

they are his anointed; that if we will follow them as they follow Christ, we will have eternal life, which is my prayer for myself and for all Israel. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour."

ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

It has been a refining influence to attend this great conference. I cannot recall when I have felt more at peace than I have during these sessions. It seems to me that from the very beginning with President McKay's opening address, followed by others of the brethren including Brother Thomas E. McKay who spoke so beautifully and tenderly, everything done and said has contributed to a peace that I am sure we all feel, and we all felt as we sang that beautiful hymn, ["I Need Thee Every Hour."]

MARION G. ROMNEY

I was very grateful in the selection of Brother Marion G. Romney to the Quorum of the Twelve. I have been intimately associated with him for the past ten years—I had not known him prior to our being called to be Assistants—but I have learned to love him and to appreciate him for his sterling worth, for his integrity; and I say to you, my brethren and sisters, without any fear of contradiction, that I know of no man who has ever been chosen to fill this high and sacred trust who is better prepared and more worthy than is Marion G. Romney. I hope he will not feel embarrassed because of my saying this, but I say it from the depths of my heart.

I love these men. I have learned to love the Authorities as I have never loved them before. I was reared in a home where the Authorities of the Church were always held up to us as servants of the Almighty, men who were trying to their utmost to establish the Church and kingdom of God in the earth, men who were unselfish in their service. In our home it was regarded almost as a sin for anyone to say anything unkind of those whom God had chosen to direct the affairs of the Church.

I have been grateful for that heritage. I have tried to implant that in the hearts of my children. My wife was reared in the same atmosphere, and she too reflected in her life that absolute confidence and deep appreciation of those whom the Lord had chosen.

LESSONS FROM MISSIONARIES

I have recently had the experience of visiting two of our mis-

sions. Two very striking lessons were brought home to me as we labored with these missionaries, as we heard their testimonies, listened to their reports, and felt of their spirits. They told how they were proselyting, how they would go into the homes where they were invited in—many times they were turned down—and how they would teach the people.

First the missionaries would present to them the message of the restoration and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. This would open up the way for a cottage meeting, and then they would teach the families how to pray. They would teach them that God hears and answers prayers. They would unfold the story of the restoration of the gospel, which of course would take them back to the teachings of our Savior and the promises that he made when he instructed his disciples:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:19-20.)

The elders go into homes, and they teach the investigators these divine concepts, prayer, faith in God, confidence in his work, to observe all things that the Lord has commanded, to render obedience to those divine principles by which we may enter into his kingdom and into his Church, teaching them the law of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, all of these things, my brethren and sisters, these cardinal concepts, and as we listened to the missionaries explain their methods, the reaction of the people to them, I felt and I say to you that people now are responding to the truth, perhaps more than ever in the history of the Church. As we listened to these reports, I thought, can we do less here at home than follow these divine concepts? Should we do less than teach in our homes family prayers, kneeling down and supplicating our Heavenly Father with our children night and morning? Should we do less than teach our children to observe the law of tithing, the law of the fast?

Can we do less than teach them all of these principles that we proclaim to the people of the world, obedience to which makes them eligible for membership in the Church?

That lesson has come home to me. Are we doing at home what we expect our missionaries to do in the world, and are we ourselves hiding our lights, setting our lights under a bushel, or are we letting our lights so shine, that others, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify our Heavenly Father?

MISSIONARY SACRIFICES

Another lesson that impressed me was this: We listened to some of the missionaries tell of their backgrounds. One young boy told of coming from a home in Idaho, of his widowed mother, with

five children, the mother being left with a mortgaged farm, and the bishop came and asked if one of her boys could go on a mission.

The oldest was asked to go, and the mother said, "Bishop, he may go." That young man told of the struggles of his mother to make ends meet and to help him in the performance of his missionary labors, and he bore a strong testimony of the goodness of the Lord, not only to him, but also to that devoted mother who was making possible that mission.

Another one was by a young girl, and I never heard a stronger testimony—it was of another widowed mother. She comes from a stake in the east. The mother, going out and taking day work, made possible that girl's service in the mission field.

On my way home I happened to stop in the home of my daughter in Chicago, and she, not knowing that I knew, was telling me of the sacrifice of a widow in her ward that was making it possible for her daughter to labor in the mission field.

"Why," she said, "Dad, that good little woman takes whatever she can get to do without complaint."

PRESENT-DAY FAITH

We are inclined to tell about our forebears, of the heritage they have left for us. We have been reading in the *Deseret News* serially of the great work of President George Albert Smith's grandfather, Elder George A. Smith, of his colonizing in southern Utah, and the struggles of their living in wagons, of babies being born in those wagons, as they sought to establish a settlement at Parowan. All of these we read and are deeply touched and inspired. These things are a great heritage to us and to our children, but I say to you, my brethren and sisters, that we have today just as much faith in Israel as we ever had, and if we could hear all of these experiences that are a part of the lives of these missionaries, we would hear of the struggles, and many times the heartaches, that make possible these young men and women going into the mission field and giving of their time for two years or two and a half years to preach the gospel which means so much to you and to me and to the world.

EVIDENCE BUILDS TESTIMONIES

Verily, it is a testimony to us of this great work. Testimonies do not come all at once. They are accumulations of evidence, and these are just a few. They are the simple things.

I remember on one occasion of President Grant being in our home and having with him a good friend, a banker, from the East as his guest. President Grant had given him the story of Joseph Smith to read, and during our visit Brother Grant had had Sister Young sing, "Come, Come, Ye Saints."

As Sister Young concluded, that gentleman remarked, "That is

an epic! That is one of the finest expressions of faith that I have ever heard in poetry." Then he made this remark: "President Grant, I have read 'Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story,' and I say to you that no imposter ever wrote it. It was written by one who believed in his own destiny."

Now, brethren and sisters, that is the beginning of a testimony, and if that man would follow through, from just those two little things, God would finally, through the power of the Holy Ghost, reveal to him the truth of all things. This is the promise that is made to the people of the world—

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:4-5.)

That is the way testimonies come. Those are the promises that are given by our missionaries to the world. Can we do less at home than to accept those promises, to accept the Lord as we ask our friends in the world to accept him?

May God help us so to do, my brethren and sisters. I leave with you my testimony. I thank the Lord for my standing in this Church and for its great privileges and blessings; and I can sing with you as we sang a few minutes ago, "I Need Thee Every Hour," and I know he is near to us if we will serve him and keep his commandments. God bless you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER EZRA TAFT BENSON

Of the Council of the Twelve

My beloved brethren and sisters, there is something comforting in the scriptures regarding "he that shall endure to the end." (Matt. 24:13.) I must confess, however, that this to me has been one of the most glorious conferences that I have ever attended or ever expect to attend. I stand before you this afternoon in fasting and prayer, with a heart full of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord for the opportunity which has been mine to attend this conference.

RICHNESS OF CONFERENCE

I cannot recall another, unless it was the conference which I attended in April of 1947 after spending a year in war-torn Europe, that has impressed me so deeply as this conference which now draws to a close. And as a father in Israel, I am grateful beyond my power of expression that my wife and my family of six children have come under the influence of the spirit of this conference and the counsel which has been given by the brethren.