

PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I SUPPOSE THERE are members in the congregation and who are listening in who are anxious to know something about their boys who are in the service of the country in the Far East; and others who are anxious to know about their sons serving in the mission fields in that section of the world. I will have more to say about that as I continue. I wish to make a brief report of what was accomplished in the mission assigned to me to the Far East.

Monday, July 25, accompanied by my wife, Herald Grant Heaton and his wife and baby, and a group of missionaries, I arrived in Tokyo, Japan. The first two days were spent in visits to military quarters with the chiefs of staff, all of whom received us kindly.

Wednesday the 27th, conference convened in Karuizawa in Japan and was held for three days with the missionaries of the Japanese Mission and servicemen who were able to attend. At that conference the division of the Japanese Mission was presented, renaming the northern part composed of Korea, Japan, and Okinawa, the Northern Far East Mission, and the southern part, composed of Formosa, Hong Kong, the Philippine Islands, and Guam, the Southern Far East Mission, with Herald Grant Heaton as president, Hilton A. Robertson remaining as president of the Northern Far East Mission. He had been presiding over all that territory before the division.

At this conference, for the first time, a vote was taken by those assembled to approve the division of the mission and other action which was taken. This vote was received unanimously in the affirmative, and every place we went and held conference from that time on, the same procedure was carried out, so that the members of the Church in each place had an opportunity to vote on the matter of creating two missions out of what was the Japanese Mission.

Now the term Japanese Mission hardly suited the situation, for it was not just Japan that was concerned. Therefore, they readily accepted the change

and that the northern part be called the Northern Far East Mission, taking in Korea, Japan, and Okinawa.

Monday, August 1, Presidents Robertson and Heaton, Colonel Robert H. Slover, Captain Hildebrand, and I left Japan for Korea, arriving in Seoul that afternoon. Of course you realize we could only do that by going by air, and all of our traveling after reaching Japan was by air.

Tuesday afternoon, August 2, on a hill overlooking Seoul and in the presence of a small group, I dedicated the land of Korea for the preaching of the gospel and the establishment of the work of the kingdom of God. We held meetings with the Saints in Seoul and also with the servicemen. I will give these details, and then, if time will permit, I wish to say something about the servicemen and the missionaries.

Wednesday we went to Munsani-ni. We held a meeting there on the borders of the land separating North from South Korea. On Thursday following, we returned to Seoul, attended to some business there, and then took plane for Pusan and held meetings with members of the Church and servicemen there.

In Korea at Seoul and at Pusan, I ordained men to offices in the Aaronic Priesthood, ordaining some priests, some deacons, so that these good people could hold their meetings and administer the sacrament. Also I set apart Dr. Kim Ho Jik, the only elder in Korea, as president of the Korean District of the mission, and gave to him as counselors, Elder Frederick Shumway, who was in the service of the country in that part of the country, and later Houk Yung Gil, a native, as second counselor.

Returning to Japan we held meetings in Osaka and Tokyo.

August 11, President Robertson, his wife, Sister Smith, and I, left Japan for Okinawa. President Heaton had previously left for Hong Kong. On the island of Okinawa we located a site for a building. On Sunday, August 14, in the presence of a large group of members, I dedicated the island of Okinawa, as we had done the land of Korea, for

the establishment of the work of the Lord in that island.

Monday, the fifteenth we parted from Colonel Robert H. Slover, who had accompanied us in all of our travels up to that point, and took a plane for Hong Kong, and there were met by President Heaton. In Hong Kong, before a small group of members, we presented the matter of the division of the mission and the sustaining of Herald Grant Heaton as President of the Southern Far East Mission, which was enthusiastically received.

Friday evening, August 19, we parted company with President and Sister Robertson who returned to Japan, and President Heaton and wife, my wife and I left for Manila, Philippine Islands. We arrived at 10:30 p.m. and were met by a number of servicemen and E. M. Grimm, better known as "Pete," who was very kind to us and placed at our service an automobile and driver, two automobiles and drivers when necessary, for our entire stay in the Philippine Islands, and in other ways he was very kind and looked after many of our interests.

Sunday, August 21, 1955, at a beautiful grove in Clark Military Field, I dedicated the Philippine Islands as I had done Korea and Okinawa.

Tuesday, August 23, we left at 10:30 p.m. for the Island of Guam where we arrived the next morning. We remained in Guam, holding meetings with Saints and servicemen until the morning of Friday, August 26, when we took our leave and by plane arrived in Honolulu, Friday morning, August 26, at 4:45 a.m.

