

President David O. McKay:

In addition to what has already been given, I may add the following items, submitted by Brother George Jarvis, who is very efficient, with his associates, in taking care of the finances of the Church.

Sixteen million, two-hundred and eighty-seven thousand dollars have been spent for construction of buildings in 1951. This item, of course, has been included in the various headings given already. But this is interesting, and this total—\$9,375,000 has come from Church

General Funds, and \$6,912,000 from local funds.

You will be interested also to know that there are now 392 buildings under construction.

The listening audience will be pleased to be informed that the Tabernacle is crowded to capacity. We have not received word from the other buildings, but I suppose they also are filled.

In the audience, as you have already heard, are mission presidents from Canada, United States, Mexico and Hawaii.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

It is truly a joy to meet with you, my brethren and sisters. Another six months have passed since the Church met in general conference. How the time flies! There is an old hymn, now unpublished, which could be sung appropriately:

How swift the months have passed away,
Tis conference again.
And Zion's untold thousands come
To swell the joyful strain.

A seat occupied six months ago is vacant this morning—a voice valiant and vigorous then in defense of the restored gospel is silent today. We miss Dr. Joseph F. Merrill, member of the Council of the Twelve, and make loving reference to his noble character and distinguished service.

And now, my dear fellow workers, it is with mingled feelings of gratitude, satisfaction, and apprehension that I greet members of the Church assembled in this opening session of the 122nd Annual Conference.

GRATITUDE

We are grateful for the blessings of the Lord to his Church in all the world, and for the assurance of his divine guidance and inspiration. With deep gratitude we acknowledge in your presence, his nearness and his goodness; and in that spirit of prayerful appreciation proclaim that our souls respond in

harmony with the spirit of a glorious vision given to the Prophet Joseph Smith: "Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and beside him there is no savior.

"Great is his wisdom, marvelous are his ways, and the extent of his doings none can find out.

"His purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand.

"From eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail." (D. & C. 76:1-4.)

ENCOURAGEMENT JUSTIFIED

It is a source of real encouragement to contemplate the loyalty and energetic efforts of the priesthood of the Church, including of course the General Authorities, stake and ward officers, presidencies of missions, missionaries, officers, and members of branches throughout the world. I believe I can say in truth that the standard of efficiency in missions and in organized stakes has never been so high. A hasty glance at what quorums and auxiliaries have achieved during the past year will confirm this.

FIRST: QUORUMS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

According to reports that have been received, the Melchizedek Priesthood of the Church (and that includes all worthy adult members) is showing an increase in the number who pay a full

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tithing, who observe the Sabbath day, who attend sacrament meetings, and who hold regular family prayers.

There has also been an increase in the average attendance at weekly priesthood meetings. In a five-year period (1947-51) the following increase is shown:

	1947	1951
High Priests	46%	48%
Seventies	39%	44%
Elders	18%	20%

In participation in all phases of the Church program, the following marked increase is shown in the same five-year period:

	1947	1951
High Priests	67%	91%
Seventies	54%	89%
Elders	31%	70%

SECOND: RELIEF SOCIETY

A memorandum from Sister Belle S. Spafford, president of the Relief Society, indicates that there has been an increase in membership in that organization of from 126,550 in 1950 to 132,451 in 1951, or an increase of 5,901.

Teachers have made 2,055,803 visits—an increase of 145,141 over last year.

Visits to sick and homebound—193,558, or an increase of 11,200 over last year.

Choruses of the Relief Society Singing Mothers are increasing, thus furnishing the sisters with an opportunity for spiritual expression through choral singing.

THIRD: SUNDAY SCHOOL

The general board of the Deseret Sunday School Union has been emphasizing during the year 1951 the importance of proper spiritual teaching in our Sunday Schools. As a result there has been a notable increase in teacher training classes and enrolled teacher trainees over the previous year.

Reports indicate an increase of 67% in the number of classes held, and an increase of 13% in number of trainees.

Better order and more reverence in

opening exercises and in class work has been a most commendable aim.

