

The sacrament meeting, brothers and sisters, should become the family meeting of the Church, where father, mother, sons, and daughters attend together and renew their covenants as they partake of the emblems of the Last Supper.

The Lord Jesus Christ said:

Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19:14.)

If we fail to take our children to the sacrament meeting, we are not taking them to the Savior as he commands us. I am sure that every child that partakes of the sacrament, and has an understanding of it, must feel the kindly spirit of the Savior of the World.

The Lord Jesus Christ keeps his promises if we keep ours. This terrible war is constantly upon my mind. I think of young men in the foxholes and in the bunkers on the rocky hillsides of Korea, where under the direction of their group leader, or possibly one of our chaplains, they surround the peace-table of the Lord Jesus Christ, partake of the emblems of the Last Supper, make covenant with him to always remember him, and as a reward, I am sure that his Spirit whispers to them, "My peace I give unto you." They are

comforted, they have solace in their hearts, and whether in life or in death, the Lord will bless them and receive them unto him.

The great obligation that rests upon us as long as we enjoy membership in the Lord's Church, is to attend the peace meeting, to participate in the negotiations of the sacrament table wherein we again renew our covenants with the Lord Jesus Christ. And just as surely as we live, regardless of what the conditions in the world may be, the word of the Savior will be kept when he said,

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27.)

Brethren and sisters, in these hours of distress, war and destruction, I promise you if we will go to the peace meeting of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, every Sunday, his Spirit will be there in rich abundance, we will take it into our homes, and by keeping his commandments our homes can become a holy place, they can become houses of God, which blessing I pray we will all enjoy, in the name of the King of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ALMA SONNE

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MY BRETHREN AND SISTERS: I trust and I pray that the good spirit which has been present throughout these conference sessions may continue with us during the few moments I stand here. I am convinced that there is something greater than man's wisdom back of the great conference system, which was inaugurated by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, in the early days of the Church. We have come here, you and I, to be refreshed and to be strengthened; to be edified and reassured in our faith. We have never gone away disappointed. The Lord has blessed his people abundantly, and will continue to bless them in the future. Who can estimate the influ-

ence and the spiritual power which emanate from these inspiring conference sessions? We come here full of eagerness and anticipation; we listen to the sermons, to the fervent prayers, to the music and the songs of Zion, to the stirring hymns sung by the congregation and last but not least to the anthems and the renditions by our great choir. We are deeply touched and uplifted. Surely, it is good to belong to a Church that is progressive, farseeing, and inspirational in its program—a program that is calculated to prepare us as members for the eventualities which are sure to come.

We recognize and are aware of a

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similar power and influence emanating from the missionary system of the Church. Who can measure the influence of just one missionary who goes into the world to proclaim the gospel message? The missionary spirit which rests upon him, somehow or other, reaches out to the home from which he comes, to his relatives and friends and to all with whom he comes in contact. His life becomes a great missionary force in the world.

The Latter-day Saints believe in a God who is not only the Creator, but who is also the Ruler of the universe. He intervenes in great crises when God's plan is in jeopardy and his divine purposes are threatened. I recall, as an example, an incident in the Civil War. It occurred when the Confederates brought out the strange battleship known as the *Merrimac*. The people of the North were alarmed. The advisers of Lincoln became hysterical. Fear and apprehension took hold of the people. Many complaints came to President Lincoln. "They will shoot down the Capitol," they said. He replied, "God will not permit it. This is his fight." I am sure Lincoln prayed. I feel certain he trusted in God, for on one occasion he is reported to have said, "I have been driven to my knees with the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." Lincoln's prayer was answered, because on a beautiful morning, there appeared in the same waters opposite the nation's Capitol, another strange battleship. It was John Ericson's *Monitor*. The battle that ensued between these two ships was not unlike the battle between David and Goliath. The *Merrimac* was defeated as was the great giant, Goliath.

