

by its enemies to minimize and discredit its influence. Fortunately, they have failed, and they will continue to fail. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away," said the Savior. (Matt. 24:35.) The Bible will survive the onslaughts of the adversary.

The time-honored volume is a pillar of freedom. From its pages come the doctrines of equal rights; the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; patience, tolerance, and love; the dignity and worth of the human soul; and the right and obligation to worship God and to account to him for all that we do, what we say, and what we think.

I believe most people are searching for standards and beliefs which will sustain them through life, which is not always sunshine and flowers. For some it is hard and cruel, and the burden is heavy. Many of these people believe in God, but they do not have the firm and resolute conviction to carry on. Where shall we go for guidance and inspiration? Where can we find God and spirituality? It cannot be found in the current

literature of the day. It cannot be found in statistics or on the financial page of the daily newspaper. Seldom can we find it in the colleges and the universities of the land or in the lecture hall. There is only one source—one only—and that is in the revelations of God to his servants, the prophets. The biblical characters are men who walked and talked with God. There is much to learn from them and the distant past. Five thousand years of human experience should offer a good guideline for the modern world. May we search the Bible diligently, eagerly, and prayerfully, I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve. Elder Victor L. Brown of the Presiding Bishopric will now speak to us, and he will be followed by our concluding speaker, Elder Franklin D. Richards, Assistant to the Twelve.

BISHOP VICTOR L. BROWN

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

"One Builds Palaces . . ."

In President McKay's recent book, *Ancient Apostles*, we read: "Character is built out of circumstances. From exactly the same materials, one man builds palaces while another builds hovels." Evidence of the truth of this statement is found on every hand.

In the current issue [October] of the *Reader's Digest*, there is a thrilling article written by Ira Wolfert entitled "The Most Phenomenal Athletes in History." I should like to quote some excerpts:

"Hot Rodders indeed! Among the boys and girls who were graduated from California's Santa Clara High School in June are four national swimming champions, two of whom have broken four world records. Generally, athletes do not reach their physical peak until they are in their late twenties. But Don Schollander, Donna de Varona, Sharon Finneran and Terri Stickers were still teen-agers when they performed their

amazing feats of speed, strength, stamina, and co-ordination.

"What is perhaps most extraordinary is that it isn't extraordinary anymore, but representative of what today's youngsters are doing. . . .

"It will be front-page news around the world this October if no new Olympic records are set at the games in Tokyo. That is because, as athletes, today's young generation is the most phenomenal in history."

Mr. Wolfert goes on to say:

"It's the same story on dry land. Not one Olympic track or field champion before 1932 could qualify on the basis of his winning performance for a place in this year's games.

"What makes the difference? Actually there are two categories of athletic prowess measured by the records. One is inborn, a physical gift that cannot be taught, can only be perfected. The other involves normal physical attributes that have been trained to a high degree.

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Olympic events test both kinds of excellence. . . ."

He goes on:

"One night last winter, a 15-year-old boy, Bill McClellon of DeWitt Clinton High in New York City, walked into an armory and, as a novice wearing sneakers, leaped from a hardwood floor to a height of 6 feet, 7 inches. . . . This lad jumped higher in his first competition than every Olympic champion except one before 1952!"

He continues:

"But physical genius is still a rarity. Ninety percent of our athletes have only the talent we were all born with. They have transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary by persistent training. . . ."

Or in the words of President McKay:

"From exactly the same materials, one man builds palaces while another builds hovels."

Just two more quotes from the article. Robert Giegengack of Yale, coach of this year's United States Olympic track and field team said of some of his athletes:

"They work about two and a half times as hard as they did ten years ago. . . ."

Finally:

"Amateur athletes generally do not make a career out of their special abilities. The training involves intense, overwhelming preoccupation with oneself, and usually the athlete becomes interested in other things. But meanwhile, the revolution in training methods is giving the kids something much more valuable than a knowledge of their bodily prowess. Coach Giegengack put it this way: Not too long ago, he said, when a 'hopeless' case who obviously didn't have it tried out for one of his teams, he'd take the youth aside and gently advise him to devote his energies to something else. He no longer does that. The indispensable 'it' required for athletic success is in the mind rather than the body. Anyone can be good who's willing to work hard enough." (P. 151.)

