

## ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

I approach this task, my brothers and sisters, with a good deal of misgiving, and I trust I may have an interest in your faith and prayers the few minutes that I occupy. It seems to me we have had thus far an unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The counsel and advice that we have received and the fundamental teachings that have been given certainly should give us cause for serious reflection, and we should go to our homes encouraged in the thought that we are engaged in the work of the Lord.

## THE MESSAGE ALL-IMPORTANT

Some time ago I was reading of the laying of the cable from England to India, which, it is said cost so much effort and sacrifice and heartache because of the encountering of so many obstacles and difficulties incident to the frequent breaking of the cable. Finally it was completed and to commemorate this great achievement a celebration was held in London. John Ruskin was asked to speak, and in the course of his remarks he is said to have made this striking observation:

I am not concerned about the mechanics of this which we are here celebrating; the all-important thing is the message that will be transmitted over this cable.

As I thought of that and applied it to the stirring messages we have thus far received in this conference, the message of eternal truth, I thought that after all it is the message that is giving this work its great vitality.

## INTEGRITY OF MISSIONARY SERVICE

Since our last conference it has been my great privilege to visit and tour two of our missions. This has brought me in close contact, not only with the mission presidents but with the missionaries themselves, and I have been tremendously impressed with the integrity of our missionary service, with the young boys and girls who are called to this activity of the Church. I thought, where could one find its equal? Here we have a cross section of our youth, boys and girls who are not called because of their scholastic training; they have not been trained in the refinement of the ministry, nor have they had seminary training, as this is understood outside of our Church. They are called from the farms, the workshops, and from the schools; called to a service which is quite new to them, yet they enter into this new work with a spirit and energy which is most impressive and inspiring.

Back of all this, I repeat, is not their training but the great message of eternal truth which they have to give to the world.

*Friday, October 1**First Day*

If one needed additional evidence of the ultimate destiny of this work, he need but reflect on the great missionary system of the Church to which President Smith has referred, and the splendid work being done by these missionaries. Few there are that fail, very few indeed. Most of them make good, and they come through with an abiding testimony of the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph, the divine mission of Jesus, our Savior, that he is the Christ, that God lives and hears and answers our prayers. It is one of the most heartening experiences of one's life to sit in a testimony meeting of these missionaries and feel the intensity of their spirit and faith, and their devotion to this work. It is the testimony we feel, these unseen things, these hidden assets, if we may so call them, that give such force to this work.

#### TRIBUTE TO MISSION PRESIDENTS

Then, too, I want to pay my humble tribute to these mission presidents and their wives. They, too, are called from all walks of life. They are asked to give up their vocations, many of them of a lucrative nature, and yet they never waver; nor do their wives. It is not an easy task to break those home ties that have been established perhaps for a quarter of a century or more and to leave home to go into the mission field to devote three or four years of one's time and service to this great work. Yet these men and women do just that, and it is certainly gratifying to note the lovely spirit they have, the interest they take in your boys and girls, the personal interviews they have with them, the help they give them. Some of the boys and girls come poorly prepared for missionary service, and yet through the kindness and generosity of these splendid men and women they are brought into line, not in unkindness, but in the spirit of love and sympathy and understanding, and they are thus able to adjust themselves and they come through successfully. One young man that I have in mind, a man who comes from an excellent family, and thousands of them are so situated, a boy who gives great promise to his parents, had been in the mission field for twenty-three months. The school year was beginning. He had the opportunity to go to college, and when his mission president approached him to see if it would be helpful to him, knowing of his ambition to go to school, if he were released in the twenty-three months so that he could enter college, the boy replied, "No, I want to finish out my mission. That's the important thing to me." It is a lovely spirit, and this is reflected, my brethren and sisters, by these missionaries, these boys and girls of yours, and you may be proud of and grateful to the Lord, for them.