Enlistment, or Sunday School missionary work, has been stressed. There has been an increase of 12% in the enrollment. The average attendance at Sunday Schools has increased 13%. It is estimated that about one-third of the entire membership of the Church now participate in Sunday School.

FOURTH: Y.M.M.I.A.

In the 183 stakes, 10 missions reporting, including 1,638 wards and branches, the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association reports a total membership of 104,383, with an average attendance of 53%.

In participation in joint Y.M. and Y.W.M.I.A. stake recreational activities there has been an increase. Departments averaged an increase of 20% to 50%, the greatest increase coming in the M Men-Gleaner and Scout-Beehive Departments.

The general board of Y.M.M.I.A. is endeavoring to have every boy in the ward attend M.I.A. regularly, with a result that the enrollment has grown from 81,253 four years ago to 104,383 this last year.

FIFTH: Y.W.M.I.A.

The Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association had an enrollment in 1951 of 110,095 as compared with 105,309 the previous year.

In December 1949, there was an all-over Church average for the girls 12 to 19 years of age of 48% attendance at sacrament meetings. This is a very commendable feature. Also 61% attended Sunday School, and 59% M.I.A. In December 1951, the average had increased to 53% at sacrament meetings; 63% at Sunday School; and 64% at M.I.A. This substantial increase shows a great spiritual growth, for it means that our girls are attending more Church meetings and hence gaining a greater knowledge of the gospel.

SIXTH: PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

Last year marked the completion of the Primary Children's Hospital, the

dedicatory service having been held on March 2 of this year.

A most commendable project for 1951-52 stressed four phases of reverence for boys and girls. I will read those:

1. We will act as we should in our Heavenly Father's house.
2. We will greet our friends quietly.
3. We will not take the name of the Lord in vain.
4. We will respect those chosen by our Heavenly Father to lead us.

Another very commendable feature is the "Kindness to Animals Club" being sponsored by *The Children's Friend*. I commend that to your attention, especially when we sense the reports that we have had recently regarding some sadist young boys who have been going around with "22's" shooting, just for mere sport, the starving deer.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1951 there were 31,726 persons who undertook research through the books of the library, and approximately 13,000 individuals who used the records in the Archives Department. At the close of 1951 there were sixteen million cards in the Index Bureau files. The records of two hundred thousand separate family units were examined at the Index Bureau.

A total of between twenty-five and thirty million pages of records were placed in the files of the microfilm library during the year 1951, and a total of 2,334,058 lineal feet of film were developed in the laboratory in Salt Lake City during 1951.

These are just a few highlights giving cause for satisfaction. There is a general response, as the figures and reports indicate, on the part of the people of the Church everywhere. The responsibilities they carry, the undertakings that they adopt and employ to raise 50% of the cost of their houses of worship are most remarkable.

I think I will give you an instance. Last February a meeting of all the presidents of the stakes of southern California

was held. President Waite and his associates and the committee presented to those brethren a suggested plan whereby the stakes and wards of that region might raise a million dollars to assist in the construction of the Los Angeles Temple. Three weeks later, as the First Presidency sat at the table in their regular daily meeting, they read a telegram that came that morning from President Russon of the Los Angeles Stake, stating, "We have already canvassed the wards in our stake, and they have subscribed 256% of their quota." And while we were reading that, the telephone rang and President Waite of the South Los Angeles Stake at the other end said, "I thought you would like to know that the Los Angeles Stake has gone over the top 256%. We were a week later starting our canvass in the South Los Angeles Stake, so we have reached only 10% of the people, but we have 90% of the quota subscribed from the 10%." Last evening the presidents from those stakes met with the First Presidency and reported \$1,666,000.00 subscribed, and more subscriptions coming in.

Now that is indicative of the spirit that animates the members of the Church in their efforts to further the interest of establishing the kingdom of God. Well, we commend you and bless you, and God will bless you.

CAUSES OF APPREHENSION

But now, brethren and sisters, we have cause for apprehension. I refer to the efforts to deprive man of his free agency—to steal from the individual his liberty.

