

had cast seven devils. It was remarkable that a woman of that kind should have had the faith to be the first to view the Savior after his resurrection: That he then appeared to the women of Galilee and then to the two on the way to Emmaus, and sometime during the day to Peter. Then to the ten assembled in the chamber at night, and a week later to the eleven. Then to the multitudes on the Sea of Galilee, and then to James, and then to Peter, James, and John, Nathanael and Thomas called Didymus, and two others on the Sea of Galilee, then to the eleven prior to his ascension. That then he appeared on this continent to the Nephites. And finally to Joseph in the woods, introduced by the Father, himself, in person; later to Joseph and Sidney in the temple.

To all of these things I bear witness

that the Spirit has borne its witness to me.

Brethren and sisters, pray, pray in humility, pray always, pray in your families, pray in secret; live, keeping the commandments of the Lord, so that your prayers may ascend to our Heavenly Father. So live that when occasion comes, you may go to our Heavenly Father and in faith seek his aid in behalf of your loved ones who are sick. I testify to you that the Lord can hear the prayers of his Saints, when they seek him, in humility, in behalf of their sick. I know it.

May the Lord add to the testimony of each of us, build us up and strengthen us, may he give us the spirit of prayer, that we may at all times be able to go to him, and that he at all times will feel able to come to us, in answer to our prayers, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ELDER THOMAS E. McKAY

#### *Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**P**RESIDENT McKay and Counselors, President Smith, other General Authorities of the Church, and brethren and sisters: It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be with you this morning, to partake of this fine spirit and to see so many of my brethren and sisters that I have visited in the stakes.

I am especially happy to be here this morning to hear our German choir, and last Saturday night in Huntsville I had the privilege of hearing our Swiss members give a wonderful concert. I am especially interested in these people, as you know, because I have spent considerable time among them—nine birthdays, to be exact, and three missions.

I enjoyed the opening prayer this morning, and I have especially enjoyed President Clark's talk on prayer. I love that theme, and the thought comes to me now of this statement: "Families that pray together, stay together."

I was especially interested also in the wonderful sermon delivered by Presi-

dent McKay in the opening session and in his remarks about his tour in Europe. Most of those countries I have visited.

I was very pleased to hear the greetings from President Bringhurst in Vienna. If I had time, if I were out in a stake where I was my own boss, I would tell you of the first baptism in Vienna. I had a wonderful experience there.

I love to hear the sermons of these brethren, especially of the First Presidency, and Brother Bowen. I wish he were here. We will miss him, especially will his wonderful sermon be missed in the printed proceedings of the conference.

Of course, I enjoy listening to all the brethren, but I enjoy listening to some more than others. That sounds a little like President J. Golden Kimball. I should not say this, but when these things come into my mind, I generally let them out.

He said, "You know, Brother Thomas, I love all the brethren, but I love some

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of them a dang sight more than others." Well, I do love to hear all my brethren, and I have especially enjoyed these sermons. I have thought quite often, while President McKay and his charming wife and Lawrence and his fine wife were visiting over in Europe, that I was not afraid of them discovering something that I had done that I should not have done, and that is largely due to the influence of my mother.

When I was called on my first mission, just after the return of President McKay from his first mission, forty-two years ago, I was called also to the British Mission; my brother and my father had been there and they had given me names and addresses of people whom I probably would meet, and when I left, they knew I felt very weak, and I was. I was always a home boy, had never been away from home, never been out of the state of Utah—and when I arrived at the station, my parents were there, of course, and my brothers and sisters and a group of young people, and I did not want to break down before those young people. My mother knew that, so she did not say much to me, but she kissed me good-bye, and she said, "My son, come home clean." Her lips quivered, and mine did, as I said, "Mother, I'll come home clean."

That was all we could say without breaking down, but I have never forgotten that promise. It has been a great help to me throughout my life. When I arrived in Liverpool—I had been seasick all the way—I remember dressing and coming out just a few hours before the boat arrived, and passengers looked around at me. I was dressed in a light suit, and was very slender, and I could hear them whisper, "Where did he come from?"

Brother James McMurrin of the European presidency met our boat; and as I shook hands with him, and gave him my name, he asked if I were a brother of David O. McKay. I said I was, and he replied, "if you make half as good a missionary as your brother, we will be satisfied. I think I'll take you to Scotland with me tomorrow

night. We are holding conference in Glasgow."

Well, I expected to go there. I had a little black book full of addresses, and I thought that would be all right, only it frightened me to think of conference. But after the meeting the next day, where we each had an opportunity to bear our testimonies, Brother McMurrin came to me again. He put his hand on my shoulder and said:

"Brother McKay, what would you think, and what would your parents think if we sent you to Germany instead of Scotland?"

I dropped my head. I did not know for a minute what to say, and then I remembered what my father told me when he bade me good-bye. I am sure he was inspired. He said, "It does not matter so much where you work, as how you work. You go where the Lord wants you to go."

I repeated that to Brother McMurrin, and he put his arm around me and said, "That is wonderful." He said, "President Schulthies is in Berlin, presiding over the German Mission, and he has written asking for some missionaries who would probably make conference presidents later, and we haven't a missionary in this large group assigned to Germany. I think we will send you there."

Well, I took it with my chin up until I got to my room in the hotel, then my chin went down, and I tell you I had a good cry. But it was the best thing that ever happened to me, brothers and sisters. I should have been welcomed in Glasgow because of my brother and my father before me. It was up to me and the Lord now. I could not speak a word of German. I spent two or three days in London and then went to the World's Fair in Paris, where I visited until I received my appointment from President Schulthies.

