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think I have never heard a better statement from a young person than that young woman made, and when she talked, I formed a picture of the family from which she likely came; of the household where she had been reared; of the life of her father and mother and the example that they had set for her to stimulate her in this great endeavor. And if she carries through the program that she set forth, the man who happens to marry her will be a wonderfully fortunate man.

Now, we bring these people into the Church through birth, but that does not in any sense relieve us of as great or greater responsibility for them as we have for these newly-baptized and transplanted members of the Church. So, after all, there resides in the body of the Church the greatest imaginable responsibility—responsibility to the young lives whom we bring into the Church, responsibility to the more mature people whom we bring in through the ministry of the missionary service, and it is very unfortunate when either of these is lost because of the neglect of the people who form the body of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Brethren and sisters, if we can just get out of my testimony a feeling that we do have a responsibility to these people and that the fathers and mothers have a real responsibility to love each other and love their children into correct and proper living and service in the Church, I will be happy that the

President called me to bear my testimony to you.

I testify that the gospel is true. I know it. A man came to me the other day and he said, "How do you know it?" I said, "I have just as great an assurance that the gospel is true as of anything else I experience." I do not know, I never have claimed that I know everything that could be known about the gospel, but I have lived among enough people of varying nationalities to know that it is a regenerating force which tends to exaltation in the kingdom of God when it is accepted by baptism and when one makes a reasonable effort to live the teachings of God our Heavenly Father.

I hope that I may be able to do it. I am a little like my wife's grandfather—I sat up with him when he was in his nineties and on his deathbed, and he said, "Antoine, I hope I can endure to the end." So I hope that I may enjoy the Spirit of the Lord, the spirit of service, for my life is dedicated to the service of the Church and to each other.

May God bless you, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**President David O. McKay:**

Elder Antoine R. Ivins has just spoken to us—a member of the First Council of Seventy. Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve will now address us.

## ELDER LEGRAND RICHARDS

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My brothers and sisters, in occupying this position today for a few moments, I have no greater desire and prayer in my heart than that I might say something that will help to increase our love for the truth and our desire to serve the Lord, to be an example to the world and to our families, and to all men, that we may show forth the gifts and graces of the gospel through the lives we live.

In thinking of what I might say today, I want to make reference to a statement I read in an article in the *Reader's*

*Digest* about six months ago that gave seven reasons why a scientist believed in God. This was by A. Cressy Morrison, former president of the New York Academy of Sciences. I am not going to take time to read the article, but I want to read these statements.

For the first reason, he said: "By unwavering mathematical law, we can prove that our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering intelligence." And then after he had given the seven reasons why he believed there was a God, he made this state-

ment: "It is apparent from these and a host of other examples that there is not one chance in billions that life on our planet is an accident," and then he concluded with these words: "It is scientifically, as well as imaginatively true, as the Psalmist said, 'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handwork.'" (Psalm 19:1.)

This is the thought I had as I read that article, which I appreciated so much, as I did a talk that Brother Clark gave to seminary and institute teachers called, "Man, God's Greatest Miracle." The scientists and this scientist give wonderful reasons why there was an intelligence—a major intelligence—that brought forth this universe, but the scientists cannot go beyond that. They cannot tell us why it was brought forth, and wherever you see an intelligent organization, you know that there was a reason for it. This building did not just happen here. You do not go into the wilderness and find a forty-story office building. Everything in this world that shows intelligence back of it had a reason for its coming into existence.

So, when he says it is apparent from these and a host of other examples that there is not one chance in billions that life on our planet is an accident, I could just as well believe that my watch made itself as to believe that we made ourselves or that this universe made itself. There is a master intelligence back of it.

Then the question is, if the scientists cannot tell us why this organization, where do we go to get this information? Then I remind you of the words of the Prophet Amos when he said:

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7.)

So we have to turn to the prophets to find the secret of why the Lord created this earth, why we are here, and all the marvelous things that evidence the fact that he does exist.

I like the statement in the first chapter of John:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . .

"All things were made by him; and

without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:1, 3.)

Then it goes on to say that the Word ". . . was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (*Ibid.*, 1:9.)

And then it adds that

". . . the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (*Ibid.*, 1:14.)

No wonder we love to testify of the divinity of the Son of God when we realize that he was the instrument in the hands of the Lord in bringing about all this marvelous creation, and this scientist said, "there is not one chance in billions that life on our planet is an accident." And you know in the Pearl of Great Price, we read where the Lord said to Moses that he had created worlds without number,

". . . but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine . . . (Moses 1:35.) "And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son. . . ." (*Ibid.*, 1:32.)