Before leaving, however, on August 25, in the presence of a large congregation of members, I dedicated the Island of Guam, thus dedicating Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, and Guam while on this mission to the Far East.

I want to say a few words of commendation for some of these brethren in the Far East who are doing a wonderful work: first, Colonel Robert H. Slover, chairman of the servicemen's co-ordinating committee in those lands, a vigorous, energetic, faithful man in the service of the country, devoting his time to our servicemen, attending to the details and looking after the interests

of the young men in the service in a most thorough manner.

He is assisted by Captain Clain Smith, Major LeRoy Walker, Corporal Mark Frazer, and with these I must also mention Elder Rodney W. Fye, who is serving in the intelligence department of the Army in Korea, who has done a wonderful work for our young men in Korea. He is a very outstanding young man. Also, I wish to mention Elder Youngberg in Okinawa, presiding in the branch; Blain Elmer in the Philippines where we do not have members, but who is looking after the interests of our servicemen there, and Victor A. Olsen in Guam.

Now I want to say to you mothers, particularly, fathers, too, who have sons in the mission field in any of these Eastern countries—(Well, we have no missionaries in some of these places yet.) If your sons are called to go to the Far East to labor among the Japanese people, the Korean people, the people on these islands of the Far Pacific, do not feel disappointed. Do not feel sorry and wish that they had been appointed to some European country or somewhere within the borders of the United States or the South Pacific. These people in these lands who have joined the Church are just as good as we are. Those people in those Far East countries are human beings, with like feelings and passions. They can love and they can hate just as you and I may love and hate. When they receive the gospel of Jesus Christ, they are just as good as we are.

I could not help, when I met with them and took them by the hand and looked into their countenances, but feel that I could and did love them. They are the people of God, just as the people are anywhere else on the face of the earth who receive the truth, and they can bear testimony of the truth, as I have heard them do, as the people can do in any of the stakes and wards of Zion.

Do not feel disappointed. The missionaries do not feel disappointed unless perchance they never received the spirit of their mission. You fathers and mothers who have sons serving in the forces, be proud of them. They are fine young men. Some of our servicemen are con-

Saturday, October 1

Second Day

verts, who have been brought into the Church by the teachings, by precept and by example—principally by example by the members of the Church who are also serving with them in the forces.

I met a number of young men who said, "We came in the Church because of the lives of these young men and because they taught us the principles of the gospel."

They are doing a good work. There might be one or two that may be careless, but those young men with whom I had the privilege of meeting, talking to, would bear their testimony of the truth and were walking humbly.

And as I met with the officers and chaplains (and unfortunately, at this time, we have no chaplain of the Church there), but when I met with them, universally they said, "We like your young men. They are clean. They are dependable."

One of these chaplains, when I was talking with him, said, "I keep two of these young men of your faith with me all the time. If I lose one of them, if he is called away, I get another." While I was talking with him, a young man came in with a message, and when he was in there, he held out his hand and said, "I am Brother so-and-so. (I do not remember his name now.)" He received the instruction given him and departed. A little later another one came. He likewise was a member of the Church. This man, not a member of the Church, said, "I keep them with me all the time because they are dependable."

Be proud of your boys. Be proud of your young men in the mission field. That is a good field, and those people

are entitled to hear the truth just as well as the people of Europe or of any other part of this world. These people who are living and laboring among them are happy. I saw none that was discontented.

The Spirit of the Lord is leading them. The doors are opening for them to preach the gospel.

Now just one more word that I would like to say. This comes a little close to me; nevertheless I want to say it. Sister Smith's singing everywhere we went was a great help. When she could not go to Korea, we took a record of "The King of Glory," and we were able to broadcast the recording from the military grounds so it could be heard all over the city; so her voice was heard there, although she was not privileged to accompany me.

It was a glorious visit. I think we accomplished some good.

Brother Heaton, a young man, full of energy and astonishingly full of knowledge, knows those people in the Far East and loves them, and he will be successful in his mission field.

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

President David O. McKay:

That interesting report of the expansion of the Church in the Far East, a significant epoch in Church history, to which you have just listened, was given by President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. We shall now hear Brother Sterling W. Sill, Assistant to the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder Marion D. Hanks.

ELDER STERLING W. SILL

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles



been said.

After that long awful night of betrayal and trial, Jesus was brought before Pilate. Pilate believed that Jesus

WAS INNOCENT of any wrong and made a weak attempt to try and save his life by taking advantage of one of his privileges as Roman governor to release a prisoner to the Jews at the time of the Passover. Pilate had in his custody a noted insurrectionist and murderer by the name of Barabbas, and probably relying upon the sense of fairness of the Jews that certainly they would not

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