

authority, all of the principles that are necessary for the great work of preparation; and ours, I repeat, is the sole responsibility to go forward and see that our mission is carried out.

We must live righteously. We must keep the commandments of the Lord. We must do his work. He has told us what we are to do, and if we are to gain the salvation which we hope and expect to gain and meet our responsibilities, we must obey what he has told us to do.

My brothers and sisters, if we think of this carefully, I am sure we cannot approach our work in the Church with lightmindedness. I am sure we shall have to be a prayerful people. I am sure we shall have to live in accordance with the commandments which he has given. I am sure we must use our utmost endeavors to build up the kingdom of God here on earth.

I hope, my brothers and sisters, that we shall not be remiss in anything that pertains to ourselves or to our activities in the Church.

I add again my testimony, which I have borne time and again, that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that he came to earth, lived, moved among men, carried on his mission, that in due time and in accordance with the plan, he was

crucified, and lay in the tomb, and rose on the third morning. I testify that Joseph was the Prophet through whom the Lord re-established his Church here on earth, so ushering in this last Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, for the carrying forward of which and the perfecting of which we are responsible, that the priesthood came, that the gospel was fully restored.

I testify that those who followed the Prophet succeeded to his powers, to his rights and prerogatives and that has come down through to our present President, President David Oman McKay. I testify that if we will follow the advice and the counsel of those who are placed over us, we shall carry forward the work which we are obliged to do—I say obliged, because we are.

May the Lord bless each and every one of us and help us to do our part, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., of the First Presidency, has just spoken to us. We shall now hear from Elder Thomas E. McKay, Assistant to the Twelve, who will be followed by Elder Antoine R. Ivins.

ELDER THOMAS E. MCKAY

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

PRESIDENT McKay, Counselors, President Smith, other members of the General Authorities, brethren and sisters:

I am very thankful for this opportunity of being here this morning. I have enjoyed the services thus far, and especially the opening address of President McKay yesterday morning. I pray humbly that the same spirit that has prompted all those who have spoken will help me, also. I feel very humble, and my heart is full of thanksgiving at this time for this opportunity of again bearing my testimony to you that

the gospel is true, that Jesus is the Christ and is head of this Church.

I feel more grateful than ever this morning for my mother, that she was instrumental in insisting on my father's accepting his call to go into the mission field at the time he was called and would not permit him to postpone that call for a year because of her delicate condition. That was a great decision in the history of the David McKay family, and I appreciate it more this morning than ever. She said, "David, you go on that mission. The Lord wants you now, not a year from now.

He can take care of me when you are in Scotland as well as if you were at my bedside." It was just ten days after he left for the mission field that a beautiful little spirit, one of the choicest, came to our home. She was over two years old before my father saw her.

I say I am grateful that that decision was made to go on a mission at that time. I love the missionary work, and I am so grateful to hear the beautiful voices of our German Saints. It is a wonderful choir, and I congratulate them. I am proud of them. I thought perhaps I had heard some of the voices over in Germany and Switzerland, but they all sounded so young and fresh that I think perhaps they were born since I left. Anyhow, it is a fine choir, and I congratulate them.

I recall that just fifty-three years ago (now you know why I think they are too young)—I am going to reminisce. I had decided I would not, because it is a sign of old age, but I suppose I am as I was the first time I rode a bicycle. Mother told me not to go on the highway. I just reached the highway and had to turn around, and there was a telephone pole and a heavy brace. I kept my eye on that pole and determined not to hit it, but I hit it. That is the way I am with reminiscing, I guess—but hearing this fine German choir is partly the cause of it.

Fifty-three years ago, I recall the first mission-wide conference that I attended after arriving there. It was in Berlin. President Francis M. Lyman was president of the European Mission. He had invited to accompany him my good friend, George Q. Morris, one of my classmates, and I knew more of the singers that were there, the students, than I did the missionaries. It was a thrill to meet them.

Our Church has always been interested in the young people studying music, and I was happy at that conference to see so many of our students there. The state of Utah has been proud, too. At that time we had more young people abroad studying music

than any other state in the Union, according to population. Of course, that was before World War I, and Berlin and Vienna were the centers of culture so far as music was concerned. Those students—and I want to pay tribute to them—it has been my experience that they have always been willing, no matter what their positions—one of them sang in the Kaiser's Opera House, but they were always willing and pleased to take part in the branches and help the missionaries.