I was assigned to Stuttgart, Germany, and by the way, I met Bishop Buehner there. He could understand my language, and I could understand him. He was two years old. I congratulate him on his appointment to the Presiding

Bishopric, and I know his parents are proud, also, of his success here, and the success of his five brothers. They had a wonderful father and mother.

I spent a little over three years on this mission—three months in Stuttgart, three months in Munich, and then President Hugh J. Cannon was appointed to succeed President Schulthies, and he called me to preside over the Frankfurt Conference, "Frankfurt on the Main," one of the most beautiful cities at that time in the world. How I love that city!

Brother Edwin Q. Cannon is presiding there now, and, by the way, he was one of my missionaries.

I was released and came home after a little over three years, and oh, the thrill, brothers and sisters, and you young people who are listening in especially, when I met my mother, took her in my arms, and said, "Mother, I have come home clean."

After six years, I was called to preside over the Swiss-German Mission, which included at that time all of Germany, Switzerland, France, Vienna, Austria, Hungary, and part of Rumania. I was still single, which is unusual—for a single man to preside.

I came home after a little over three years. My mother was not there in body, but she was in spirit, and I could say again, and I did, "Mother, I have come home clean."

Twenty-five years later, Sister McKay and I, and our two daughters, (our son was already there) were called to preside over the Swiss-Austrian Mission. Several months before we came home, Brother Rees, who was president of the East German Mission, was released on account of sickness. I received a cablegram from President Heber J. Grant appointing me to preside over the East-German Mission and to continue as president of the Swiss-Austrian Mission until my successor was appointed. They said, "Brother Joseph Fielding Smith will set you apart." He was there visiting the European Mission.

Before he got out of the mission and before he got a chance to set me apart,

war was declared, and Brother Smith hurried up to Copenhagen to assist in getting our missionaries home. We sent all our missionaries from the East-German Mission to Copenhagen.

I went back to Basel, Switzerland, my headquarters, where we remained. I was in Berlin, however, when war was declared.

We remained in Switzerland until March, or just before the first of April 1940, when we returned home.

Again I could tell my mother, and I can still tell her, and I hope the Lord will help me so that when I am released from this earthly mission, I can still meet her, which I will, brothers and sisters. I know as sure as I am standing here that she will be there waiting, and as I say, I hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless me, so that I can say, "Mother, I have come home clean."

That promise to her has always been a help to me, and it is a good thing to have some standard to guide you. I was very happy when Superintendent Curtis of the Y.M.M.L.A. of the Church informed me that the Boy Scouts had a special project this year of getting everybody out to vote. I took occasion to ask a few questions, and, among other things, about that Boy Scout promise, or oath, as it is sometimes called.

It is a wonderful thing for these Boy Scouts to have made that promise: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to my God and my country, and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally clean." I like to use that word, "clean." That is a great promise, and I am sure that that promise as given to my mother has helped me, and that those boys have received strength from that Boy Scout pledge. I am sure there would not be so much crime and corruption if there were closer adherence to the Scout law.

I am reminded of a story that might help. It came from a young boy in prison in the penitentiary. They had held a meeting there. One of our ward choirs had furnished the music. They

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had had a good speaker, I think it was Dr. Bennion, and after dismissal the inmates were reluctant to leave. There was a fine spirit there, and they remained seated, and quiet.

Dr. Bennion leaned over and informally spoke to them, and among other things he said, "I wonder if any of you boys," (and there were quite a number of just boys there) "would like to send a message to your comrades outside."

One young fellow arose and raising his right hand to get permission, said, "Dr. Bennion, I would like to send my pals a message: 'Don't kid yourselves that nobody hain't never going to find out.'"

It is not very elegant language, but I tell you it means a lot—"Don't kid yourself that nobody hain't never going to find out."

It is too bad that some of these men, some of whom are now in jail, and others who are still being investigated had not received that admonition and followed it.

In closing, may I urge, as the Boy Scouts are doing, all of you, to register and vote. I think I spoke upon this subject once before from this pulpit, but it is very dear to me—my right, my privilege to vote.

We have four more days for registering, brothers and sisters. The 7th, the 14th, the 28th, and the 29th of this month. Now, everyone of you, register or else you can't vote.

Sister McKay and I were in Ogden on the invitation of our Ogden Stake high priests' quorum. I was invited to make a few remarks, and I recalled that while I presided over that stake so many years, that quorum had, as a project, getting every member on the tithing roll—and they succeeded.

Then they undertook to make every member a non-user of tobacco. I called attention to that, and then suggested the project at this time, to get all the members and their wives, and the widows, to register, so that we could announce it as an example for all other quorums to follow.

As soon as I sat down, the president arose and said, "President McKay, we accept the challenge; we now invite the presidents of the other 194 quorums, as well as the presidents of seventies and elders and especially all senior members of the Aaronic Priesthood to unite with the Boy Scouts of America in their effort to get all to register and vote.

May I express my appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the gospel. It is the great plan of life and salvation and brings joy and happiness to all who live it.

I bear you my testimony to the divinity of the gospel as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith and handed down through the other presidents, including the present leader of the Church, President David O. McKay. I bear you this testimony in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

#### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

I AM DEEPLY CONSCIOUS of the fact mentioned by Brother Thomas E. McKay that not only Brother McKay but most of you would rather hear some speakers than others, and it makes me very apprehensive indeed. I appreciated greatly his testimony. It is good to have Brother McKay with us again.

I appreciated very much the remarks upon prayer by President Clark who has preceded us, and recently it came

to my attention that some statistics covering the last eight years were very encouraging, showing that there was a considerable increase in family prayer among the high priests, a greater increase in the seventies, and almost a hundred percent increase in the percentage of elders in this Church who are now having their family prayers, as compared to eight years ago.

I pay tribute to you, my brothers and