"If He is Willing to Work Hard Enough"

Anyone can build a palace rather than a hovel if he is willing to work hard enough. If we applied the principles used

in making Olympic champions to all phases of our lives, the transformation in society would be just as phenomenal.

The managing director of one of the largest banking institutions of England, with more than a hundred branches throughout the world, says that out of one hundred men starting on an even footing, only ten ever rise above the surface of the business, and of these ten, not more than one ever proves himself fit to hold a position of grave responsibility. He says that inevitably the cause of failure is the disposition to take things easy, to avoid the hard tasks. Life everywhere consists of hard jobs. Men tackle them, but the aimless crawler will get into his shell and decay.

The great industrialist Andrew Carnegie said:

"I congratulate poor young men upon being born to that ancient and honorable degree which renders it necessary that they should devote themselves to hard work."

And from another pen:

"There is one right which man is generally thought to possess which I am confident he neither does nor can possess, the right to subsistence when his labor will not fairly purchase it." (Thomas R. Malthus.)

Someone has said:

"The man who goes through life looking for something soft can often find it right under his hat."

Examples of Diligence and Faithfulness

Now let us turn to another aspect of life, one that is not limited by time but rather one that is eternal. Just as it is necessary for the athlete to work hard at his training and for the successful executive to work hard at his business, so it is necessary for all of us, no matter what our personal activities may be, to work hard at living the kind of lives that will build palaces and not hovels.

When I was bishop of a ward, we called one of our members to be the general secretary of the Aaronic Priesthood. He was one of the finest general secretaries in the Church. He worked at his assignment. Through his thoroughness and inspired leadership, almost all of the boys earned their Aaronic Priest-

hood awards, became Eagle Scouts, and went on missions.

I recall a former stake president whose business consistently took him far away from home a great deal of the time. He never missed his church meetings. It was often necessary for him to return home, attend his meetings that very night, and then leave again immediately. This meant traveling all night many times. Expense and inconvenience were of little consequence.

I know two counselors to stake presidents who, even though away on business to distant cities, will interrupt their business trips to return just to attend to their church meetings and then return by air to their business appointments. This is the kind of devotion to responsibility that makes a champion of leaders: the women who accept the call to be the chorister in Primary, even though she feels inadequate, and sticks at it week after week until she succeeds; the Sunday School teacher who is so interested in her class that she spends hours preparing lessons so well that even the disinterested like to come; the drama director who is so patient and understanding in teaching our people to perform on the stage; the Relief Society sister who spends hours scrubbing floors, washing clothes, serving meals for a sick neighbor; the 12,000 young men and women

who are serving as missionaries throughout the world for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, young people who are giving of themselves to their fellow men, champions of the first degree; and, of course, the example of our beloved President who at 91 still does not find time to take a vacation from his responsibilities but continues to work hard without sparing himself for a moment.

Just as the athletes are training so well for the Olympic competition, so are these loyal devoted members of the Church training for a far more important contest. Each in his own way is taking the same material and building palaces rather than hovels.

May God bless each one of us that we may set our sights high and then be willing to work hard enough to be good, good enough to build palaces and not hovels.

I bear my humble witness that Jesus Christ lives and that he directs this, his Church, through his servant and our President and Prophet, David O. McKay, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

We have just heard from Bishop Victor L. Brown. Elder Franklin D. Richards, Assistant to the Twelve, will be our concluding speaker.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My dear brothers and sisters, I appear before you today with a humble heart and rejoice with you in the spirit and proceedings of this great conference. I have recently returned from an assignment to the stakes and missions in Samoa, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia, and I bring you the greetings and the love of the Saints and missionaries in these wonderful areas.

The Prophet Leads Us

I am grateful for the privilege I have had of meeting with the people of the South Pacific and bearing to them, as I do to you today, my testimony that God lives and is mindful of all of his

children; that Jesus is the Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh; that Joseph Smith was a prophet, commissioned to be the instrument through which the fulness of the gospel and authority to act for God has been restored to the earth in this dispensation. I always rejoice in bearing witness that we are led and guided by a great prophet today, our beloved President David O. McKay; and may the Lord bless and sustain him and strengthen him.

The work of the Lord is progressing in the South Pacific areas at an accelerated rate. I found the same wonderful spirit and the same problems facing the people and the Church there as else-