

TEXT . . .

You will return so disciplined in righteousness that thereafter all Satan's wiles and stratagems will leave you untouched.

TEXT . . .

Your faith and testimony will be strong beyond breaking. You will be looked up to and revered as having passed through the fiery furnace of trial and temptation and come forth unharmed.

TEXT . . .

Your brethren will look to you for counsel, support and guidance. You will be the anchors to which, thereafter, the youth of Zion will moor their faith in man." End of First Presidency's Message.

BISHOP SHAKING HANDS WITH JERRY

With your help and constant attention to the Servicemen's Program, our young men throughout the world will feel the influence of the Church and will be instilled with the desire to be worthy of the promises made to them by the First Presidency. God grant that it may be so. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

— END —

President David O. McKay: after Brother McConkie speaks, and we
Just remain seated, brethren, until shall save some time. Thank you.

ELDER BRUCE R. McCONKIE

Of the First Council of the Seventy

President McKay and Brethren of the Priesthood:

We have just seen and heard a dramatic and compelling presentation summarizing the servicemen's program of the Church—a program designed to care for the spiritual well-being of our brethren in the armed services.

In addition to the excellent counsel given in this presentation, may I suggest two additional things that very properly and wisely should be done in the Church to help care for the spiritual welfare of our brethren who go in the service. I will preface these two suggestions by reading three brief excerpts from letters which have been received by the servicemen's committee.

From the first letter: "During my tour of duty as an L.D.S. Chaplain at Fort Ord, California, it was my privilege to minister unto a particularly outstanding group of Latter-day Saint servicemen. On numerous occasions it was brought to my attention, by many of the high ranking officers of that post, that our

Mormon trainees were of extremely high caliber, possessing unusual leadership ability.

"During one year, twenty-four of our brethren received outstanding achievement awards from the several service schools housed on the post. Nineteen of these were returned missionaries.

"One of our most loyal friends and supporters at Fort Ord was the commander of the post, General Robert B. McClure. On several occasions, at which I was present in an official capacity as one of the post chaplains, General McClure, in his initial orientation to new troops, would ask the Mormon missionaries to rise. He would then address himself to the officers and men of the assembled regiment and say: 'Men take a good look at these Mormon missionaries. Make their acquaintance. Follow them, do what they do. These men will be your leaders.'

"In a letter I received from General McClure upon being discharged from the service he wrote among other things

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the following: 'I have the highest personal regard for Latter-day Saint soldiers, and appreciate so much the fine and patriotic service they daily render to their country. Since I have been at Fort Ord, I have noted with great personal interest the splendid record made in training by Mormon officers and men, particularly the returned missionaries.' Signed by Ben F. Mortensen, a Latter-day Saint Chaplain.

From the second letter: "While a chaplain I was stationed at Fort Ord. My assignment was with the Division Artillery. Each Saturday I was the presiding Chaplain at the leadership school graduation, and General Robert B. McClure was the regular commencement speaker. During several of these graduations, General McClure asked for the L.D.S. returned missionaries to stand. Then he said: 'These returned missionaries from the Mormon Church are outstanding young men, and if you will follow their examples, you'll never go wrong.'

"I became intimately associated with General McClure and have flown with him on several different occasions. He always introduced me as his Mormon Chaplain and would say, 'This Chaplain has been on a two-year mission for the Mormon Church. These returned missionaries are some of the finest soldiers in the army.'

"Also on several occasions at the general orientation sessions, General McClure asked the returned missionaries to stand. He would then tell the group of inductees that these boys had been on two-year missions in some part of the world or other and really knew how to live. 'Follow their examples,' he would say.

"My other duty assignment was in Korea for 18 months. While serving in the Second and the Seventh Divisions, officers have remarked that a returned missionary from the L.D.S. Church could be relied upon as a good responsible soldier." Signed John R. Connell, Jr., Chaplain.