Next to life itself free agency is the greatest gift of God to man.

The two most important documents affecting the destiny of America are the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Both these immortal papers relate primarily to the freedom of the individual.

Founded upon that principle of free enterprise fostered by these documents, the United States of America in less than two centuries has achieved a greatness that exceeds that of any other country in the world.

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The deep concern of every loyal citizen regarding this threatened loss of our freedom has been well expressed by a Mr. Fred G. Clark, Chairman of the American Economic Foundation, where-in he expresses the fear that the code of the people is replacing the code of God. Here are his own words. I shall tell you when I end the quotation: "The American giant towers over the world in its physical strength, greater than that of all the rest of the nations put together.

"But something is wrong with America.

"At this high moment of history when the task of world leadership has been thrust upon us, we stand confused, reluctant, hesitant, and ineffectual.

"We are no longer certain what we stand for, and this, I believe, is because we have forgotten the circumstances surrounding the birth of our nation. . . .

"For decades it has been popular in America for the cynical intellectuals to sneer and scoff at what we call the traditions of Americanism.

"The instruments of this sabotage were words and thoughts — plausible half-truths, sly appeals to that spark of larceny that lurks in every human heart, subtle suggestions of an atheistic nature, and the careful nurturing of a patronizing attitude toward everything America has held to be fine and sacred.

"The people who planted these words and thoughts may have been either stupid or vicious, fools or foreign agents, smart-alecs, or smart organizers.

"What they were does not now matter: the thing that does matter is to counteract what they have done.

"Everybody in every position of leadership has to get into this act because the damage has affected every phase of our life.

"The places in which this sabotage occurred were the schools, the churches, the communist-dominated labor halls, the lecture platforms, the motion pictures, the stage, the pages of our newspapers and magazines, and the radio. Every means of communication has been utilized against us. . . .

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"The man (or nation) who has a plan—a way of life—in which he believes, has mental security.

"To destroy this security, one must destroy that man's faith in his plan.

"Reliance on a code of life which, if held in common with one's fellow men, brings peace of mind, develops the abilities of the group. . . .

"The degree to which the American code of life has been weakened can best be demonstrated by simply calling attention to the degree to which the foundation of that code has been weakened.

"Many people become self-conscious when discussing this foundation: I am not one of those people.

"That foundation (and of this there cannot be the slightest shadow of a doubt) is made up of the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.

"Within this moral code, we have a complete way of life.

"Acceptance of these precepts takes care of every phase of human life—spiritual, political, social, and economic. . . .

"America was a nation of people who had faith in their political and economic systems because they had faith in God, and had built those systems around the teachings of God.

"Every collectivist from Karl Marx to Stalin has agreed that faith in God must be destroyed before socialism can take over.

"Therefore, it was obvious that the problem of sabotaging America's faith in America was the problem of transferring the people's faith in God to faith in the State.

"That thing called morality in politics, business, and private contracts, had to be broken down.

"To an increasing extent the people have come to look upon morality as an old-fashioned superstition.

"Religion has for many church members become a safe way of *dying* rather than a *good way of living*."

I commend his entire speech, from which I have taken these extracts.

Add to this threatening upset in national standards the increasing tendency to abandon ideals that constitute the foundation of the American home, and you will agree with me that there is cause for apprehension.

Now what shall we do about it? That concerns us.

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he sent a letter to Timothy, saying in substance:

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (II Timothy 4:2-4.)

It is as important today as when Paul wrote that farewell message to Timothy that officers and teachers in the Church "preach the word; be instant—that is, eager, earnest—in season and out of season."

Today, in the midst of the world's perplexity, there should be no question in the mind of any true Latter-day Saint as to what we shall preach. The answer is as clear as the noonday sun in a cloudless sky.

In the year 1830, there was given to the people of this land and of the world, a divine plan whereby individuals can find security and peace of mind and live in harmonious accord with their fellow beings. In all man's theories and experiments since history began, human intelligence has never devised a system which, when applied to the needs of humanity, can even approach this plan in effectiveness.