I recall, four years ago, driving through the ruined city of Dunkirk, the city which has become famous in world history, because it has suffered ruin and devastation so many times. As we drove through the city, I remember the road led us along a narrow canal. On the right of us lay the ruined city, almost entirely destroyed, on the left was

the open country over which the German army approached. Three hundred and fifty thousand British soldiers lay with their backs to the ocean behind improvised fortifications. It looked like annihilation, capture, or defeat for the British army; but at the crucial moment when Britain's soldiers needed help, the God of heaven intervened. What happened? At that moment, a dark, black mist settled down directly over the narrow canal. All visibility disappeared and military operations ceased. How long? Just long enough for Britain's soldiers to escape and make their way across the channel to English shores. I firmly believe that the Almighty can and does intervene in great crises for the benefit of his children, especially when freedom and liberty are at stake.

Another incident is recorded in world history. It happened in the year 1588 when King Philip of Spain sent his "invincible armada" out to destroy the inferior British navy. The British navy was no match for the powerful Spanish fleet of one hundred and twenty ships, armed and equipped for battle. Once again the Almighty came to the rescue of the British. At the right moment a storm arose on the high seas, and the Spanish fleet was scattered. A few of them made their way into the French harbor of Calais, but were forced to leave. They were eventually overtaken and destroyed by the British. Thus the tyranny of Spain came to an end, and a new era in human history was begun. Do you question this intervention of God who presides over the destiny of nations?

When President Levi Edgar Young and Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin referred to Christopher Columbus as the discoverer of the New World, I thought of him standing high on his little craft fighting and defying, not only the elements and the turbulent waves, but also the superstition and ignorance of his crew to discharge his God-appointed mission. It was no accident that he was permitted to reach the shores of San Salvador in the flimsy vessels he had at

his disposal. He was right when he said he was "moved by the Holy Ghost" to achieve his ambition. And thus a new world, new opportunities, and new ideas were given to men to be developed and to be used for God's purposes. Neither can we doubt that Brigham Young, prophet, statesman, and colonizer, was similarly called and inspired in his great pioneer achievement. He and his people were protected in their migrations. By every law of probability they should have perished in the desert. But they did not perish, for God's protection was upon them.

I pray that we may appreciate our membership in the Church and that we may be true and faithful to the standards by which we are guided. An investigator once said to me, "Your Church is the only Church on the face of the earth that advocates high standards and noble ideals." His conclusion, I hope, was not correct, but we must preserve the standards, the ideals, and the faith committed to us through Jesus Christ. May we do so, I pray in his name. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

You will be pleased to learn that at the fifth session of this General Conference, there were in attendance in the Tabernacle, the Assembly Hall, Barratt Hall, and on the grounds, 17,825 members of the Priesthood. In addition to that, we learned by telephone that there were assembled down in the Joseph Smith auditorium, Brigham Young University, from 800 to 1000 other members of the Priesthood. That gives you an idea of the activity and strength of the Priesthood of the Church.

This morning Elder LeGrand Richards delivered an excellent sermon over the Church of the Air. We hope all of you heard it. And at 9 o'clock there was presented the usual Choir broadcast over the national hook-up, the Columbia Broadcasting System. They, with the excellent two-minute sermon-

ette given by Elder Richard L. Evans, were heard by probably several million people. We commend President Evans for the great service he is thus rendering. It is marvelous how he maintains that high standard of excellency week after week. This morning was no exception. The Lord bless the Choir, President Evans, and all other forces contributing to the preaching of truth, the spreading of the Gospel of Peace.

We are glad this morning to note in the audience the presence of several of our representatives in Congress, the presence of our State, County and City officials, leading educators, members of the faculty of the University of Utah, President of the Agricultural College, and others; President and Deans from the Brigham Young University; President and members from the Ricks College; of course we have the members of the Church Board of Education a hundred percent,—those are the members of the Council of the Twelve and Presidency; also Directors of Institutes and Seminaries; and the President of the Weber College and some members of the faculty we note. I am not sure whether the Director of the Branch Agricultural College is present. If so, we welcome him also.

The closing song will be by the Tabernacle Choir, who will sing that exquisite little poem by Tennyson "Crossing the Bar." It breathes the truth of immortality. The Choir will be led by Elder Spencer Cornwall and the closing prayer will be offered by Elder David I. Stoddard, formerly President of the California Mission, after which this Conference will stand adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The Choir sang, "Crossing The Bar." Elder David I. Stoddard offered the benediction.

Conference adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.