I was amused after that trip, to receive a book from Brother Morris, his Baedeker's *Rhine*. He wanted to prepare before he came into Germany, and he bought this Baedeker's *Rhine* as a guidebook, and he was kind enough after he arrived in London—he was President of the London Conference—to send this book to me. On the flyleaf was written, pardon me (Brother Morris and Sister Morris) was written in quotation marks, "Good-bye, Sweet Day." That is one of Sister Morris' favorite songs. I remember Anthony Lund, later to be conductor of the Tabernacle Choir, told me once that nobody could sing that song just as Sister Emma Ramsey could sing it, and it was "Good-bye, Single Bliss," also, Brother Morris, as far as you were concerned. She had rendered it at that conference. It was a wonderful conference.

After that session we went down to Frankfurt on the Main, and I had headquarters in that mission for thirty months. I was worried, of course, about the conference. I had the responsibility. We had the largest hall in Frankfurt at one of the big hotels. We had freedom there. Frankfurt is what we call a *freistadt*, and always has been, a free city; it did not belong to any kingdom but did belong to the German Empire.

We had to register our meetings, however, and we became acquainted with the policemen who used to attend, and we would always speak to them on the streets as we met them, and they were our friends. But at this confer-

Saturday, October 3

Second Day

ence—it was new, we had to register it, of course—none of our friends came to represent the authorities, but a young officer (in a new suit, his sword shined) came in. Our reception committee met him and offered to show him to a seat on the stand, but that would not do. He took a seat in the choir, the soprano section. He made himself conspicuous. He had me worried. I thought, maybe we will have some trouble here, but after the first song by the congregation, and the prayer, Sister Emma Lucy Gates Bowen, sang "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," and oh, how she did sing it. Right after that the choir, and we had a good choir—the missionaries were there helping, as usual—sang that favorite Mormon hymn, "Oh, My Father." They stood up to sing it. When they sat down, I looked for our German officer, but he had disappeared. He was so ashamed of the way he had acted there, and then to hear that beautiful singing, and see that wonderful choir and hear them, he decided that this was not any place for him.

The next day we took a trip down the Rhine, Brother Lyman and Brother Morris returning to England. Some of the presidents of the other conferences were accompanying us, and we went on and finished the tour of the Frankfurt Conference. Brother William Seegmiller was one of those presidents—he was president of the Berlin Conference at the time; Brother Heppler was another. You may think I am bragging now, but in that mission under Hugh J. Cannon, one of the greatest missionaries the Church has produced, there were President Mabey, President Neslen, and President Seegmiller, and as I have stated, Brother Heppler. Soon after we returned home, the German Mission, as President Cannon said, had taken over the state: Brother Mabey was governor (this was all at the same time); Brother Neslen was mayor of Salt Lake City; Brother Seegmiller, speaker of the house; Brother Heppler, floor leader in the house; and I was president of the

senate. We were all German missionaries there together.

But I want to refer to the soloists that were there, the students that were studying in music, and pay tribute to them for the help they gave us in our missionary work. God bless their memory. I think it was that trip down the Rhine where we got so well acquainted with Brother Lyman, listening to some of his stories about early Church history. Perhaps this visit and better acquaintance with President Francis M. Lyman had a bearing on my call on my second mission, six years after I returned from my first, at least, President Lyman led me to believe so. I had been called to another very important position; I accepted and told the presidency of the Weber Stake I would rather go to South Africa or any other place on a mission than accept, but I accepted it, as bishop of one of the wards. I went home from the party that night and had a good cry.

I did not hear any more of that call, however, to the bishopric. The brethren, contrary to instructions, had spoken to me before they had sent my name in to the General Authorities for their approval, so the next thing I knew I was called to preside over the Swiss-German Mission. When I met President Lyman on the street, he smiled and said, "Brother Thomas, it is a good thing sometimes to have a friend at court." And I took it from that that he had had something to do with the change from being bishop to presiding over that mission.

That is why, six years after that first mission, I was back there again, this time to preside over the Swiss-German Mission, which comprised France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and part of Romania. It was a great experience, brothers and sisters, and I am so grateful this morning for that missionary experience.

Yes, we had our choirs there to help us. I tell you, music is one of the greatest helps that the missionaries have in spreading the gospel. We had

choirs in Königsberg, way up in East Prussia, Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt on the Main, Chemnitz, a large choir, Zurich down in Switzerland, and Basel, and these choirs composed largely, no, not largely, but quite a percentage of them were friends, investigators. They were not investigators long after they began singing our hymns and partaking of the spirit of these beautiful singers; they became members also. Music has been a great help in spreading the gospel.

I want to mention and pay tribute to Professor Thomas Giles, Tom Giles, as I always called him. He was there in Vienna studying. He was there when we baptized the first two members, a father and his daughter, and he remained there, after six years, and took over the singing and often the preaching. He was a great help, as were all the singers. God bless them.

In 1937 we were called to preside over the Swiss-German Mission with instructions to make three missions out of the two, that is the German-Austrian and Swiss-German. Out of this grew the East German mission with headquarters in Berlin, the West German mission with headquarters in Frankfurt, and the Swiss-Austrian mission with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland.

