

occupant. This box is reserved for the Author of the play—the Drama of Life. He not only is the Author, he is also the Critic and the Judge. How glorious could be that day if in its morning—the morning after the curtain falls—his press would announce: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Yes, the world’s a stage, so is the Church a stage, and you and I are merely players. We’ve chosen noble roles in the Drama of Life. Let’s play them well.

We can preach a better sermon with our lives than with our lips. We can do more good by being good than by preaching good. Let us so act that our principle of action shall become a law, not only for the Church, but also for the whole world. Eventually it will be. May that time be soon, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BISHOP JOSEPH L. WIRTHLIN

Presiding Bishop of the Church

President McKay, my brothers and sisters, to be here upon this occasion is most inspirational to me as I am sure it is to you. As I came into this remarkable building, the events that took place at the time of Brigham Young and those who were with him came to my mind.

The marvelous revelation that was given to the Prophet Joseph on November 1, 1831, is one that all of us can give consideration to, particularly at this time when the Lord said to the Prophet Joseph:

“And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.

“And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.” (D&C 1:4-5.)

This revelation calls the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and particularly the apostles in this day as well as in the time of the Prophet Joseph, to go into the world and preach the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Under their direction missionary work is being done in the world today, and I am sure that all enjoy divine guidance as they meet this great assignment.

President David O. McKay:

Elder William J. Critchlow, Jr., Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, has just concluded speaking. The Relief Society Singing Mothers and Congregation will now join in singing, “How Firm A Foundation.” Sister Florence Jepperson Madsen will lead us in the singing, after which Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin will address us.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, “How Firm A Foundation.”

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin of the Presiding Bishopric will now speak to us, and he will be followed by Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve.

This morning President McKay told us of the leadership of certain individuals in the world who, if they had their way, would destroy our knowledge that God lives and that Jesus Christ is his Son. I am sure they will never be successful. The Lord in his way will handle such individuals.

Of the great men who have gone in the past, I think particularly of Brigham Young and the twelve who were called to preach the gospel to the people in Great Britain. They were poor men. They started the long trip to England without the funds to pay their way. While they did not have enough of this world’s goods, they knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and they were willing to bear testimony to the world that God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ appeared to the Prophet Joseph. With that testimony in their souls, they accepted that great assignment.

At the time Brigham Young left, he was a very sick man. He said, “I could not walk thirty rods to the river.” His family, too, was ill. His wife had just given birth to another babe, and she was in poor health. However, Brigham

Friday, October 7

First Day

Young and his companions started on their journey. When they reached New York, they were helped by the Saints who raised sufficient funds whereby they could pay the amount of eighteen dollars to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The Saints also gave them food to use while on the ship. They landed in England on April 6, 1840, taking about a month to arrive there. It was just ten years after the Church had been organized. The Lord had sent these men to England for the purpose of again making it possible for the English people to hear the gospel and organize the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. They arrived as poor men. They had no money. The sisters made clothing for Brigham Young as his was worn out. Great conferences were held. They labored in and around Manchester.

Wilford Woodruff did a marvelous work. He was preaching in the little town of Handley, and there he found that the people were very much interested in what he was telling them in bearing testimony that God lives and that Jesus Christ is his Son. He had direction from on high, indicating that he should travel to the south. He was not quite sure as to the instructions he had received. So, again he made it a matter of prayer. The Lord made it very clear to him that he should travel to the south. On arriving at the appointed place, he came in contact with some people who were very friendly to him and to the word of the Lord that he was preaching. It was an organization called the United Brethren. I think we are all familiar with the history of that wonderful group of people. Six hundred of them had left other churches and organized a church of their own because they were dissatisfied. They heard the gospel as it was given to them by an apostle, Brother Woodruff. They all accepted it with the exception of one member. Among them were forty preachers who belonged to this organization, and they, too, joined the Church, all evidence that there were many people in Great Britain who were anxious to hear and accept the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as it was given to them by one of the Lord's apostles. I am sure that today there are thousands of people in that great country who want

to hear the gospel, accept it, and enjoy all of its blessings.