#### BLESSINGS OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE

Now, there is another phase that has been touched on in this

conference that I would like to speak about for a few minutes that involves, too, our young people. I had the privilege of attending a sacrament meeting in this city during the summer vacation. To attend this meeting I came up from my home in Utah County with my daughter, and as we were riding along Sunday afternoon we passed a ball park. Two games were being played, one in one end and the other in the other end of the park, and there were hundreds of people there and a large number of boys and girls witnessing these games. My daughter remarked: "Dad, just what harm is there to these boys and girls in watching this sport? Isn't there a rather wholesome influence about it? They're doing no harm here Sunday afternoon; aren't they better here than they would be some other places?" I was rather challenged. These questions are always a challenge. I didn't say anything. We rode along. We had a lovely meeting. The spirit of it was so impressive; it was reflected in the music, the administering of the sacrament as it should be, and in very deed we were made to feel that we were remembering the Lord, that we were renewing our covenants, taking upon ourselves again his holy name, being made to feel that he is near, and when the meeting was over, we felt that we wanted to keep his commandments.

After meeting, we rode home. My daughter's reaction was heartening, "Dad," she said, "I know the answer now. I know the harm. I know the danger. If this thing is permitted to go on, boys and girls will lose their desire for the lovely thing that we have had tonight, and something will be taken out of their lives that they can't recover." She continued, "If men and women and boys and girls could just realize what it means to be spiritually fed on the Sabbath day, many of our problems of keeping this day holy would be solved." Well, I thank the Lord for that faith. I thank the Lord for that inspiration because it inspired me. I know it isn't an easy thing to say to boys and girls and to our children that they must not do this or that. We should, if possible, find some answer, some solution to these problems.

#### PROBLEM OF SUNDAY BASEBALL

I commend to you a method that has been adopted in one of our stakes. Baseball on Sunday became a challenge. The stake presidency took the problem in hand and by contacting those who were on the committee to provide this athletic activity the way was opened whereby the games could be played on a week-night. Flood lights were provided, and the men who had it in charge felt good about it. They are our own people. They are Latter-day Saints. They are not very active, but they are not unsympathetic, and I thought to myself if we could approach understandingly some of these important problems perhaps we could find a solution by sitting down around a table and together working

them out. I know these problems are not easy to solve, but I do know that if we can make our young people feel the strength of our message, if we can make them feel this hidden something that gives strength and power to these boys and girls who I said are not so well trained but who have testimony and faith, if our children can be made to feel the strength and power that comes from the spirit of our Heavenly Father and from serving him, and from keeping his commandments, many of our problems will be solved. None of us know, as I have said many times, all the answers, but we do know that there is a spiritual force in this great work. I would that we could translate it into the lives of our people, that we could make them all feel as you and I feel, in this house of worship this day, that divine presence, to make them feel resolved in their hearts as we feel resolved in ours, that as for us we will try to serve the Lord and to keep his commandments. May God help us so to do, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Choir and congregation sang the hymn: "Come, O Thou King of Kings."

### BISHOP LEGRAND RICHARDS

*Presiding Bishop of the Church*

My brothers and sisters, I have been delighted with the messages we have heard from the brethren during this conference. I love to meet with the Latter-day Saints. I have a great appreciation in my heart for you fine people and for your kindness to me as I am privileged to visit in the various stakes of Zion.

### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

In trying to think what I might say today that could be an encouragement or help to you, I thought I might say a few words on our financial and temporal obligations to the Church because they are many, and there are some among us who feel that they are heavy. One stake president said: "It costs a lot to be a member of this Church," and I have thought a great deal of it. I have thought of the payment of our tithing, our fast offerings, our welfare contributions, our ward budget, our great missionary work, the building of our chapels and temples and places of worship, the temple work we are doing, and genealogical work, and I feel as many of you do that when we consecrate all that we have to the building up of the kingdom of God it really is a substantial thing as far as our temporal obligations and responsibilities are concerned.

The Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that he had never given a temporal commandment unto his children, that all of his commandments were spiritual, for they all have a spiritual