

Lord with reasonable confidence that he will hear you? Can you go and ask him to heal your little ones? or yourselves? or your wife? If you can, when the time comes you will be happy and you will go to the Lord in faith, and the prayer of faith availeth much.

As I said this morning, it has always seemed to me that in our prayer, and in our faith, we should always say to the Lord, "not our will, but thine be done."

Now, brethren, do not put off putting yourself in order, if you are not in order, yielding obedience to the commandments of the Lord, so that, when the time comes, if it comes, and I pray that it will not come to any of you, but when the time comes, you will be able to go to the Lord with a pure heart, and invoke his blessings upon you.

I have often, I think always, since I have been talking to you here, I have spoken of unity. The Presiding Bishop tonight has pointed out in a striking way, how we can unitedly help to save these tens of thousands of our brethren, bring them back into the fold, get them active, get them so that they have a right to enjoy the blessings of the Priesthood, the rights to which we are entitled. Join hands with the bishop, help him to work out his problems,

help to bring these brethren to a knowledge of the truth.

Somewhere in them, if they have ever been baptized and if they have not, if they come from Latter-day Saint families, there is a spark which may be but faintly glowing, but spark it is, and with a breath of helpfulness, solicitation, you can fan that spark into a flame that will build in that man or that woman with faith in God, and ultimately develop in him, a testimony of the Restored Gospel.

Brethren, I wish I could make you feel the urgency of this. I do not know when the Lord is coming. I have no idea about it. But I do know this, that the signs we have today are the signs which he said would precede his coming. Similar signs have been in other days and he did not come. But these signs we do now have, and if the Lord's prophecies, the prophecies of his servants shall come true, and they will, we shall have more than one plague against which to preserve ourselves, against which we shall want to call all the faith that we can possess, to buttress our call to our Heavenly Father for his sustaining power, his comfort, his consolation, and for the healing influences of his Spirit.

God pour this Spirit into the hearts of all of us, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN L RICHARDS

First Counselor in the First Presidency

I SHALL be very grateful, my brethren, if I may be blessed in a brief effort to render some help and encouragement in a division of the work which has become very dear to my heart. I speak of the missionary work of the Church.

I bring you a few items of report that may be of some interest since we inaugurated six months ago some few changes in the administration of our work and in plans for it. We have had some little diminution in the stakes in the number of missionaries serving in a stake missionary capacity, but for-

tunately we have had more converts, and more converts per missionary, than we had even with larger numbers of missionaries, which would seem to be reasonably interpreted as being an indication that the following of careful plans has been productive.

In the foreign mission fields in the last six months, we have had a decline in numbers of missionaries of approximately one thousand, but up to date there has been no sizable decline in the number of baptisms, and in fact some missions with declining numbers have produced more converts, and many

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more converts per missionary, than in preceding periods, all of which, I believe, can be said to be something of a vindication of good methods, close observance of the standards pointed out for the work, and diligence on the part of our missionaries. I believe that many of our missionaries, now nearing the ends of their mission terms, are really putting in the best efforts of which they are capable, in order to complete their missions with great good to the people to whom they are sent, and with honor and credit to themselves. Unfortunately, in the next six months, it looks as if our decline in the number of missionaries would be very great, because about two years ago, we had large numbers of young men going into the mission field, who in normal course will have reached the end of their missionary terms. Our mission presidents are very much concerned about how to carry forward. Some of them are fearful that some of the outlying branches of the missions, which have recently been organized, may not have the strength to carry forward without missionary help; and we recognize the fact that it will be difficult to meet all the exigencies which may arise with large numbers of our missionaries going home.

I am pleased to report to you, however, that in recent months we have had some of our returning ex-servicemen respond to missionary calls. It has been encouraging to us to have young men report that they desired to waste no time whatever, and that as soon as they came home and were eligible for a call, they would like to begin their missions. We have admired their devotion to the work, which has prompted them to take this course. And I am permitted to say to you all tonight that in the event these ex-servicemen may make themselves available for missions, that we have decided that if necessary we will not retain them beyond the time when they can avail themselves of their GI schooling privileges. In some cases that will shorten missionary terms a little, but we need the service

of these young men so much that we are willing to make that concession.

I would like to say to these young men, and to those of you who may reach them, that if they will make it convenient to enter into missionary service after coming out of the Army or Navy, or wherever they have served, they will add an experience to their lives of value beyond estimation. They will bring into their lives a service, a feeling for service, and a devotion to the Church, and a love for their fellows that they haven't been able to get in the Army, and that they won't get any other place to the same extent. So we will heartily welcome them, if they will prepare themselves on returning home, to undertake missions. And let us all hope that they who come home from this service to country have come home clean and wholesome, without the loss of their testimonies, prepared to go forward and do the missionary work.

We have had at least two instances recently reported which give us much encouragement about these servicemen; you have heard something heretofore about them. We just had a letter from the President of the Japanese Mission, in which he said to us, in substance, "I think it won't be necessary for you to send us any more money to help pay the expenses of local missionaries. Our servicemen have committed themselves to monthly contributions which we think will be adequate to take care of about as many local missionaries as we can get."

And we recently had similar notice from Great Britain that the servicemen there had formed a club and made their commitments to support some local missionaries in the British Mission field. That is surely encouraging. However, with the diminution in the numbers of our foreign missionaries to some of the foreign-speaking countries, it may be very necessary to give some support to local missionaries who may be called to take their place. In South America, over in Germany, and perhaps in other sections, in Mexico, many of the peo-

ple who are willing to undertake missionary service have not the means to do so, and while they are willing to contribute time, and perhaps some little aid may come from their homes, they can't bear the whole expense.