The brethren returned in 1841, after they had done a great missionary work in Great Britain. Brigham Young made the statement that during the period they were there they baptized between seven thousand and eight thousand people, and that, in and of itself, was a great achievement.

As I said in the beginning, these were poor men. The Church was poor. It had no funds, but yet these men had great responsibilities. The people in Great Britain needed to receive the Book of Mormon. They printed five thousand copies of the Book of Mormon, three thousand hymnbooks, two thousand and five hundred volumes of the *Millennial Star*, and fifty thousand tracts, and all of these were paid for before Brigham Young returned home.

Under the direction of another great apostle, Brother Harold B. Lee, a stake was recently organized in Manchester. The English people have the same opportunity and privilege now of attending these fine stake conferences as we do here in Zion.

With Brother Hugh B. Brown, Sister Wirthlin and I had the privilege of attending the Manchester Stake conference. The spirit and attitude of the people were most inspiring and encouraging. I am sure in the days to come there will be other stakes organized. Great Britain is growing in the Church. Many thousands of people are anxious to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. To me that is so impressive because I recall the time when we, as missionaries laboring in Germany, had to leave Germany during World War I and make our way to London. I recall some individuals who did everything they could to prevent us from holding a street meeting. In fact, the president of the conference said, "I believe we had better go back to the mission home," which we did. The crowd followed us right to the door of the mission home and made the statement, "If we had rocks, we would throw them." That was the spirit in Great Britain forty-six years ago. While there, we met another apostle, Hyrum M. Smith. He assigned each missionary to another field of labor. The German submarines were sinking

every English ship possible. Finally, we heard that the *Lusitania* was going to sail. We went to President Smith and said, "Now, President, we understand the *Lusitania* is going to sail," and he said, "You can go. Not only that, you will arrive home safely." He made that statement very definite to us. We were not worried about traveling on the *Lusitania*, so we made our way back to New York, and six months later, the *Lusitania* was sunk by a German submarine. President Hyrum M. Smith was one who had the inspiration and divine guidance.

During the past summer, Bishop Buehner, Sister Buehner, Sister Wirthlin, and I had the privilege of visiting in Europe. Elder Alvin R. Dyer is now president of the European Mission and is doing a great and marvelous work through divine guidance and inspiration with very little government interference. When I was in Germany, we did not have that privilege. I labored in Frankfurt for a short time when the police forced me to leave. I then went into Stuttgart and the police arrested me three times, and the third time I had to leave. The same thing happened in Karlsruhe. Then, the war came and, of course, we all left the mission.

At the present time in Great Britain, Germany, and all parts of Western Europe, our missionaries now have the opportunity of teaching and preaching the gospel without government interference. As I see what is being accomplished, I have been very much interested in knowing the number of converts we have in Great Britain. From January 1, 1960 to August 31, 1960, there have been baptized in the British Mission and North British Mission 2,387 Saints—a wonderful number, and I am sure before the end of the year they will baptize many more. Then, I noticed that in the Danish Mission for that period, they have baptized 202. In the Finnish Mission for that same period of time 160, in the Netherlands Mission 303, and in the French Mission for that same period almost 600! I recall when I was in the German Mission, we thought that to spend any time in teaching and preaching the gospel to the French people was just a waste of time, but the French people have a desire to hear the

gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have wonderful missionaries there. As a result six hundred have accepted the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the last eight months, and the president of that mission indicated that he anticipated before the end of this year there would be another six hundred, or approximately twelve hundred Saints—converts for 1960. I noticed particularly in the North German Mission there were 286 converts, the South German Mission 210, and the West German Mission 310, or a total of 806 German people baptized. That itself is marvelous. In the Swedish Mission, they baptized 129.

