

financial situation and see if it is sound. Do not try to spend yourself into prosperity. You might land up in bankruptcy.

Let us try to solve our own problems. Then we will live better, and we will live closer to the Lord. We will meet our obligations, and we will pay our tithing and our contributions, remembering always that the money which comes into our hands is not altogether our own money, and it does not all belong to us.

With God's blessings and help and with the freedom of this great country of free enterprise, industry, and opportunity, we can make a better life for ourselves now and in future years. May God bless us that we will not completely forsake that great and beautiful,

old-fashioned principle of thrift and savings, but that we will "shy away from debt as we would a plague," as stated by our late President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. Everything is spiritual in the sight of the Lord—yes, even the temporal. This is God's work, and may we live to obey the laws of God, the laws of man, and the laws of the land, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Thorpe B. Isaacson has just addressed us. We shall now hear from Elder Antoine R. Ivins of the First Council of Seventy.

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I am happy, my brothers and sisters, for the opportunity to stand before you and bear my testimony. I recommend to you what I have been doing the last few weeks, brothers and sisters, and that is to read in the scriptures a bit, in the Old Testament. I like to open the Spanish version and read it. And in doing so recently I was struck with the very frequent references in which, in the reconstruction after the exodus from Egypt they had to ask for contributions from the people for their work. And the thing that appealed to me was that almost invariably they asked that the people should voluntarily contribute with a willing heart. I think that is a very important attitude for us to take at the present time—the voluntary contribution with a willing heart—and when I say contribution I don't mean contributions in money particularly, but contributions of substance and service, and you who are immediately in front of us here are men all of whom, I believe, have particular assignments for service in the Church.

If we serve with the idea that good service will bring promotion, we may be disappointed. If we serve with a willing heart because we love people

and love to help them, the Lord will make us happy. In one of the scriptures which I read, it said, "And they rejoiced because they contributed with a willing heart." I think that is the secret of our happiness very much, brothers and sisters, the attitude which we have in the service which we render. We are here for experience, for growth and development, and the growth and development of the spirit is perhaps the most important element of our lives. So, why can't we develop the habit of helping each other willingly and effectively and efficiently. If we could do that, we would be happy always, I believe. So I think that is one of our very crucial, fundamental principles.

We serve, we contribute, we pay our tithes and our offerings. If we pay them because we dare not refuse to pay them, it is of little benefit to us. If we pay those things because we love the work, love God, love his people, and realize that the only way we can serve him is to serve his children here, then we will grow and develop, and whether we amass great wealth or not we will be happy.

Man is that he may have joy, and I think we ought to pay some attention

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to it, brothers and sisters, that we be happy with each other, because our service is willing.

There are many of us, holders of the priesthood, many of us who are holders of the Melchizedek Priesthood, that somewhere or another after taking on the obligation and the implied covenants that are with it do very little in the way of service. We fail to serve our quorums; we fail to serve our wards; we fail to serve our stakes; we fail pretty much, if the reports coming to us are true, to serve our God. We ought not to assume those obligations, brethren, if we don't feel in a measure that we can fulfil or comply with the promises and covenants therein, and any man who has received that priesthood should, with a willing heart, attempt to measure up to his responsibilities and opportunities.

Now if I could leave with you just that one thought and then suggest that you go back into the scriptures and find the interesting stories connected with it, I would feel quite happy today. The time is so limited that I am not going to take more of it today, but I want you to understand that in the long service that I have rendered here I have tried to have a willing heart and serve you well. I have had no other major responsibility or interest since 1931 when I was appointed but to help this work

and especially to help the seventies of the Church. We are very proud of the seventies. We are very proud of the work that they accomplish, and we are interested in the purpose for which the seventies were organized. Let us all then, brothers and sisters, set to our problems with a willing heart, with faith, and sincere devotion to our God, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Antoine R. Ivins of the First Council of Seventy has just spoken to us.

The chorus and congregation will now join in singing "Praise To The Man Who Communed With Jehovah."

Elder Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of Seventy will be our next speaker.

The Congregation and the Logan Institute of Religion Choir joined in singing the hymn, "Praise To The Man Who Communed With Jehovah."

President David O. McKay:

Elder Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of Seventy will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder Eldred G. Smith.

ELDER MILTON R. HUNTER

Of the First Council of the Seventy

My dear Son Michael:

With the hope that I might say something, my son, that will help you to live a more complete and joyful life and that someday you will receive a blessed exaltation in the presence of our Lord, I am writing you this letter.

Deep in the heart of every human being is a strong desire to experience joy day by day. In fact, Father Lehi claimed that the achievement of a life of joy was the principal purpose of our existence. He said: "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:25.)

In order that you might live a life

filled with joy, that you might be happy now, in the future, and forever, it is necessary that you understand who you are and the course that you must follow in order to attain a fulness of joy in this life and in the world to come.

You are a son of God, literally and actually a child of an Eternal Father in heaven. You are endowed with the spiritual attributes of godliness that if properly cultivated will result eventually in your returning to the presence of that Divine Being and receiving eternal life. Regarding this important truth, the First Presidency, President Joseph F. Smith and his Counselors,