I am very glad to say to you that since we last reported a condition of this kind there has been a very generous response on the part of good men and women in the Church, and we have been supplied, wholly gratuitously and spontaneously by numbers of men and women, with funds which enable us to give support to some of these missionaries in the foreign mission fields. I can't refrain from mentioning one dear old sister, who said in substance, "I am a product of the missionary system. I shall never cease to be grateful for the blessing that the missionaries brought to me. I herewith enclose a check for \$3,000.00 to help support other missionaries." Such was her devotion and her appreciation of the great blessing that the missionary system had brought to her, and, I presume, her family.

Now, my brethren, we encourage you, and particularly the Bishops, to search out all who may be available for missionary service. I lay rather special emphasis upon the returning servicemen because they are in good position to help us very much. We hope you will be careful in sending older people to send those of good health, that they may not break down in the mission fields, and be an embarrassment to themselves and something of an encumbrance to their associates in the mission field.

I believe that none of us could have listened to the President's opening address at this Conference without having his concept enlarged, and his vision extended, as to the scope and universality of the great work of this Church. That was a great contribution to give us all the understanding that this is not just a local cause, confined here to the valleys of the mountains and California, and a part of the United States, and the adjoining sections of Canada and Mexico, but that here is God's work set up for all humanity wherever men

may live. And when we received the report of the reception accorded to the President of the Church in the various countries of Europe I am sure it made us all feel that the realization of this world dream of ours for the establishment of Zion is more possible of attainment. And I believe it is possible of attainment.

Following the admonition just given to us by President Clark, if the signs of the time point to the beginning of the end, does not the obligation rest more poignantly upon us to discharge the great duty that we have to God's children in the world, and carry this message of truth to them, so that every man and woman and child may have his election, when he understands what his election means. And I conceive it to be the duty of this great people who constitute the custodians of the truth to spread the truth throughout this entire world. There are no boundaries. There should be no boundaries which preclude our Father's children from receiving a knowledge of the truth, and being permitted to come into his great Kingdom.

So if we regard the missionary work in the light of its great potential, if we think of it as being our first assignment to preach the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, may we not be induced to give every consideration possible to the securing of missionaries, to the supplying of missionary funds, and to doing all that lies within our power to carry the Gospel to the peoples of the world.

I congratulate Stake Presidents upon their careful choice of mission presidents in the stakes. There is a great and wonderful field for their service, and I see the time coming in the not-too-distant future when the number of converts they may be able to make will equal if not surpass those that we are able to make in foreign fields, at least until our missionary forces there may increase.

May the Lord bless you, my brethren, and bring this great missionary spirit close to your hearts, for while there are

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now available to us innumerable facilities, which make the world very small, (methods of transportation and communication have become such that we are readily transported to distant lands, and our voices are carried instantaneously over the globe) not any of these facilities, however much they may conduce ultimately to the advancement of our work, will ever take the place of and supplant that personal contact which is involved in our missionary service. The reaction of one personality upon another, the bearing of a per-

sonal testimony to a fellow, in order that he may know and feel the truth that the real missionary carries with him,—nothing will take the place of that, so we will always need to supply missionaries.

I pray the Lord that he will guide and direct us in our missionary efforts, and that he will inspire our people in some way to meet the needs of the hour, and bless mankind with the dissemination of the great truths of the eternal Gospel. I do so in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

LAST evening in the meeting of the bishoprics of the Church a youth chorus furnished the music. It was inspiring. At the singing of the closing song I had to leave this building. Tonight, in the presence of all of you, I apologize to those young men and young women and to you bishoprics, 4000 of whom, approximately, were here assembled. It is true, I had an excuse, to meet some eastern men at nine o'clock who had to leave the city at seven this morning, and we met that appointment. But that in no way lessened my sense of having shown what to me, always seems disrespect, if not irreverence, on the part of anybody who leaves a house of worship before the close of the exercises. To the Bishopric, to you bishops, to you leaders who had those young people there, and to them especially I offer my apology.

We have had tonight, as we had last night, presented to us by the Presidency of the Aaronic Priesthood, an expanded vision, of the great work of the Lesser Priesthood. God bless you, the Presiding Bishopric and the bishops throughout the Church, as you enter upon this new activity, and he will bless you if you follow the instructions of your leaders and the impressions that the Spirit of the Lord will give you.

Tonight I have a message in my heart, whether I can give it to you, as I should like, it may be a question, and I

pray for your sympathy and faith and prayers.

I am going to lead up to the topic by referring to a kind of will that a man wrote to his son. Among other things he said, "It has not been my fate, in life's sharp struggles to win the honors other men have won. Mine has not been a life of great achievements; I have not done the deeds some men have done. But I have kept unsullied and untarnished that thing, a name entrusted to my care. I have not let dishonor dim its luster, nor have I let shame leave its black mark there." And then, he finally tells what he has done, "I have made, instead, my name synonymous, in all men's minds, with things the most worthwhile." And here, in his opinion, they are: First, "with strength to do the right, though none might see me." Second, "with grit to meet disaster with a smile." Third, "with loyalty to those with claims upon me." Fourth, "with justice equally toward foe and friend." Fifth, "with honor, truth, integrity, square-dealing,—'My word my bond.'"

All the virtues he had striven to develop, it seems, he climaxes, with "My word my bond." And that is the subject of my message to you. *The sacredness of promise.*

Recently, in this city, a prominent physician lay dying. Realizing that the end was near, he called his sobbing