

us. I bear my witness to you today on this Easter Sabbath that I believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of mankind, and that through his atonement we will have salvation and also the possibilities of exaltation through our acts.

I am grateful for the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I truly believe he talked to our Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, in the Sacred Grove in the year 1820. It is my firm belief that under instructions which were given him this Church was organized, and I am so grateful for my membership in this Church. I love it very much.

I am grateful to belong to a Church that is directed and led by inspiration and revelation in this day, and with all

my heart I uphold President David O. McKay and these other Brethren in the General Authorities.

God bless you, brethren and sisters. I hope that you will pray for me as I will pray for you.

I bear this witness to you and humbly pray for this, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom you have just listened is Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve. We shall now hear from Elder Gordon B. Hinckley, who was sustained this day in the same position, and he will be followed by Elder Marion G. Romney, a member of the Council of the Twelve.

ELDER GORDON B. HINCKLEY

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My dear brethren and sisters, I am reminded of a statement made by my first missionary companion when I received a letter of transfer to the European Mission office. After I had read it, I turned it over to him. He read it, and then said: "Well, you must have helped an old lady across the street in the pre-existence. This recognition has not come because of anything you've done here."

Humbly, I seek the blessings of the Lord. I am overwhelmed with a sense of inadequacy. I feel shaken, and if what I say is largely in the nature of personal testimony, I hope you will forgive me.

Since President McKay spoke with me late last evening I have been thinking about the road that led here. I know that I have not come that road alone, and I feel very grateful for the many men and women—the great and good men who are here today, and the small and obscure, but, wonderful people, many of whose names I do not remember—who have helped me. It is the same with each of us in the Church. No man proceeds alone. We grow according to the help given us by those who teach us and lead us.

I have been marvelously fortunate and greatly blessed. I have had a wonderful opportunity in working closely with the Brethren—all of those who are on this stand, and many who have sat here in years past and who are gone. I have had a sure conviction that President McKay is a prophet of the Lord since the day he was sustained as the President of this Church, and I have had many experiences which have confirmed that conviction.

I had the great opportunity of being with him at the Swiss Temple, and as I saw those people gathered from ten nations to participate in the temple ordinances; as I saw elderly people from behind the Iron Curtain who had lost their families in the wars that had washed over them, and witnessed the expressions of joy and tears of gladness which came from their hearts as a result of the opportunities that had been given them; as I saw young husbands and wives with their families—their bright and beautiful children—and saw those families united in an eternal relationship, I knew with a certainty even beyond what I had known before that this man was inspired and directed of the Lord to bring these priceless bless-

Sunday, April 6

Third Day

ings into the lives of those men and women of faith gathered from the nations of Europe.

I do not know why under the blessing of Providence I have had the marvelous association which I have had with President Richards. In 1935 when I was released from my mission, Elder Joseph F. Merrill of the Council of the Twelve, who was my mission president, asked that I meet with the First Presidency to tell them of some conditions in the European missions. Following that interview President McKay assigned me to work under the supervision of Brother Richards, and for almost a quarter of a century I have worked under his direction and have been tutored by him. I have partaken of his wisdom—his great wisdom—and his kindness and graciousness. I shall ever be in his debt, and I want him to know of my love and appreciation for him.

President Clark has been my ever-ready friend and adviser. I do not know how to say thanks enough to him. And to all of these Brethren whom I have come to love, and who have been so generous and good to me, I am deeply grateful.

I have been touched by the mission presidents with whom I have worked. As I have known their stories, the great sacrifices which they have made to go into the world, the devotion with which they labor, the manner in which they give of themselves, I have been humbled. I have been inspired by the missionaries with whom I have had association. I have seen them as they have gone out in all kinds of weather, late and soon, doing their work and bearing testimony, often at great sacrifice, and bringing a marvelous harvest of souls into the kingdom of God. I have been touched by their parents, with many of whom I have talked. There are still many widows in this Church who wash and iron, who sweep and empty wastebaskets to keep sons and daughters in the mission field, and who would mortgage all they have to give whatever might be felt necessary to make more effective the work of a son or daughter in the mission field.