In the Swiss-Austrian Mission, they have baptized 594, 300 of whom are youth. The young people in these foreign countries are anxious to hear the gospel. I have talked to the missionaries on many occasions, particularly in Austria. I asked them this question, "Now, just what do these people say to you about the Prophet Joseph?" "Well," they say, "these people want to know who Joseph Smith was and what is the Book of Mormon." To them, there is a great interest in the fact that an American prophet made it possible for them to read the Book of Mormon.

I recall again the time when we were endeavoring to preach the gospel in Germany that we dared not go into Austria. We only had fifteen members in the great city of Vienna, but when we visited there some seven weeks ago, we had 350 members, and since that time Austria has become a mission of its own, and they will baptize literally thousands of these wonderful people. So, we come to the conclusion, brethren and sisters, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is being made available to many nations, but when we are going to have the opportunity of preaching the gospel to the people in Russia or the people in India or the people in China, I do not know. But, as the President said this morning, sooner or later all these nations will hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ just exactly as they have heard it in Great Britain and as they have heard it in the European missions. So, in the final analysis, that is a wonderful revelation given to us by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph when he said: "And the voice of warning

Friday, October 7

First Day

shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days." (*Ibid.*, 1:4.)

Today, there is difficulty in the world with war and the possibilities of war, but in the last days, the Lord has made it very clear that his disciples are to preach the gospel to all people, and then he said, "And they shall go forth and none shall stay them. . . ." (*Ibid.*, 1:5.) Regardless of what nation they go into as time goes on as this wonderful revelation says, ". . . and none shall stay them . . .," they are going to have the right, and they are going to have the opportunity and the privilege to preach the gospel to those not of our faith wherever they may be in the world. And the revelation goes on by saying, ". . . for I the Lord have commanded them." (*Idem.*)

In this marvelous revelation given

to us in 1831, the Lord fully intends that all of his sons and daughters over the earth are going to have the opportunity of hearing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If they live the gospel, they will enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost whereby they can testify to the world that they know that God lives, that Jesus Christ is his Son, and that Joseph Smith actually saw the Father and the Son, which I pray will be the testimony of each and everyone of us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin of the Presiding Bishopric has just concluded speaking. We shall now hear from Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve.

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Some years ago I attended a conference of missionaries in a little Arizona town which the nearby Indians gave an Indian name signifying "the place where the people prayed." That was Joseph City. A month ago I had the privilege of going into the mission field in the Southwest Indian Mission, and in another city which could well have been named by the Indians "the city of hospitality," we held a conference of the missionaries, and this city was Snowflake.

The missionaries of the Southwest Indian Mission told of their labors among the Indians, and perhaps this is one of the most foreign of all foreign missions, and is in a land of strange tongues and colorful people, a place of high mountain coolness and near sea level desert heat—a land where a new amalgamation of peoples and kindreds is taking place, and where the gospel of Jesus Christ is neutralizing the centuries of dwindling unbelief.

I found evidence of waning superstition and of growing faith in the gospel. I saw people who have for centuries been as chaff before the wind settling down to industry and security and

permanence—a people who for more than a millennium have been "as a vessel . . . tossed about upon the waves, without sail or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her. . . ." (Mormon 5:18.) I saw them beginning to accept the gospel of Christ.

I saw them reclaiming their forfeited blessings which the Lord reserved ". . . for the gentiles who shall possess the land." (*Ibid.*, 5:19.) I saw acceleration in their progress and the time is at hand when the Lord will ". . . remember the covenant which he made with Abraham and unto all the house of Israel." (*Ibid.*, 5:20.) ". . . and as the Lord liveth he will remember the covenant which he hath made with them. And he knoweth their prayers. . . ." (*Ibid.*, 8:23-24.)

The work is unfolding, and blinded eyes begin to see, and scattered people begin to gather. I saw a striking contrast in the progress of the Indian people today as against that of only fifteen years ago. Truly the scales of darkness are falling from their eyes, and they are fast becoming a white and delightful people.

In this mission alone there are 8400-