Brother Frank C. Kimball, one of those who represents the Church on its General Chaplain's Committee in Washington, after attending a three-day annual United States Air Force Staff

Chaplain's Conference, included the following statement in his report: "It was pointed out by Chaplain John C. O'Laughlin, of the Office of the Chief of Air Force Chaplains, that the young people coming into the military service should have a better pre-induction training in spiritual matters. He said that from studies which have been made, our young people of today are sadly, spiritually illiterate."

Now, my two suggestions, offered in addition to what has been so well summarized in the film, are these: First, the servicemen's program does not begin with entrance into the armed services. Probably the most important thing connected with this program is the long course of preparation that goes on in the home and through the organizations of the Church, to get young men ready to go out into the world and to stand up against the downgrading effects of the environment which is all too frequently encountered by young people away from home.

I think this means that the whole program of the Church which deals with the youth must be geared toward getting them ready for military service. Specifically and especially, it means that we must encourage all of our young men to become qualified and worthy to serve as missionaries, and then to fill full-time missions before they are drafted or inducted into the service. In the event they are going in only for a six-month period before reaching the missionary age, we must give them even more encouragement, training, direction and indoctrination, both in the home and through the programs of the Church, including the opportunity to engage in missionary-type activity.

My second suggestion is this: Since young men in the service, at the end of their basic training period, have time on their hands, we need to use them in the organizations of the Church near the installations where they are stationed. There is no substitute for service in the Church. It will increase spirituality and testimony and the prospect of gaining all of the blessings of the gospel. We now have servicemen who are in stake presidencies, on high councils, in bishoprics, and in the auxiliary organizations, plus a great host of them serv-

ing as part-time missionaries in the stakes and in the missions.

We have upwards of 12,000 young men now in the service. It is probable that among them there are added thousands by actual count who could be called into missionary service, and whose labors would result in bringing into the kingdom an added host of honest and upright people who as yet have not had the privilege of hearing the true gospel taught.

There is probably nothing more important, and nothing which will be of greater profit in the long run for our whole servicemen's program than so to condition and train our young men as to qualify them for missionary service before they go into the armed services, and then to utilize a second time in the missionary cause their talents, faith and testimony after they have been called to fulfil their civic and governmental

responsibilities in the service.

God grant that we may effect such a program. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

The congregation will now sing, "Do What Is Right," with Elder Bruce Kelly conducting. You will arise, and as we do, the General Authorities will return to their places.

The Chorus and congregation joined in singing the hymn, "Do What Is Right."

President David O. McKay:

President Henry D. Moyle of the First Presidency of the Church will now address us.

PRESIDENT HENRY D. MOYLE

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Brethren, this is a great privilege and indeed a great responsibility. I ask very humbly and sincerely for an interest in your faith and prayers.

Victor Hugo once wrote, "There is nothing in the world so powerful as an idea whose time has come." I say the time to strike is here. The foundation for a new era in proselyting throughout the world has been laid for these many years past. This work involves all of us—Priesthood, Auxiliary organizations, and newly converted members. Through united action the revealed gospel of Jesus Christ can be presented to the world.

We are indeed preparing for the Second Coming of Christ. This is the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. We have the task of representing our Heavenly Father in this preparation. We have as tools all that has gone before in all generations of time, including the revelation given to Enos. (Enos 10.) In Section 27 of the Doctrine and Covenants we read, speaking of the Priesthood of the Church, what the Lord has said:

"Unto whom I have committed the keys of my kingdom, and a dispensa-

tion of the gospel for the last times; and for the fulness of times, in the which I will gather together in one all things, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth." (D&C 27:13.)

And in the 124th Section we read: "For I deign to reveal unto my church things which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times." (D&C 124:41.)

President John Taylor once said, "Where the Kingdom of God is not, there is nothing." Let me paraphrase this statement of Victor Hugo's which I read in the beginning: "There is nothing in the world so powerful as truth whose time has come," and that is exactly the position in which we find ourselves in the Church today. I do not know where we can find a more wonderful description of the world today and the need for the work and the power, loyalty and devotion of the Priesthood, than we do in the 84th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

"And the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin.

"And by this you may know they