Just think of who it is we serve, and the power that God gave to him. No wonder when he was upon the earth he said to Peter that he could call down legions of angels to protect him, when Peter drew his sword and smote off the ear of the guard. No wonder he said, "No man taketh my life from me. The Father hath given me power to lay it down and take it up again." (See John 10:18.)

We have had reference made here today to the council in heaven, and after the Lord had stood in the midst of the spirits, and many of them the noble and great ones, he said:

". . . These I will make my rulers; . . . Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born." (Abraham 3:23.)

Then he said:

"And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

"And we will prove them herewith, to

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see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;" (*Ibid.*, 3:24-25.)

As Brother Carl W. Buehner pointed out, we have a lot of people who will do some of the things, but the purpose of creating this earth upon which we might dwell was that the Lord would prove us to see whether we were willing to do *all things* whatsoever the Lord hath commanded. And in a revelation to the Prophet Joseph we are told that the Lord has given us "commandments not a few." (D&C 59:4.)

There are some who would object to that. They would rather have one or two commandments, but the Lord never gave a commandment unto his children without a promised blessing. You just read them. Read the Beatitudes, and with every one there is a promised blessing.

Take the one on the law of tithing.

"... prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

"And all nations shall call you blessed: . . ." (Malachi 3:10-12.)

We usually stop there, but you just read the rest of that chapter, the third chapter of Malachi.

They began reasoning among themselves and showing how some of the wicked were more blessed financially than some of the righteous, and what did the Lord do about it? He required that a book of remembrance should be written before him, and in that book should be recorded the names of those who feared the Lord, and then he adds:

"And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; . . .

"Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." (*Ibid.*, 3:17-18.)

I have always said that when I was the Presiding Bishop, we did not place the paying of tithing in the youth pro-

gram to obtain an individual award to get more money. We wanted every boy and girl in Israel to have their names recorded in the Lord's book of remembrance and to be numbered among his jewels.

Speaking of doing all things whatsoever the Lord hath commanded, you will remember that the Lord said:

"I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (D&C 82-10.)

So all we need to do is to know what the Lord says and then do it, and then we have the Lord's promise that he will make good.

I could tell you many stories about tithing to let you know that the Lord doesn't fail. I have the faith that a man can keep out of debt longer, get out of debt easier, live more comfortably on the ninety cents on the dollar, with the blessing of the Lord, than on the dollar when he "paddles his own canoe," if you will let me put it into those words, because I have watched it, and I know that it works in the lives of people.

Sister Richards and I toured the Scandinavian missions a year ago last summer, and some of their leading men who joined the Church said that the one thing that held them back was the payment of tithing. "Now," they said, "we have more money to spend than we have ever had in our lives. Now we can go to the temple and do other things that we never thought we could do before."

You remember what President Grant used to tell about the Sunday School teacher who took ten big red apples to her Sunday School class, and she explained to her class that everything we have in this world we got from the Lord, and then she said, "If I were to give all these apples to any one of you, you would be glad to give one of them back to me, wouldn't you?" And of course, they all agreed that they would.

But President Grant said, "We have a lot of Latter-day Saints who wouldn't give one back until they had taken a few big bites out of it." I wonder if that isn't what the Lord meant when he told us the purpose of the creation

of this earth was to see if we would do all things, not a few things.

You bishops, when you have your tithing settlement, don't your hearts rejoice when the widow and the orphan and the old man and the young man come in and settle their tithing, and they say, "Bishop, it's a full tithing." God bless them for it. I wish we all had that courage, because the Lord is bound, he said, when we do what he says.

I was in a Sunday School class some time ago, and the matter of the Word of Wisdom came up, and one sister, the wife of one of our prominent brethren, said, "I wish the brethren would quit harping on the Word of Wisdom." Well, nobody said anything, and so I asked if I might say a few words, and I asked if they thought it was "harping" to remind the people of the mind and the will of the Lord.

Let me read you what the Lord has to say about the Word of Wisdom with his promises, because every commandment the Lord gives has a promised blessing if we will just keep the commandments. The Word of Wisdom is: "Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints. (*Ibid.*, 89:3.)

I labored, as you know, much in the mission field. I presided over two missions. We had many Saints who had used tobacco and tea and coffee, and some of them liquor, all of their lives, and it was hard for some of them to quit. I remember being in one meeting with a stalwart man sitting right down in front of me, and as I read these words, "Adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints," I said: "If there are any Latter-day Saints in this mission weaker than that we will not ask them to keep the Word of Wisdom." At the close of the meeting, that big fellow came up and said, "President Richards, I am not that weak." I said, "I didn't think you were. I just wanted to let you know what the Lord had to say about this principle."