I have thought, as has Brother Tuttle, of my teachers of the Primary, the Sun-

day School, and the MIA, and of the Aaronic Priesthood leaders who helped me along when I was a noisy boy, and who exercised patience and forbearance. I do not remember many of the specific lessons they taught, but somehow there was born in my heart a conviction concerning the truth of this work.

I shall always be grateful to the bishop who recommended me for a mission, for my companions in the field, to the humble men and women of faith among whom I labored; to Brother George D. Pyper of the Sunday School, who invited me to serve on the general board; to my stake president who invited me to become his counselor. To Brother Harold B. Lee I feel particularly indebted for a blessing which he gave me when he set me apart as a stake president. I shall never forget the language and spirit of that blessing.

Now, in conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to my father. He lies critically ill in the hospital. If I feel any selfish satisfaction in this honor, it is the satisfaction that comes from the realization that one of his sons has been found worthy of the confidence of the Brethren. And if I feel any regret, it is that, unless the Lord rules to the contrary, he will not know of this in mortality because of the condition in which he lies today.

No son ever had a better father. He was busy in the Church—for twenty-five years he was in the stake presidency and filled many other responsibilities—but he never forced his views upon us and never compelled us to participate. He never touched one of his children. But by some inspired psychology he planted in us a faith, a love for the restored gospel, and, I think, a desire to do the right thing.

I would like also to express appreciation to my marvelous and faithful mother. She died three years before I went on a mission. I received my call in the days of depression, and money was scarce, and the mission to which I went was then the most costly in the Church. But we found that she, through the years, had banked some of her small change and set up, as it were, a trust fund so that her boys might go on

missions regardless of any economic catastrophe that might hit the family.

I would also like to express appreciation for the wonderful women who have come into our home and for my own beloved companion and our five children.

I say these things for two reasons: first, because I am grateful to all who have helped me along the way, and secondly, because I would like to make the point that all of us, in our various situations, are the result, largely, of the lives that touch ours; and that as teachers and officers in the Church we affect for good or ill all who come under our direction according to our diligence in meeting our responsibilities.

It was Emerson, I think, who was asked what book had had the greatest influence upon his life, and he said he could no more remember the books he had read than he could remember the meals he had eaten, but they had made him. Likewise, all of us are largely the products of the lives which touch upon our lives, and today I feel profoundly grateful for all who have touched mine.

Now, in conclusion, on this sixth day of April, significant under the revela-

tions of the Lord, I, too, would like to bear testimony that I know that God lives, that Jesus is our Redeemer, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, the Savior of mankind who gave his life to atone for our sins; that Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of God, the prophet of this dispensation; that the Lord's work is here and is real and under his direction; and that President David O. McKay stands, as did the prophet of this dispensation, to lead the kingdom of God, as the stone which was cut out of the mountain without hands, which should roll forth and fill the earth.

God help us, you and me, to live up to the testimonies which we carry in our hearts. I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley has just concluded speaking, one of the Assistants to the Council of the Twelve. We shall now hear from Elder Marion G. Romney, a member of the Council of the Twelve.

ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My beloved brethren and sisters: I loved and respected our leaders who have gone to their rewards since last conference. To Sisters Bennion, McKay, and Kirkham I pay my respects and pray the Lord to comfort, sustain, and bless them and their families.

I have been touched by the testimonies of these men who have this day been called into service as General Authorities. I feel certain that the Lord inspired President McKay to name them. From my acquaintance with them and my knowledge of their work, I can testify that all of them are faithful and devoted servants of God.

I want to say just a word about Brother Joseph T. Bentley who has this day been called to preside over the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. I joined wholeheartedly in the vote of appreciation to the brethren who are being released. I know they have rendered

long and able service, and I feel sure that Brother Bentley will prove to be a worthy successor to them. I have known him from the time he was born. I knew his father, Joseph C. Bentley. He was my bishop from the time I was born until we left Mexico. I remember how when my mother was in need, my father being away from home, he let me chop wood from some old stumps in the tithing office yard. I can still remember the blisters. He was a very wise man. He did not permit us to suffer for the necessities of life, but he saw to it that we worked for what we got.

Today I desire to do three things; first, make a short report on the Mexican missions I have just visited; second, draw a lesson from the history of the Mexican people and their progenitors; and, third, make an application of that lesson to the people of our day.