

The Church from its very beginning in this dispensation has put forth every effort, it seems to me, to tell the world about the restoration of the gospel and the mission of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. This impression came to me with great force as I read an epistle to the members of the Church under date of April 7, 1851. This was less than four years after the pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley. The epistle was signed by Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards, and was addressed to the "Saints scattered throughout the earth."

I learned from that epistle that all of the Twelve Apostles were then abroad except Wilford Woodruff and Ezra T. Benson. Their President, Orson Hyde was in Kaneshville, Iowa; Parley P. Pratt was on his way to Chile, his mission was to all the lands bordering the Pacific Ocean; Orson Pratt was somewhere in the States on his way to the valley to become associated with the University of Deseret; John Taylor was in Boulogne, France, "preaching, publishing, and translating"; Lorenzo Snow was in Italy, visiting the Italian states; Erastus Snow was in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he

was translating the Book of Mormon; Franklin D. Richards was presiding over the British Mission with headquarters in Liverpool, England; Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich were on their way to the Cajon Pass; and George A. Smith was presiding in Iron County. All of them were preaching the gospel "to every nation, kindred, tongue and people." What better evidence could they give of their sincerity and integrity? The best leadership of the Church was surely needed here in the valley, where the foundations of a great commonwealth were being laid; cities, towns, and villages were being laid out and settled; churches and schools were being erected; and roads and bridges were under construction. But the paramount obligation resting upon the Church then as now was to preach the gospel and to proclaim the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. In this tremendous responsibility the leaders of the Church have been diligent and determined. May we be given the faith and the understanding to continue in this great enterprise and thus discharge the solemn obligation resting upon all of us, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER S. DILWORTH YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

BY THE Spirit of the Holy Ghost, about whom my fellow council member spoke so movingly this morning, I can bridge the nineteen hundred odd years between our day and the time of our beloved Lord. By that Spirit I can go with him as he walked the hills of Judea; I can follow him to the cross; I can hear the discussion at Emmaus and can enjoy the perfect love for him which his disciples felt after his resurrection. That event we celebrate today. While the distance in time through the years has been long, it seems but a short time because of this Spirit. I am grateful to have a testimony which speaks to my heart that he was indeed resurrected. Because of that resurrection, I

may have hope, hope for eternal life.

So also may I enjoy the feeling and knowledge of how my brethren felt when they heard that on that immortal day 133 years ago, a new prophet was in the earth, and that he indeed had seen his Redeemer and had been told that through him, he being faithful, would come the restoration of the everlasting gospel. By the Spirit the vision of that day becomes very real.

We sit here today, comfortable, because of those events and because of our belief and acceptance of them. And on this day, which is Easter, I wonder now, what of the future. We can think of the past; we can enjoy it; but our future depends upon us, and that fu-

Sunday, April 5

Second Day

ture is bound up in what we intend to do about preaching this gospel to the nations of the earth.

Did you hear, as I heard yesterday, the statement made that we had a number slightly over two thousand missionaries? As I recall it, a year or so ago there were over six thousand. That gap should be filled. And personally, I can see no reason why it should not be filled. The men with the power to catch up the number sit in this Tabernacle under the direction of the Presidency of the Church. The bishop of the ward shall call upon people who he thinks might be able to go on missions; the stake president will interview them and then pass their applications on to the General Authorities.

It should not be a hard thing, from fifteen hundred wards, to find four thousand people. It is only three for each ward on the average. In the days of our poverty, can you see two missionaries, who had less apparent reason to have faith than we have, starting out on a mission which they had been told to fill in England? They go off in a wagon, hardly able to stand. On the way they meet a brother who is felling trees, barefooted. I suppose he does not want to do it barefooted, but he does not have any shoes. He says, "I have nothing to give you, but here is a purse." You and I, in our modern way of looking at things, might say, "Well, what is the good of a purse?" But they take it and thank him and go on. A little farther along the road, they meet another one, equally poverty-stricken, equally poor. He says, "I have nothing much to give you; what do you have?" And one of them speaks up and says, "Well, we have a purse." "Good, I have a dollar to put in that purse." And so he gives them his only dollar. One of those men said later, "From that moment on, that purse was never empty. As I needed, I could take from it that which was necessary."

