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Apostles. Whether the Twelve Apostles had anything to do with writing it has nothing to do with the point under consideration. The writing was originally in Hebrew, and what we wish to draw attention to is that whenever the manuscript was first written, the writers of the original believed that Jesus was he who spake with the ancient Israelites. It commences:

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, according as it was said by the Holy Spirit, I send an angel before his face, who shall prepare his way.

"It came to pass in the 309th year of Alexander, the son of Philip the Macedonian, in the reign of Tiberius Caesar, in the government of Herod, the ruler of the Jews, that the Angel Gabriel, the chief of the angels, by command of God went down to Nazareth to a virgin

called Miriam, of the tribe of Judah the son of Israel (her who was betrothed to Joseph the Just), and he appeared to her and said, "Lo! there ariseth from thee the one who spake with our fathers, and he shall be a Savior to Israel; and they who do not confess him shall perish, for his authority is in the lofty heights, and his kingdom does not pass away." "

The Lord bless you all I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President Joseph Fielding Smith, president of the Council of the Twelve, has just concluded speaking. We shall now hear from Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric, who will be followed by President Levi Edgar Young.

BISHOP CARL W. BUEHNER

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

MY DEAR brethren and sisters, difficult as this assignment is for me, I must admit that I am still very happy to be able to greet you in general conference, and to bear you my testimony of the divinity of this great work, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and I hope in the few moments that I stand here that the Lord will sustain me.

I should like to pay my humble tribute to the three great high priests who preside over our Church, the First Presidency of this Church, the men whom we love and honor, men who serve as if in the prime of life, and yet have lived many years beyond those at which most of us retire.

If I am right, and I think I am, all three of these great leaders have had a birthday since our last general conference. President McKay in his eighty-first year is an inspiration to the Church, a great leader. I have met several women who, when seeing President McKay walk by, say, "He looks just like an angel." I can concur in this, and

besides that, he speaks and looks as a prophet.

Standing at his one side is President Stephen L. Richards, the youngest of these three, a man with a great legal mind, a great organizer, and he certainly has been an outstanding counselor to President McKay.

On his other side is the dean of the General Authorities of the Church, President Clark, in his eighty-third year—a man who has become one of the greatest statesmen we will ever know and with a testimony of the gospel as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar.

I am sure you all join with me in expressing our love and admiration for these three great men, for their devoted leadership over the Church.

As I figure this up, these men together have lived 237 years, and if I am right, and I don't think I am far from it, they have served either in the Council of the Twelve or as the Presidency of the Church for an aggregate of more than one hundred years.

I would like to suppose that the combined information of these three outstanding men, together with inspiration and revelation from our heavenly Father, would exceed the knowledge of any other three men upon the face of the earth today. I am sure I am right in this supposition.

They are our leaders. Brethren and sisters, I wish that leaders of men and nations all over this earth would listen to the counsel of these three great leaders of ours. When I think of the millions, yes, billions of dollars that are spent to create weapons of war, destructive weapons designed to wipe out the people of the earth, and I compare that with the message that goes forth from Zion carried by the missionaries of the Church, I assure you they go forth with greater power than the power of deadly weapons, and I sincerely hope the day will soon come when these young men can go forth as an army of men clothed with righteousness and the power of the priesthood, preaching the gospel of peace and salvation to the nations of the earth. I would that we had twenty thousand of them instead of the two or three thousand we have in the earth today and that they would not be restricted in their work of preaching to every nation, every kindred, every tongue, and every people.

Brother Sonne made a very significant statement in his talk, and I have felt the same thing, that the strength of the Church is in the individual testimony of its members, and as I have traveled about this Church, I have had some wonderful manifestations, and I have heard some very thrilling experiences. I would like to relate two or three of these to you.

Recently, when it was announced that we were going to build a temple in Switzerland and another one in England, a number of people came into my office, and I am sure they have to the offices of all of these brethren, wondering how they could make a contribution to the erection of these temples.

Among those who came to see me was

a very elderly couple, and they said, "Bishop, just how could we make a small contribution toward the construction of the Swiss Temple? We have had such a thrilling experience in our life doing temple work and genealogical work, we would love to make a little contribution to that temple and to those good people in that far-off land." So, I told them that that was a very easy thing to do, and if they just wanted to leave the money, I would be glad to give them a receipt for it, and I would be sure that it would go toward that very marvelous project. Then, this man's good wife said, "Brother Buehner, would it be possible for my name to be put on that receipt?" and I said, "We will fix that receipt any way you would like to have it." She said, "Now, I don't want to give you the impression that my husband and I have not been very happy. We have been. We have had a wonderful life together, but I would like to see my name on that receipt along with my husband's name." This seemed satisfactory.

So they said, "We'll be back in a little while." In about thirty minutes, they returned, and this good man, his life almost over, and so was his wife's—they had lived a long time—laid down a check for a thousand dollars, and his wife gave me ten one-hundred-dollar greenbacks, another thousand dollars, each wanting to contribute a thousand dollars toward the erection of the temple in Switzerland.

Others with their two dollars and five dollars and ten dollars, and a thousand dollars and ten thousand dollars and more—it is marvelous what the people of the Church voluntarily do to help push forward this great work.