President Reese had been released on account of illness, and I was then appointed the president of the East German mission with instructions to continue as president of the Swiss-Austrian until my successor was appointed. I was in Berlin when war was declared.

President Joseph Fielding Smith and his wife were there touring the mission; they had just about finished. They were hurrying to catch their ship, and a cablegram came from the First Presidency when war was declared, to cancel their passages and remain there and help get the missionaries home. So they had to get out of Germany. They were in the West German Mission at the time. They left for Copenhagen where I had sent all of the missionaries from the East German Mission. Brother

Wood went up there with more than half of his missionaries, the others leaving via Holland, but Brother Mark Garff was presiding there in Copenhagen in the Danish Mission and with the added responsibilities was equal to the task as usual. He took care of all of them, and with the assistance of President Smith, did wonderful work; all of the missionaries were returned home.

Since I was in Switzerland, I was permitted to remain a little longer than the others. Our Consul General Boerman in Basel—oh, I will never forget him—made it possible through the offices of the Consul General to telephone to any of the headquarters that I wanted to—Brother Brown over in London, Brother Joseph Evans in Paris, and Brother Murdock in Holland, the Netherlands Mission, and then up to Copenhagen where the other mission presidents were. And this fine man—he is still alive, and you fisherman friends that I love so much, he is a great fisherman, and that brought us closer together—would do anything for us.

Then, of course, we had to leave the mission. We called local people to take charge, and they had charge all during the war. And I want to pay tribute to those men, three of them lost their lives in the war. Brother Herbert Kloefer, whom I put in charge, with two very wonderful men, elderly men, to help him, lost his life. The Brother Biel that Brother Wood left in charge, lost his life. But I remember getting a letter from him in which he said, "Brother McKay, I am called into service and have to leave in the morning. I have not time to get your approval, but I have chosen Brother Heck, and he says that his parents claim that you blessed him as a baby, so perhaps he will be all right." And he lost his life. Those three presidents gave their lives, and they were as fine spirits as ever came. God bless their memories.

Then the local brethren carried on all during the war. But they were not alone; not entirely left alone. Again,

Saturday, October 3

Second Day

music comes into it, our choirs. This wonderful Tabernacle Choir, singing as it has been doing for lo, these many years, the second longest, I think, in radio, continued singing; and their choir numbers were being transcribed by another fine young man in Stuttgart. He had charge of the radio system there, Brother Fred Taylor, Jr. And those Tabernacle Choir songs were transcribed and went into quite a large part of Germany. Our members were thrilled by them.

Scores of letters from appreciative friends in Europe were received by the choir. Sister Mary Jack, secretary of the choir sent them over to my office. I had the honor of being acting mission president for the European Mission, and we would read them and send them to these fine mission presidents over there.

Well, God bless our choirs and our music, it is a great help to this great missionary work.

I remember, too, I want to recommend not only choirs throughout the Church, but also singing in the home, the parents singing together, husband and wife. President Smith will pardon me for this, I am sure; he gave some fine sermons there in visiting our European Mission, but they will not be remembered like the duet that he and his sweetheart sang; he would sit down on the bench, and she would play the accompaniment, and they would sing a song. The members will remember that. There are members here in the choir who will remember that duet.

I recommend that as an example to you fathers and mothers, you husbands and wives. Sit down at the piano and

play together. Sometimes the husband has to play with one finger, but it is all right; I want to tell you it does the work to that family.

And then I remember visiting a stake where a young mother brought her three children and handed the baby to somebody to take care of while she accompanied her family. I do not believe the conference was ever so touched as by the beautiful music of that mother accompanying her three daughters. So I recommend music in the home.

God bless our missionary system. This is a great missionary Church. And God bless the music in this system. I am glad that Brother Asper is playing here. He is one of my German missionaries, by the way. And speaking of—I should stop, I know; my wife is worrying; so are some others, I should not speak so long—but I recall receiving a letter on my second mission from Brother Hansen who was presiding over the Nuremberg District. He asked whether the mission could help buy an organ for the branch, that they had a wonderful little organist there, and I was delighted to help them. That little organist is our wonderful, one of the greatest organists in the world today, Brother Alexander Schreiner. God help us to have music in our homes, in our branches, in our stakes, and music everywhere. In the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone." I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Thomas E. McKay, Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us. Elder Antoine R. Ivins, of the First Council of Seventy, will be our next speaker.

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

MY BELOVED brethren and sisters: It is twenty-two years this month since I made the first trip up those steps, and it is no easier today than it was then.

I stand before you as your servant, depending entirely upon your faith and prayers and the Spirit of our heavenly Father to direct the testimony that I shall bear to you today. I have a fer-