message has to do with fast offerings. We heard it read here that our death rate is very, very low. If we are honest in the payments of fast offerings, we are

living miracles. We are not obeying the principle of the fast, and it is a principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not paying to the Lord and to the Saints in Europe who have neither bedding nor clothing nor food, that which God expects us to pay. We are paying less, I suppose, than ten cents a month in fast offering. Does that represent the cost of the food we are eating or that we are refraining from eating on fast day? All you have to do is take one look at me and know that I know that I owe more than a dollar a month fast offering to this Church, and yet it was announced here that we had not reached our goal. What is it, one dollar a year? I don't know. The goal is, brothers and sisters, an honest offering for that which we refrain from eating in accordance with the plan of God on the first Sabbath of each month.

We cannot appreciate the suffering, the wants of our brothers and sisters in the countries of Europe unless we fast and fast often, and we need to fast! The great pioneers who came here were fasting pioneers. They were not men and women of financial means. This building, the great building east of here, all of this temple block was built, not with money, but with faith, with privation, and the foundation of it all is righteousness, good character, initiative, independence, self-reliance. If we are building upon the foundation which our pioneer fathers laid for us here, we will not build better buildings; we will build better characters. I know that this is the greatest force in all the world to develop character, to bring righteousness into the lives of men and women. Christ said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin," (John 8:34) and when man becomes the servant of sin, he loses his freedom. Men who drink say they have the right to drink, that is their freedom, but too often they lose that freedom by becoming the servant of drink and not the master of it. Our freedom, brothers and sisters, is the freedom which our pioneers brought here, the freedom to do what God wants us to do and what we ought to do, rather than what we ourselves desire and are pleased to do, and it is our responsibility to hold high that great torch of freedom founded upon righteousness which those great parents of yours and of mine carried here into this valley.

Now, in conclusion, may I say that we are all here in fulfilment of the promise of God through his prophets, that in the last days would the mountain of the Lord's house be established in the tops of the mountains and be exalted above the hills and that all nations would flow unto it. We are all here today in fulfilment of that prophecy, and yet throughout the world we have thousands of Latter-day Saints, in Germany, Scandinavia, in the islands of the sea, who have a burning desire in their hearts to fulfil that same prophecy just as you and I have fulfilled it, and their eyes are looking up, and their hopes are reaching out to the tops of the mountains, and the only way we have of bringing them here to us is by reaching out to them where they are and seeing that they do not suffer, that they do not want for food, that they do not want for clothing.

We came here to these valleys to be sustained on the foundations of this Church. We must extend now into all the world the same sustenance which we have received here. Pay your fast offerings, obey the principles of the welfare plan, and let us take the mountain of the Lord's house and all its gifts and blessings to the four corners of the earth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**ELDER BRUCE McCONKIE**  
*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

I know that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and that he was crucified for the sins of the world. I know that he came into the world with the definitely appointed mission to be the Redeemer and the Savior of men. I know of him, as he himself said to the Nephites:

. . . I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me. And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross. . . . (III Nephi 27:13, 14.)

**A TESTIMONY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL**

This I believe to be the great burden of the message of the restored gospel.

I believe and know also, by the revelations of the Holy Ghost to my soul, that Joseph Smith was the instrument in his hands of restoring in this day the fulness of those principles and authorities and graces whereby you and I can go back into our Father's kingdom. I testify and know of Joseph Smith, as the inspired document which announced his martyrdom states:

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

I think that this is the second great message of the restored gospel in this day. And in addition to that, because a testimony must be brought up to date if it is to have any saving force and value in the lives of men, I testify that I know that the keys of the kingdom have continued with the Saints from the days of Joseph Smith, and that George Albert Smith who stands at the head today is the Lord's anointed and the Living Oracle.

It is all well and good to sing praises to the ancient prophets and build sepulchres to their names, but there is no salvation in that fact standing alone. If men in this world in our day want to go back to our Father's kingdom, it is incumbent upon them to come to the Living Oracle and have exercised in their behalf the authority of the priesthood. They must accept and live in harmony with the counsels of those men whom God has chosen today.

. . . he that receiveth my servants receiveth me. (D. & C. 84:36.)