I have to close in a minute, but I want to read you one more promise: "And shall find wisdom and great

treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures;" (*Ibid.*, 89:19.)

Is there any Latter-day Saint in this world who wouldn't want his children to get hidden treasures of knowledge? President McKay talked about that this morning.

A short time ago I attended a youth conference in Carthage, Illinois, where the Prophet and his brother Hyrum were martyred, and we had over five hundred young people there in the auditorium of the college. They had come, some of them, a thousand miles, and we held a four-hour testimony meeting. We never lost one minute between one speaker and the next for those four hours, and those young people stood there, many of them overcome with the Spirit of the Lord, until they could hardly bear their testimonies, but their hearts were full, and they wanted to testify, and I said to myself, "Where could you find anything like this in all the world other than among our young people?" Surely the Lord had blessed them with "great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures."

I want to leave another thought with you before I close. I interviewed a young man for his mission some time ago here in the state of Utah. He had spent eighteen months in an army camp in Germany, and he related this experience. He said: "We Mormon boys went to the chief chaplain to see if we could get permission to hold our meetings in the government chapel, and the chaplain said, 'Well, we would like to accommodate you, but it is in such constant use we just can't do it. There is a classroom down in the basement. You can use that.' Then he asked for a report of the meetings.

"When the first report was handed in, the chaplain said, 'My, you must have a lot of Mormon boys at this base,' and he was told there were thirty-five. He said, 'I can't believe it. How do you do it? Why, you have more boys attending your meetings than I have attending mine, and I have 5,000 Protestant boys under my supervision. I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll take the classroom in the basement, and you can have the chapel.'"

The Lord said, "And they shall find

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wisdom and great treasures of knowledge." Is there any treasure of knowledge in this world to be sought after, more desirable than to know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, to know that his kingdom has been established again in the earth, to know that God has promised a reward for every commandment that he has given, to know that he has created this earth that we might prove unto him that we would do all things, not just a few of them, all things whatsoever the Lord our God hath commanded?

God help us as a people to do that that we may be a light unto the world, I pray, and leave you my blessing, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve.

The Presiding Bishopric of the Church will hold a meeting in the Tabernacle Friday, April 7, tomorrow evening, at 7:00 p.m. Those expected to attend this meeting include bishops and their counselors, ward clerks, stake and ward committees for Aaronic Priesthood under 21, stake and ward committees for senior members of the Aaronic Priesthood, members of stake presidencies, high councilmen, and stake clerks are invited to attend.

There will be a Welfare Agricultural Meeting Saturday morning at 7:30 o'clock. Stake presidents, bishoprics, or their representatives, agricultural representatives, and all who are interested in agriculture are invited to attend this meeting.

This morning, in announcing those who were present as visitors and holding national positions, we omitted the Honorable M. Blaine Peterson, United States Congressman from Utah, who has been present at all our meetings this day. All others are also made welcome to these meetings, not only today but throughout the entire Conference.

The Primary Teachers' Chorus has inspired us with their presence and with

their lovely singing. We cannot praise our sisters, our wives and daughters, too highly for their service in this Church. In building meeting houses, rendering service as musicians, devoting their time as teachers, as Relief Society teachers, teaching in the classrooms, whatever duty we might require of our wives and daughters, they respond wholeheartedly, willingly, and ably. In behalf of the congregation, here in the buildings where they have heard and seen you, and in behalf of the entire listening audience, sisters, I express appreciation of your lovely service during our sessions. God bless you. You represent Primary teachers who have under their jurisdiction over 200,000 of our children—200,000, just one group. It is marvelous to contemplate how comprehensive the organization of the Church is. It is the Lord's Church.

A distinguishing feature of this Church is its organization. We suggest that any who have any doubts about it, just examine the organization as an education system, as a spiritualizing power, as a helpful organization in society—in any degree—which it offers to the individual soul from birth to death and throughout eternity.

God bless not only our sisters, but bless all the Church, throughout all the land, and all the honest in heart, wherever they may be, who are seeking to find peace in their hearts, in their homes, and in society, in nations.

The Primary Teachers Chorus will now sing "The Lord's Prayer," conducted by Sister Lue Groesbeck, and after the benediction by Elder Howard William Barben, president of the West Jordan Stake, the general sessions of this Conference will be adjourned until ten o'clock Saturday morning.

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Singing by the Primary Teachers Chorus, "The Lord's Prayer."

President Howard William Barben of the West Jordan Stake offered the closing prayer.

Conference adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 8, 1961.