

Sunday, October 9

and work and faith; but there are glorious eternal opportunities; and we must not wait in uncertainty or succumb to it. The theories and the facts will all ultimately be reconciled; the questions will all ultimately be answered; the problems will all ultimately be resolved; and the promises will all be fulfilled, and we must plan and prayerfully pursue our plans and go ahead with our lives on solid and firm foundations, with faith, with cleanliness of conduct, with balanced living, with devotion, with the keeping of the commandments.

I think it was Ruskin who said, "There is no wealth but life." I pray God that we may use that wealth which is life, and not waste it away, and pursue earnestly the opportunities of time, into the limitless promises and possibilities of eternity, and I do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**President David O. McKay:**

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve, has just addressed us. We shall now hear from Elder John Longden, Assistant to the Twelve.

### ELDER JOHN LONGDEN

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

While I was on my mission, we had a great mission president, Samuel O. Bennion, who made us conscious of time. He called several conferences of two districts of missionaries into the city of Enoch—that is in Texas, by the way—and he would give each of us an opportunity to speak. As we approached the pulpit, he would say to each one, "Take five minutes and preach the gospel." From this and other training I have been made conscious of time, and I am grateful for it. I know there are others today who have not had this privilege, and I should like to share some of my time with them.

May I give you one or two thoughts as I bear my testimony of the divinity of this marvelous work?

Recently there have been many editorials in newspapers, magazines, radio and TV discussions, also private conversations, in which I have noticed one particular word being used many times. That word is "survival." Survival! Survival from what? an atomic bomb? survival from the "C" or "H" bomb? survival from a Marx, Hitler, Mussolini, or a Khrushchev, or their satanic teachings and practices—or another kind of survival?

The United States military services are most anxious to assist their personnel to survive, and tests to prolong mortal life are being made continually with various kinds of so-called survival kits. Last July I was interested in the story

told by a young man in our city who had made such a test with a survival kit measuring 9¼ inches by 6 inches by 3½ inches. The test was made in the rough Wind River range country of Wyoming. He had been flown into this area by plane and then dropped by parachute with the survival kit mentioned. Here are some of the items it contained: a full fifteen-day supply of food, first-aid kit, sewing kit, fire starting kit, fishing items, knife and stone; a twenty-foot line of nylon cord, and a book teaching its reader how to survive. Much research had been done on all items contained in the kit. During the test no one heard from this young man for two weeks. I listened to his story in fast and testimony meeting and afterwards in private. He said, most important of all in the time he had spent in solitude in the great outdoors was that he had come to understand and appreciate more than ever the blessings of the gospel; to be alone under the stars at night, to see the sunshine of the day, the beauty of nature at its best, the natural resources provided by God our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ. There had come into his heart and soul that testimony more important and precious than all else, the need of a *spiritual* survival.

We may survive physically and materially but unless we survive spiritually these things avail nothing.

I believe this has been the theme of

this conference from the stirring, opening address of President McKay to the splendid remarks of Brother Richard L. Evans, just preceding me. I have caught this spirit through the glorious sessions of this conference, receiving reassurance again that this is the Church of Jesus Christ, not the church of any man—a Church which offers to all men a spiritual survival, the opportunity to subdue the earth and overcome all things foreign to enjoying the Spirit of the Lord. The survival kit for spiritual survival is equally as small as the one used for physical survival; let me suggest its size: just four books, the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price—the small editions even smaller than 9¼ inches by 6 inches by 3½ inches, but what power they contain!

Just before the commencement of this afternoon's meeting I met several brethren from Hawaii, one of whom I had not seen for five and a half years at which time I toured the Hawaiian Mission, Brother William (Bill) Sproat, a faithful dedicated Latter-day Saint, one who truly believes in spiritual survival. I shall always remember being in your home away up there on the peak, the highline that you ride to do your work, the hospitality that you extended to us, the depth of your testimony, the sincerity of your labors to build the kingdom of God, and what you said to me today will always live in my mem-

ory: "Oh, this is a dream I never realized would be fulfilled to be here in Salt Lake City attending a general conference." Brother Sproat, one of the many thousand wonderful, dedicated Latter-day Saints who live by the precepts of his spiritual survival kit!

Some of us who live so close to the pattern might not appreciate the design. I saw the beautiful design of spiritual survival at work today as I had the opportunity of embracing you, Brother Bill, and others from those glorious islands of the Pacific.

God bless us that we may survive spiritually; that we may appreciate the necessity of keeping our survival kits complete, tested, and in order constantly, which should include the Lord's word on how to survive contained in the four standard works of the Church, for therein are embodied the way, the truth, and the light of which President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., spoke this morning.

God help us so to do, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**President David O. McKay:**

Elder John Longden, Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us. We shall now hear from Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, also Assistant to the Twelve. You need not be in such a hurry, because we cannot get in all of them anyhow.

## ELRAY L. CHRISTIANSEN

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

I should like to place what I had thought to say in cold storage, even though by the time I take it out it will be too cold to use, and just express my gratitude and appreciation for some things.

I like the song, "Now, Let Us Rejoice." In my opinion we do not rejoice enough in this Church. We have so much for which to be grateful that we could rejoice day and night and still not be sufficiently grateful in our expressions. I am so thankful for what has been taught us in this great conference today and yesterday and the day before. I

think it has been outstanding. I thought as I sat here how true it is that we cannot be saved in ignorance of God, in ignorance of our relationship to God—and I thought that as members of this Church we need not be in ignorance, so far as knowledge of our relationship to God is concerned, for surely we are well taught.

There is no prize so great and so valuable as the truth. In the Church we are taught the truth. We are taught the proper way to live—the correct, the right, the happy way to live. We could search the world over, and we could find