

This session will also be televised over the KSL television station, channel five.

The choir singing for this session will be by the Combined Chorus of Singing Mothers from the Cache Region and Salt Lake City Stakes, Sister Florence Jepperson Madsen conducting and Elder Frank W. Asper at the organ.

We will begin the services by the Relief Society Singing Mothers rendering: "Hear My Prayer."

The opening prayer will be offered by President G. Carlos Smith, of the Big Cottonwood Stake, Utah.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers sang "Hear My Prayer."

The opening prayer was offered by President G. Carlos Smith, of the Big Cottonwood Stake.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers then sang "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings."

ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Our testimonies have indeed been strengthened so far in this conference, and I share with you in gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his goodness, for the manifestations of his Spirit, and above all I am grateful for the Church, for the testimony of its truth, and for the fellowship with you, my brethren and sisters.

MORMON CHURCH A CHALLENGE

Some weeks ago I was handed a clipping taken from a Los Angeles paper in which appeared a report of some remarks made over the radio by one of the distinguished clergymen of Los Angeles. His broadcasts are in the nature of a questionnaire, and one of the questions submitted to him was this: "There are said to be more Latter-day Saints in Los Angeles and its environs than there are in Salt Lake City. Do you not regard this as a threat?" Dr. Fifield, in answering the question said,

No, I do not consider this a threat. I consider it a challenge. The Protestant churches, I think, have much to learn from the Mormon Church. There is no church in the world that does so much for its young people as the Mormon Church. I personally know most of the dignitaries of the Mormon Church. I visit in Salt Lake City frequently, and I know of no finer or more high-minded people anywhere. They live the cleanest and most temperate lives of any religious sect that I know of. Their people support their church generously with their tithing system, and the church in turn supports its people and provides a way for their social care so that none of them is on any public relief roll.

As I read that, I wished that were true. The possibilities of it

are like the possibilities in the Church for all things that are in harmony with the mind and will of God. But sometimes some of us do not always conform. If all the Latter-day Saints conformed to the counsels of the Church, this would be verily true. But we do have within the Church this possibility. It isn't a dream. It's a reality, if we will. And then he goes on.

Of course, I do not accept the story of the finding of the golden plates and the translation thereof of the Book of Mormon in the manner related, but I do think that as a religious organization, holding its people to a high level of culture and education and social progress, the Mormon Church has no parallel in our time. No, I do not think the Mormon Church is any threat to other churches. I think it is a challenge to them to do better work with their members and their converts.

PRESIDENT CLARK'S BOOK

As I read that, I recalled a very constructive criticism of President Clark's book, *On the Way to Immortality and Eternal Life*. A brief review of that book appeared in the *Unitarian Christian Register* in the April number of this year. This is a magazine that is 124 years old, a magazine that carries each month criticisms and reviews of the leading theological, religious, and philosophical books as they are published from time to time. Outstanding works they are, and it was certainly in keeping with the dignity and the scholarly atmosphere of Brother Clark's book to have this criticism appear in this magazine. In the final statement, and that is the point I wish to emphasize, the critic says this: "It is an excellent introduction to the contemporary position of one of the most influential religions on the American scene." Now, of course, we all like to hear nice things about our Church, but the thing that we are interested in, my brothers and sisters, is this: Are we worthy of this trust—this pedestal on which we are placed—as set forth in these statements? That is the challenge for us. Are we meeting this challenge? Do we in very deed in our living represent the Church and kingdom of God? On one occasion the Savior, as he was speaking to his disciples and telling them of the events that should come to pass in the last day, after making certain predictions and promises, said, "And this gospel of the kingdom," and that was quoted here this morning, "shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14.)

WITNESSES OF THE TRUTH

On the Sabbath day, as we partake of the sacrament, we witness unto the Lord Jesus Christ that we will keep his commandments, that we will live in harmony with his will. And so I repeat, we have this challenge. Are we witnessing the truth to the world? We can only witness it as we live in harmony with those concepts that have been revealed by our Heavenly Father. Lip service is not the service that is required in this Church. It is a constant daily service to our

fellow men. I alluded to it a minute ago with reference to people being on relief. We have a challenge there to see to it that those of our people who are in distress shall not be neglected but shall be provided for, and if we fail to measure up to that challenge, and that is the reason why we have people on public relief, we are failing in our responsibilities as leaders and members of the Church. The Lord has pointed the way. We should walk therein. We know the way, but it is in our neglect and in our failure to live up to that which we know to be true, that we fail to witness that we are keeping his commandments, that we are a witness of the truth. This applies not only in this but in other walks of life also. We are told in James 1:27,

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

CONSTANT SERVICE REQUIRED

In our community recently, we had a very serious tragedy. One of the young men of our city, a very promising young man, met with a tragic death. The community responded in love and sympathy to the family; and when the funeral service was held, it proved to be one of the largest attended in a long time. One couldn't help feeling the love and the sympathy there manifested. But the next day, then what? And the days to follow. These are the things that should give us concern. It isn't just a spasmodic move or a gesture, but it's a constant service that is required of us as Latter-day Saints in all we do, in our various walks of life. Therein our religion can be exemplified as we each day experience problems such as this.

Now, I do not regard this as difficult. I believe we can do it. I believe the Lord is cognizant of our weaknesses sufficiently to overlook them, and to make it possible, in spite of those weaknesses, for us to carry out to the world that we do have a living, vital religion, that we have something that the people can live and exemplify in their lives. Otherwise the gospel would not mean to us what it does. I repeat again, it isn't a lip service. It is one that presents a constant challenge of daily labor, laboring for good, for the establishment of truth, for the amelioration of suffering. We'll never have peace in the world in any other way. It will come only if we translate into our lives these divine concepts and these truths.

I pray, that the Lord will give us strength and power to do this, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I pray that I may enjoy the blessings of the Spirit of the Lord. I thank him for my membership in this Church. I wish I had the power and the ability to make that expression of appreciation more