

Saturday, April 8

Second Day

to complain about the work of the missionaries in the mission field, or never let a missionary complain about what a bishop does as he presides over his ward, for there must be unity in the priesthood, and particularly among those to whom keys of the priesthood, keys of presidency, have been given. To that body of men, above all other men on earth, there must be an absolute unity

of purpose. Be assured that whatever the missionaries do in the full-time missions of the Church, they are doing it under the inspiration and the direction of President David O. McKay, and when we fail to sustain them, we fail to sustain him and to sustain the Lord.

God bless us to put our hearts and souls and those of our families to this work, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

I have just been handed a paper giving the general priesthood conference count, April 8, 1961. These reports have come in early. Attendance in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 8,097. In the Assembly Hall, Barratt Hall, and grounds, 2,688. A total attendance on these two blocks, 10,785. Attendance in other places is to be reported by mail later. For comparison, in April 1960, we had 10,432 on the grounds; in October, 1960, 9,911; so we have 10,785 tonight, the largest we have ever had.

We have had a remarkable meeting. We shall report to you tomorrow how many are in the other chapels listening in to this inspirational missionary meeting. In the congregations there are thousands, tens of thousands of young men of the Lesser Priesthood—our future missionaries. I shall just ask the bishops to call their attention to the following.

To render service for two or three years in the mission field is a blessing to anyone. It is recognized as such by thousands of parents throughout the Church who appreciate the value of such labor to their sons and daughters, in whom this experience awakens an appreciation of home and of the gospel. Parents know also that missionary activity brings into the plane of consciousness a knowledge of the truth of the gospel, which the young men have perhaps felt but not expressed.

Bishops, it is well for us to have in mind not so much the benefit to those representatives as their preparation and fitness to carry on the responsibilities entailed in a missionary call. In choosing a missionary it is well to keep in mind questions as follows:

Is he worthy to represent the Church?

Has he sufficient will power to resist temptation?

Has he kept himself clean while he has been home and by that standard proved himself capable of resisting possible temptation in the field?

Has he taken active part in Church organizations at home?

Does he at least glimpse what the Church has to offer the world?

Has he glimpsed that the Church is the greatest thing in the world, and the only authorized group to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the salvation of mankind? I use the word *glimpsed* because many of our young men hesitate to bear their testimonies. They say they don't know—they believe. But if they will just stop to analyze what this Church does to the individual, *first* in keeping himself clean and unspotted; *second*, in keeping the Word of Wisdom; *third*, in keeping chaste and pure; if he just studies and realizes and even just glimpses what it does for the home—no drunken father, if he is a member of the Church; no disloyal husband; no mother who makes home unhappy by her infidelity—a home keeping the standards of the Church, is a happy home; an unbroken home—a home where boys and girls take turns in offering prayer, in courtesy and mutual helpfulness. That is what we mean by "glimpsing."

Has he taken active part in Church organizations? I do not have time to elaborate upon that.

Has he, through prayer, or experience, felt God's nearness to him, so that he can approach the Lord as he would his earthly father?

Young men, please keep those questions in mind as you take part in your

deacons' quorums, teachers' quorums, priests' quorums, elders' quorums; and as you prepare in activity at home, in personal life, and in your schoolwork to qualify yourselves to go out as representatives. May you be among those who can be trusted—a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President David O. McKay:

Thank you, Brother Condie and members of the Choir, for your inspirational singing this night. And thank you, my Scotch brother, for singing and inspiring this group with "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

The Choir will now favor us with "Sweet Hour Of Prayer," the Tabernacle Choir Men's Chorus. Elder Holger P. Petersen, former Danish Mission president, will offer the benediction, after which this Conference will be adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The Tabernacle Choir Men's Chorus sang the hymn, "Sweet Hour Of Prayer," following which the benediction was pronounced by Elder Holger P. Petersen, former Danish Mission President.

Conference adjourned until Sunday morning, April 9, at 10:00 a.m.

## THIRD DAY MORNING MEETING

Conference reconvened in the Tabernacle Sunday morning, April 9, at 10 o'clock.

(Columbia Broadcasting System's *Church of the Air*, on which Elder Mark E. Petersen was the speaker, was presented at 7:35 a.m. The *Tabernacle Choir and Organ* broadcast was presented at 9:30 a.m. See pages 134 to 138 for a full report of these broadcasts.)

The music for this session of the Conference was furnished by the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Richard P. Condie. Elder Frank W. Asper was at the organ.

President David O. McKay, who presided and conducted the services, made the following introductory remarks:

### President David O. McKay:

The Fifth Session of this General Conference was a General Priesthood Meeting held last evening at 7 o'clock in this building, with overflow meetings in the Assembly Hall and Barratt Hall, and relayed by closed circuit to members of the Priesthood assembled in 285 Church buildings in virtually every section of the United States, and eleven locations in Canada. There were re-

ported in attendance 10,785 members of the Priesthood here in the Tabernacle and these adjoining buildings.

The speakers were Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve; Elder Franklin D. Richards, Assistant to the Twelve; Elder Gordon B. Hinckley, also an Assistant to the Twelve; and members of the First Presidency.

The Tabernacle Choir Men's Chorus furnished the music, with a solo from Elder Dennis Clancy. It was very inspirational.

This morning at 7:35 Elder Mark E. Petersen was the speaker for Columbia Broadcasting System's Church of the Air program over KSL Radio Station. These services this morning constitute the Sixth Session. They are televised by many circuits on the western coast, and in order that people may hear and see the proceedings we shall postpone the usual announcements until after the first hour.

The Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Richard P. Condie, with Frank W. Asper at the organ, will open these services by singing, "A Song of Jesus." The invocation will be offered by Elder Robert L. Bridge, president of the Riverside Stake.