In simple words, then, this is the Word which we should preach—the gospel plan of salvation.

FAITH IN GOD

The founders of this great republic had faith in the economic and political welfare of this country because they had faith in God. Today it is not un-

common to note an apologetic attitude on the part of men when they refer to the need of God governing in the affairs of men. Indeed, as has already been said, the success of communism depends largely upon the substitution of the belief in God by belief in the supremacy of the state.

Preach in season and out of season belief in God the Eternal Father, in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

Bear witness that "God and the unseen world," to quote a leading thinker, "are not mere objects of surmise. . . . Religion standing on the known experience of the race makes one bold and glorious affirmation. She asserts that this power that makes for truth, for beauty, and for goodness is not less personal than we. This leap of faith is justified because God cannot be less than the greatest of his works. . . . When, therefore, we call God personal we have interpreted him by the loftiest symbol we have. He may be infinitely more. He cannot be less. When we call God a spirit, we use the clearest lens we have to look at the infinite." (Charles Dinsmore of Yale.)

Second: Latter-day Saints proclaim that fundamental in this gospel plan is the sacredness of the individual, that God's work and glory is "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Under this concept, it is a great imposition, if indeed not a crime, for any government, any labor union, or any other organization to deny a man the right to speak, to worship, and to work.

Third: Preach that the plan involves the belief that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man. Man was not born for the benefit of the state. Preach that no government can exist in peace, and I quote from the Doctrine and Covenants, except such laws are framed and held inviolate, as will secure to each individual the "free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life."

Fourth: Preach the sacredness of fam-

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ily ties—the perpetuation of the family as the cornerstone of society.

Fifth: Proclaim the necessity of honesty and loyalty, doing an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Preach that honesty in government is essential to the perpetuation and stability of our government as it is necessary to the stability of character in the individual. "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men. . . . If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

To summarize: Let us be instant in season, and out of season, declaring that a kind and loving Heavenly Father is as ready and eager today as ever to bless and to guide all his children who will sincerely seek him, and I bear you witness to that truth.

Proclaim that his Beloved Son, the Redeemer and Savior of mankind, stands at the head of his Church that bears his name—that he guides and inspires those who are authorized to represent him here on earth—authorized by the priesthood when heavenly messengers bestowed up-

on the Prophet Joseph Smith and others associated with him divine authority.

Preach that the responsibility of declaring this plan of life, this way of life, this plan of salvation rests upon the entire membership of the Church, but most particularly upon those who have been ordained to the priesthood and who have been called as leaders and servants of the people.

To them today, as Paul said to Timothy, we give the admonition:

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

In Zion let God's name be praised
Who has a feast prepared,
The glorious gospel standard raised,
The ancient faith restored.
Swift heralds, the glad news to bear
O'er land and ocean fly;
And to the wondering world disclose
The message from on high.

God give us power to fulfil this destiny of the Church, and to perform our duties, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BISHOP THORPE B. ISAACSON

First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

PRESIDENT MCKAY, President Richards, President Clark, my dear brothers and sisters, and friends:

This is always a very difficult assignment for me, one which nearly overwhelms me, and I do feel very weak and very humble today. Personally, I am very grateful for the beautiful prayer that was offered at the beginning of the conference. Prayers always give one needed strength. Yes, "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed." Surely today, prayer is my soul's sincere desire.

We have all been greatly touched, blessed, and inspired by the words of the President of the Church, President David O. McKay, a prophet of the true and Living God.

The Spirit of the Lord will be at this

conference in rich and great abundance if the thousands who assemble here can come with their hearts turned toward our Father in heaven.

Yesterday, in a meeting in the temple of the General Authorities of the Church, there was in evidence a beautiful and great spirit, one that I question whether anyone can absolutely and accurately describe or explain. It was the spirit of peace and love and harmony and unity. Yes, that was the spirit of our Father in heaven.

I know that there is great love and harmony and unity among the brethren of the General Authorities of the Church. No one should ever infer that there is any lack of unity or harmony or love or brotherhood in the Church. I only wish that all of us, one to another,