

**ELDER HENRY D. MOYLE***Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

It was thirteen and a half years ago, my brethren and sisters, that the Great Church welfare program was given to us. I am certain that the Lord has been with us every day of those many years and has guided and directed the course which this program has taken.

**PROGRESS OF WELFARE PROGRAM**

My mind today goes back to one of the early meetings which we held, as I remember it, in Barratt Hall, when President McKay told us that we might not be able to see too far into the future as to the work to be done in this great field of endeavor, but that just like a locomotive engineer taking his train out of the station at night, that light which preceded the engineer and his locomotive was symbolic of what we would experience. I am sure that those utterances were prophetic because there has never been a time during those thirteen odd years when we have failed to have our way lighted at least a short distance ahead.

I am conscious that we may have made, and undoubtedly have made, mistakes in the program, both members of the general committee, presidents of stakes, and bishops of wards, but, generally speaking, our course has been straightforward and ahead. And as we review the work which we have accomplished, it satisfies us. We are conscious that the Lord has blessed us and that we have yet a work to do.

We have heard a great deal in this conference about our duties and our responsibilities in the Church. I am sure that we are a blessed people, that much has been given to us, and those who receive much are expected to give much. I would like to know how far we would have progressed in this program if all the bishops in this Church and all stakes of Zion had exerted themselves to the utmost from the beginning until now because we have accomplished what we have by the help of relatively few, whereas this program was intended for all. There is no one too rich and no one too poor in this Church but what he might have participated in this welfare program.

My heart goes out in gratitude to my Heavenly Father today, that the hearts of so many people in the Church have been touched. They have responded to this program, and they have given of their time and of their means, their talents, to further its purposes, and to give aid and sustenance to those who were in need.

**HELP GIVEN GERMAN FAMILY**

I received a letter not long ago from a family of Saints in Germany, a family who are dear to me because I, among other elders in

the Church, assisted them in establishing in their hearts the faith that was necessary to apply for baptism in this Church. In this letter from a widowed grandmother she reported that all of the male members of their family for four generations had been exterminated by the war, save one crippled grandson. They had one granddaughter who was ill. The doctors had told her, told the grandmother and the mother, that there was no chance for her life, that there was only one thing that would save her life, because she suffered from diseases incident to malnutrition, and that was to put her on a diet of cracked wheat.

It was not by chance that the prayers of this family were answered. They had been faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord ever since they entered into the waters of baptism. They had found strength and courage to go forward and carry on in the absence of all their male members, because of those blessings and that consolation which came to them as a result of the prayers which they offered. The next day, after the doctor had pronounced this solemn decision, a welfare package arrived in that home; and when it was opened, the first thing they found was twenty pounds of cracked wheat which this welfare program had furnished.

I am sure that incidents of that kind could be multiplied a thousandfold in the lives of Latter-day Saints, not only in Europe but also here at home, and I wonder if there are any of us who would begrudge that which we have done, that which we have contributed towards this welfare program, when we realize what it has meant in the lives of the children of our Heavenly Father all over this earth. And I want to say we do not have to go to Germany or to any faraway land to find the benefits that have been derived from this program, for we find them here at home.

#### INGLEWOOD STAKE PROJECT

I had the privilege Monday of last week, after our quarterly conference in the Inglewood Stake, of going out near Venice to see a little project, a very humble project which a ward had instituted there under the inspiration and guidance of a bishop, who in very deed is a servant of the Lord. And there I found some elderly men, men who were not physically fit or qualified to participate in the activities of industry in competition with younger men. They were well past sixty-five, all of them. One man came up to me and told me that he was grateful for that opportunity. He told me that he had been a lifelong friend of my father. I thought that it might very well have been my father, in place of that man, receiving the benefits of this program, for there he was engaged upon this project, carrying out the details of it. In fact, he was really supervising it.

It consisted of nothing more than shredding newspapers, magazines, papers of all kinds, in a very simple machine which they had purchased second-hand. When they could not gather up enough

papers because of lack of trucks and facilities, they bought paper in order that they might shred it and bale it. And they were receiving forty dollars a ton for that baled paper and giving employment to a group of fine brethren. The interesting thing about it was how from small beginnings we can accomplish great things.

This brother, as a result of the work which he was doing there, and a life-long experience in business and in industry, was planning a new industry to employ other people. I am sure the day will come when that little ward project will become a stake project, or even a regional project. The benefits of it will be enjoyed by many of our brethren in other parts of the Church because it is one of those industries that could be copied in every big city and in many of the smaller ones.

They have paid for everything they have received out of the proceeds of the business itself, and they have made it profitable. So I drew from that experience this thought, that in the welfare program we need the experience and training of older men and of older women, and when they come to us in our projects to assist us, they are bringing to us something more valuable than that which we give them. It was evidenced right there by the work that this man was doing, and I know there are thousands of other elderly brethren who are fit and qualified to assist us in that same way.

