

had a remarkable gift and talent for friendship. I've been with him on many occasions when he met some old friends or business acquaintances. He always had the courage to say, in substance, "John, how's your faith? How are you feeling about the Church?" And I've seen many a man blush a little, stammer a little, and yet be willing to talk with him about his faith and about the Church.

There was probably never a time, my brethren, when we so much needed men who could go out and cultivate a talent for friendship and talk frankly to their own associates in the priesthood who have become careless and delinquent, to their business friends and to their neighbors, about the gospel and give to them the great blessing which we ourselves enjoy. May we make note of the opportunities that lie ahead of us, I pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My brethren and sisters, I trust I may have the benefit of your faith and prayers during the few minutes I shall stand before you. First of all, I want to express my gratitude for the strength, the comfort, the consolation, and the increased confidence which have come to the members of the Church in the passing of President George Albert Smith. I think, in one way or another, he must have touched all of us more or less closely during his entire ministry.

SERMONS OF PRESIDENT SMITH

I remember as a boy in my teens I heard President Smith for the first time deliver a sermon in the Logan Tabernacle. The theme of his discourse was "Observance of the Sabbath Day." It was a timely message because at that time, in Logan, particularly, there was some controversy as to what extent Sunday amusements should be commercialized and carried on. President Smith's sermon was powerful. He said, among other things, "Sabbath observance is one of the great pillars of civilization." I have thought of it many times, and I am sure as I have reflected upon it that President Smith was right in his conclusions.

Years later I heard him discuss before an audience in the same place the Ten Commandments. As he often did, he referred to each one of these Commandments, and after he had made his comments, he turned to the audience and said, "You may break these commandments if you want to, but if you do, they will break you." I have never forgotten those words.

And so, President Smith has brought a vital message into the lives of each of us. When I was first called to the position in the Church which I now hold, one of the first assignments given me was to the St. Johns and the Snowflake stakes in Arizona. To my

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surprise and to my delight, President George Albert Smith was to be my companion. We journeyed together to St. Johns, where the conference was held. During the afternoon session, a telegram came to President Smith, who was at my side. He opened it and read it, folded it up, put it in his pocket, and when the session was ended, he came to me and said, "I have been called back to Salt Lake City. It will be necessary for you to fill the appointments which I have made." He thereupon handed me a little sheet of paper, and on it was a schedule of meetings which he had arranged in the little villages and settlements around St. Johns and Snowflake. I mention this fact only because it illustrates the zeal, the energy, and the diligence with which President Smith assumed his responsibilities in the ministry.

"GIVE THE LORD A CHANCE"

When I left for Europe to take on a great responsibility, one I felt that was altogether too great for me to assume, President Smith called me to his office. He gave me only a very brief admonition, and I suspect he has given it to many. Said he, "Remember, Brother Sonne, give the Lord a chance." I believe that admonition remained with me throughout my mission over in Europe. I'm not sure that I needed it so much, for I was very humble and prayerful in the work I had to do, but the advice was so good and so sound, that I never forgot it. And I feel what success came from our endeavors over in Europe during a crucial time was due in large measure to the help which we received from our Heavenly Father.

And so I hope and pray that the members of the Church and particularly those who bear the Holy Priesthood, will put forth the same effort which our great leader has demonstrated in his life.

DEVOTION OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

I recall at this moment a testimony which I heard from a young missionary in the French Mission. He had but recently arrived in the field. As he stood up, he said something like this: "My grandparents joined the Church in Southampton, England. Soon after being baptized, they emigrated to Nauvoo, Illinois. They bought a home and expected to live there indefinitely. But," said the missionary, "a mob burned the home, and they were left practically destitute. Then my grandparents loaded all of their earthly possessions on a handcart and pushed it over the plains to the Rocky Mountains. I thank God," said this young man, "for the faith and the integrity, the determination and the conviction, which prompted my grandparents to be thus faithful to their trust." Such devotion has been characteristic of the Latter-day Saints and their leaders from the beginning.

I rejoice, brethren and sisters, in my testimony of the truth. I know God has spoken from the heavens and established his Church

upon the earth. We have received a great shock during the past few days; we'll receive other shocks, in all probability, but I tell you this Church will never receive a setback. It will go forward in the future as it has in the past, and truth and righteousness will triumph in the earth. I pray that it may be so, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

My brethren and sisters, I crave an interest in your faith and prayers as I add my testimony to those which have been borne to us during this conference. I can in all propriety say that I conform fully to all the tributes that have been paid to our late President. There are many of you who knew him better than I did and more intimately, but I did know him and his sterling qualities. I have been on trips with him in the reorganization of stakes and have met him on many other occasions rather closely and have felt his love.

I knew his father, as a matter of fact I slept on the sands of Mexico with his father and prepared his breakfast and dinner for him along with my uncle, President Grant, who recently passed away. I got out of my bed many times for those brethren and have had more or less intimate association with them. I want to bear testimony to the fact that in my experience, their purpose and motive has always been inspired of God. I am glad that I was born in the Church because I don't know what might have happened to me had I not been. I am glad for the testimony which my father inspired in me as to the truth of the gospel and for the example of service which he gave to me.

POWER IN GOSPEL

In the month of June it will be twenty years since I read in the newspapers in Honolulu that I was appointed to preside over the Mexican Mission and to become one of the First Council of the Seventy. And in that twenty years I believe it has become no easier for me to stand here and bear my testimony, not that I don't have a testimony, but because I realize the importance of bearing that testimony to you brethren, and that it will fall flat unless I can gain the Spirit of God in it. There is, in the gospel of Jesus Christ, a power that you can't realize any other place. It breaks down all the barriers of nationality, of race hatreds, and all the enmities that go between peoples because of their selfishness, once we accept it into our lives and apply it. It is that love which was exemplified in the life of our President which makes it possible for us to receive unto us the various nations of the world and forget the differences of nationality. I have had the experience in my life (I was going