It befalls my lot to interview, occasionally, missionaries, in the days of our prosperity. A few weeks ago I had a

young man come into the office to be interviewed. I said to him in the course of the conversation, "Who is going to support you on this mission?"

And he said, "My mother."

I said, "Is your father alive?"

"No, sir, he is dead."

"Can your mother do it?"

He said, "She cannot, but she will."

There is no doubt in my mind that she will.

Many of the boys who go out, go out that way, because somebody has enough faith to know that in the Lord's work the way opens.

I think I shall recount to you, so that you will not overlook others besides widows' sons, an experience had by one of our co-laborers, which was related to me a few days ago. I hope he will forgive me for mentioning it. President Grant, from this pulpit one time, invited men to become missionaries, and said, in effect, too, that that did not exclude stake presidents and bishops. And one of these brethren, a bishop, went home and said to himself, "Well, I guess that must mean me. I am a bishop, and the President of the Church said bishops were not excluded." He had a family of several children, a prosperous growing business, but he laid it aside and accepted a mission and was gone several months, preaching the gospel, because he thought the prophet of the Lord meant him, personally.

Now, he took that to himself. The prophet did not point his finger at him, but hearing the word he applied it to himself. I think we must apply it to ourselves, now. If we can not obtain twenty-year-old boys, can't we have some thirty-year-old men? If we have eighteen thousand or so seventies, could we not find four thousand of them? They are minute men. I believe we can.

And, of course, the Presidency have pointed out several times, in my hearing, that we do have in the foreign mission fields able people who can already

speak the languages, ready and willing to serve. They can do that one thing which we can't do; that is, interpret to the people our beliefs in terms of that language. They are unable to go because they have not the way to finance themselves.

I know they can be financed. President McKay suggested last night that they should be partially financed, because they ought to make some contribution themselves or their folks ought to help them, too. But we can take care of the difference easily.

It occurred to me one time that in every stake there are between eight hundred and twelve hundred families. I said to the members of one stake, in a quarterly conference, "Why, if you went to only one movie a week, you would be able to save the difference, from the two movies you usually attend." One little boy on the front row piped up and said, "I go to three."

Staying away from a movie a week, would make it possible for every stake in this Church to supply anywhere from eight to twelve of those foreign-speaking members of ours, and no harm would be done.

I used to work in an organization which builds character in boys. Its main object is to have them do things, many times repeated, in order to learn. We had a motto which we tried to instil into those boys. It reads, "Do a good turn daily," the idea being that if a boy does it every day he will soon have the habit of doing it.

The actual builders of the characters of your children are not the organizations, but you parents: you can build into your children whatever you want to. Do you want your children to become missionary-minded? Do you want them to believe they ought to be missionaries when they grow up? Then have them do things now which will bring to their minds the work of our missionary system.

May I suggest something? You farmers—why do not your boys this

year have one row of potatoes which, when harvested next fall, will be given to the missionary fund of the Church? No harm is done; nobody is hurt. You beet farmers, why not one row of beets your boys and your girls can harvest, and let that portion apply? You men who raise hay, why not a quarter or half an acre dedicated to the Finnish Mission? You sheep men, have your child raise a lamb, dedicated, when it is fattened and killed, to one of the German missions.

You folk in California—one nut tree, one orange tree, your children dedicating it and talking about it and picking the fruit, saying all the while, "This is for the missionary system." Nobody is harmed; your income has not shrunk; and the fund is increased to where we can actually do the business.

Yes, and you folk in the cities—the car can last another year; the suit of clothes can go another year; desserts served less often; a bottle on the pantry shelf labeled "missionary fund" and the trick is done, and the children are conscious of it. We then have back again our six thousand missionaries, and more, too. In the time of our poverty we could do it. Why cannot we do it in the time of our prosperity? There is so little poverty in the Church. There is so much prosperity.

May the Spirit of the Lord dictate to each of us our place, our duty, and our responsibility, I humbly ask, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

The Tabernacle Choir and the congregation will now sing, "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning."

After the singing we shall hear from Bishop Thorpe B. Isaacson.

The congregation and the Choir joined in singing the hymn, "The Spirit of God Like A Fire Is Burning."