#### FAITH INCREASED

We have had a great deal said at this conference—and I have thrilled with every word that has been uttered here by my brethren—about the necessity for our living the gospel, keeping the commandments of the Lord. I love President Smith's admonition for us to stay in the territory of the Lord and out of the territory of the adversary.

I wonder if there is any tangible way that we can show our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in his work better than we can when we are engaged in this welfare work, contributing of our time and of our means and of our talents to further the interests of those who may not be so fortunate or so young as we are at the moment.

It is my testimony to you, my brethren and sisters, that none of us can engage in this work and find ourselves in the territory of the adversary or under his power or under his dominion. This work cultivates and develops within the men who participate in it a faith in God.

We heard a testimony borne yesterday afternoon, after the afternoon session, in a meeting we held over in the welfare office, of one of the humble sons of Israel concerning the welfare work, and what had been accomplished by a little group of men, calling upon the Lord in humble prayer when they were in serious difficulty and did not know which way to proceed in the operation of that project, and the peace and the comfort and the satisfaction that came to them as a result of that prayer.

I do not know where we could find in this Church any instrumentality that causes men to turn their hearts toward God any more than by turning our hearts to our fellow men and becoming indeed concerned in their welfare. We profess a great love for our brethren and sisters in this Church. My heart goes out to all of you. I love you from the bottom of my heart. There is not anything that I have or anything that I might do to assist you in your lives and in your work that it would not be my pleasure to do. And I hope and pray that the Lord will give me strength and courage to go forward and to accomplish all of the desires of my heart and all that he has in store for me in your behalf.

#### WORK OF THE LORD

This work is true. It did not take me long to become converted to the welfare work. President Grant called me in one day and said: "Brother Moyle, we would like you to work in this welfare program." He did not ask me if I was converted, nor did he give me any time to convert myself, but I knew then and I know now that Heber J. Grant was a prophet of God, and when he spoke to me, gave me an assignment, I knew that that assignment came from God, and there was no such thing entered my heart as to question whether or not the prophet of God knew what he was talking about. So I immediately responded as I had been brought up to do all my life. I have never spent one moment of my life since that call but what I have been conscious of the fact that those of us who have been engaged in this welfare work have been engaged in the work of the Lord. We have been engaged in a work which has done much to instill in the hearts of men a testimony of the existence of God and the divine calling of his present-day prophet; and it was with no small degree of satisfaction that we received President George Albert Smith's blessings when he came to the presidency of this Church.

I felt as if I should go to him and tell him that it would be my privilege to resign and step aside if there was someone of his own choice or calling that he would like to take over the responsibilities that were then mine. And he simply said to me, "I want you to continue."

And so I have had the audible, the tangible, the conscious privilege of having two prophets of God tell me that the work in which we are engaged in this Church is that which the Lord would have us accomplish.

It is a further testimony to me that this work which was initiated under the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith is indeed the work of God. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith was called of the Lord to open up this dispensation, the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, and to give to all of us every blessing and every privilege and every power that it is right for man to receive, and we have received these blessings, my brethren and sisters. I know, as I know

that I live, that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ and that this work is his work, and that we are engaged in his ministry. I wonder, with this knowledge and assurance burning in our hearts, how we can fail, those of us who have been in attendance here in this conference today, to take to heart the advice and the admonition that has come to us from these inspired brethren whom I love, every one of them.

#### START WITH SIMPLE PROJECTS

I have this one word to say further about welfare before I sit down. Let us not wait until some great project comes into view or into our imagination which calls for a great expenditure of money, something that we can envision as paying all of our debts and obligations and meeting all of our assignments in the Church with little or no effort upon our part, some project that does not require any work on the part of the membership of the Church, something that we can hire done.

My brethren and sisters, those are not the kinds of projects we want. I would much rather start in with a simple, helpful project, and depend upon the Lord throwing light ahead of us as we proceed with that humble project, and inspiring us to enlarge it as he may see fit.

I think likely New York Stake has set us an example. They have a welfare project today which consists of producing shoe polish. Now that is a pretty humble activity, and still it has within it the right objective, the right philosophy. The stake has not called upon us for any money to assist in the establishment of that project. I can promise those brethren that if they stay true to their trust and are faithful in the performance of that humble project, that light will be given them in the manner and form in which they could expand in that great city where it has seemed to be so impossible to start any welfare work.

May the Lord bless us, my brethren and sisters, and may we go back home instilled and imbued with the idea that this testimony of ours of the divinity of the work in which we are engaged calls upon us to do something for our brethren and sisters here upon this earth, and that we may turn our hearts to the less fortunate and thus assist them, I humbly pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President George Albert Smith:

If Brother Roscoe C. Cox, former president of the Hawaiian Mission is in the audience we would be glad to have him come to the stand. I may say that Brother Cox has been home, as have quite a number of the other mission presidents, for several years. We have tried to find an opportunity to hear from each of them from time to time, but there is insufficient time in three days of conference. We shall be glad to hear from Brother Cox.