I heard another little experience that happened somewhere up in the Uintah Basin a while ago, where for twenty-five years they talked about building a new chapel. Finally, the bishopric then in the ward decided they had talked about this thing long enough, and they would like to organize a finance committee, a building committee and go

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ahead, so they sent out letters assessing the membership of the ward for this purpose.

Among those who received a letter and an assessment of one hundred dollars was a little widow who had not been very active in the Church, and one that the bishopric did not know very well; but they thought they would visit this woman. When they went to her home and opened the door, they realized they had made a great mistake. They should never have assessed this poor, little old soul one hundred dollars, they said, and so in the middle of their talk of trying to justify what they had done in talking themselves out of the assessment that they had made to this woman, she said, "Just a minute, brethren, you have assessed me one hundred dollars. I would like to do my part." They said she walked over to the mantel shelf, reached her hand into a little piece of crockery, and counted out to the bishop five hundred dollars in greenbacks.

Then he said that time went on, and the building got started. They were putting the rafters on it, and one day the bishop got another call from this woman, and he thought, "Oh, dear, she wants her money back, and we have spent it on the chapel."

When they went to see her, she said, "You don't know how thrilled I am to see our building come into fruition. We have talked about it all these years, but you brethren have actually gone to work, and now I can see it grow, and the rafters are going on. I would just like to give you another five hundred dollars to be sure it is completed because I don't think I'll live until we finish the building, and I would like to have a little credit on the other side."

This is not just an isolated case. We hear these stories all the time.

Let me tell you one other experience, a little different from this, and then my time is up.

I was up in Richland Stake in Richland, Washington, not so long ago, and a man was called out of the audi-

ence to bear his testimony, a new convert to the Church. When he came to the stand, he was shaking much worse than I am now, and I am very shaky, and said, "I think I'll tell you people how I became a member of the Church. I was a very ardent Baptist, and I lived in New York City near the leaders of the Baptist Church. One day they called me in and asked me if I would go on a mission to the Belgian Congo, and I accepted. Of course, they said, 'Now, we'll pay you \$425.00 a month while you are on the mission,' but even at that they could not get very many missionaries to serve for the Baptist Church. I spent three years there, and when I completed my mission, I got on a boat coming up the African coast. The second day on board that boat, I noticed two fine, clean-cut looking young men walking around the deck of that boat, each with two books under their arms. They so fascinated me; they so attracted my attention that I could not keep my eyes off those young men, and I followed them nearly all day. Finally near the end of the day, I got enough courage to walk up to them and introduce myself. I learned they also had been missionaries in South Africa, and I said to these young men, 'The Baptist Church pays me \$425.00 a month. How much does your Church pay you?' These two young men smiled and said, 'Our Church does not pay us anything. We pay our own expenses.' Then I began to feel humiliated. For twenty-one days as we crossed the ocean, we sat on the deck of the boat, and we compared the doctrine I taught as compared with the doctrine of these two fine young missionaries. I became so converted that I was all wrong and that these young men were all right that I hated to see the boat arrive in the harbor at New York, and I just did not want these young men to get out of my sight. As a matter of fact I did follow them halfway across the continent, and here I am in Richland today, a member of the Mormon Church, and the happiest member in this stake. To this

day, I have not collected my last check of \$425.00, and to this day, I have not reported to the leaders of the Baptist Church that I have returned from the Belgian Congo." And the way he said that, I just believe he was one of the happiest members of the Richland Stake.

It is wonderful what you see as you travel about the Church. Brethren and sisters, I just hope we will have a desire to serve our heavenly Father with all our might, mind, and strength.

Let us sustain these three great leaders of ours with all the strength we have. Let us live our religion. We are great teachers when we remember who we are and when we live our lives and reflect through our lives the value of the gospel to us. May we be loyal, may we be faithful, may we accept the responsibilities that come to us and do them faithfully and do them well. We

will live longer. There is life when we are active, and there could be spiritual death if we do not accept the opportunities that come to us to serve.

If these great men can serve as they do, I am sure we should each have a desire to do our part to make their load as light for them as we can and to help push forward this great work of our heavenly Father, and may it be so, and may the blessings of our heavenly Father be with everyone of us always, I pray humbly in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church has just addressed us. We shall now hear from President Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of the Seventy.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

MY BRETHREN AND SISTERS: I should like to express my appreciation for this excellent choir that has been rendering the music of today. The singers are Germans, and we are all interested in the German people. They have made a contribution to this sacred religious movement that we represent. I believe with all my heart that the German nation will come back and establish again the civilization and culture that it once had. They are a great people.

A few days ago, two meetings of all the General Authorities of the Church were held. The first one was in the temple at Logan, and a few days later the second meeting was held in our temple here in Salt Lake City. In thinking of them I realize more and more that to love and know God is the highest blessedness of mankind. Temples built by the Latter-day Saints are houses of prayer, of fasting, and of faith, houses of glory and order, houses of God. You recall the words as found

in the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple which were given by the Prophet Joseph Smith:

... seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek learning even by study and also by faith;

Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God;

Have mercy, O Lord, upon all the nations of the earth; have mercy upon the rulers of our land; may those principles, which were so honorably and nobly defended, namely, the Constitution of our land, by our fathers, be established forever. (D. & C. 109:7-8, 54.)

I wonder sometimes if in reading our sacred books we enter into the thoughts of the prophets of God; and into their hearts. Have we as religious and moral men sought to attain the perfect life by contemplation and work? So much might be said about our meetings in the