

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-

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where. We can be grateful, however, that throughout the ages God has counseled his people through his seled his people and helped them to solve their problems.

### Order and Diligence

It is interesting to note that as God prophets, two words have frequently appeared—*order* and *diligence*.

King Benjamin, in concluding a great address to his people, said, "And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength . . . it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order." (Mosiah 4:27.)

In this dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith the Lord has told us that his ". . . house is a house of order, . . . and not a house of confusion" (D&C 132:8), and that every man should learn his duty, and ". . . act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence." (*Ibid.*, 107:99.)

When called upon to accept an assignment in the Church which is an important part of building the kingdom of God, many people wonder how they can give the time and attention necessary to fulfil the assignment properly and also meet their family obligations.

Today there are so many things to do so many things crowding us. In this environment the words *order* and *diligence* are key words to success and happiness regardless of the activity we are engaged in.

In meeting with stake and mission leaders and other individuals, I frequently ask them what their greatest needs are. Almost invariably they reply that among their greatest needs is "better organization of their time and work"—or in effect more order and diligence.

And it is not infrequent that many ask the question, "How does one develop the traits of order and diligence?" President McKay has given us some good advice in this connection. He said, "Don't be too busy to meditate, and when the answer comes have the courage to execute it."

Order commences with meditation; and meditation includes thinking, analyzing, prayer, fasting if needs be, and

always planning. Meditating requires that time be regularly set aside to consider the things that you think you have to do. Many times you find you have more to do than you can do in the time available.

To develop an orderly pattern you must consider the things facing you, analyze their importance, and list them in the order of their importance. After the things of prime importance are selected, develop a plan to accomplish these more important matters.

Planning involves further analysis and developing of effective ways which will save time and simplify the operation involved. Prayer is always desirable in planning the effective use of time.

Many are prone to do the easy things and give those matters attention that seem to be the most pressing regardless of whether they are the most important or not, but through meditation, prayer, and planning you can select what might be called the first things to do and work out effective ways to do them.

### First Things

Undoubtedly the two most important first things for us to do in this life are to provide for our families and to assist in building the kingdom of God. As we select first things and put them in preferred positions and work out a plan to accomplish them, we are developing orderly habits which will make it possible to serve in the Church and properly care for our families.

In building the kingdom of God the Lord has said that we should first learn our duty. (See D&C 107:99.) He has counseled us to seek out of the best books words of wisdom and to seek learning even by study and by faith. (See *ibid.*, 88:118.) Study should be rated among those things of first importance. In organizing our time and work, time should be regularly allotted for personal study as well as study with our families.

In any successful endeavor we learn our duty by having a clear understanding of our responsibilities. Moses in speaking to his people charged them, "And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly." (Deut. 27:8.) In this manner Israel could learn its duties. Instructions from leaders should be, as Moses said,

plain, in order that those affected might easily learn their duties. Plainness generally incorporates simplicity. Simple things are readily understood. The gospel is simple and was taught by the Savior in a simple and beautiful way. Simplification brings better understanding and provides more time by eliminating unessentials.

We must provide time to be with our families and to do things together. In planning the use of your time, I counsel you to spend as much time as possible regularly with your families—say at least two nights each week. As parents our obligation to our families not only includes seeing that they are fed, clothed, and educated, but that their spiritual needs are taken care of as well. Certainly a good part of this must be done personally, such as having a weekly family night, taking vacations together, and going to Sacrament meeting as a family.

### Diligence

By selecting first things to do and working out a plan to do them first, we have taken an important step toward accomplishing them. This is where diligence plays a big part. When the Lord counseled us to perform our assignments in all diligence, he meant whether it was convenient or not.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all earthly things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation." (Sixth Lecture on Faith.)

To perform our assignments diligently, sacrifice of our time, talents, and means is frequently required, but we know that sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven. We are entitled to the blessings which are predicated upon obedience to this principle of sacrifice. The Lord has 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.)

To be diligent in our work also means to be effective and not just busy. The Lord recognized this difference between just being busy and being effective when in 1831 the elders were traveling down the Missouri River in canoes. The Lord

said at that time, ". . . it is not needful for this whole company of mine elders to be moving swiftly upon the waters, whilst the inhabitants on either side are perishing in unbelief." (*Ibid.*, 61:3.) Just as it was unnecessary for all of the elders to be moving swiftly upon the waters, so it is with us—it is not necessary to do many unessential things that keep us busy but result in little or no real benefit to anyone.

Being diligent also requires faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in ourselves, and making up our minds to be orderly and diligent is a good part of having faith in ourselves. Even though our assignments seem difficult, as we develop our faith and persevere, we are able to achieve our righteous objectives.

President Heber J. Grant frequently quoted from Emerson: "That which we persist in doing becomes easy to do, not that the nature of the thing has changed but that our power to do has increased."

To be diligent one must learn to persevere—yes, to endure to the end. But we might ask, to the end of what? Can we endure to the end of a day with the same dedication and enthusiasm we had at the beginning of the day even though faced with frustrations and problems. Each year has 365 days, and each day has twenty-four hours, each requiring enduring to the end. However, remember what King Benjamin said: ". . . it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength." (Mosiah 4:27.) He undoubtedly meant mental, physical, financial, or spiritual strength, or all combined.

### Survey Large Fields; Cultivate Small

In all phases of my personal experience I have found it wise to survey large fields but cultivate small ones. In surveying large fields one in effect makes a master plan which he later develops in orderly stages. This is a sound way to build and avoid many disappointments which can result from overextending oneself. Surveying large fields and cultivating small ones involves the principles of order and diligence and results in growth and development. These are basic principles of eternal progression.

As we increase our personal effectiveness, we increase our effectiveness in our

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church assignments, and one of the great needs today in building the kingdom of God is effective leaders. The Savior has told us that "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father. . . ." (Matt. 7:21.) Note the words ". . . doeth the will of my Father. . . ."

Finally, again I cite the words of King Benjamin, ". . . it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order." (Mosiah 4:27.)

I bear witness, and I know that the witness I bear is true, that through order and diligence we can work in the Church and properly take care of our families and win the prize of eternal life—of peace, happiness, and success through eternal progress.

May we this day resolve to apply these basic principles of order and diligence in our lives and win the most worthwhile prize of all—eternal life—I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Franklin D. Richards has been our concluding speaker.

The regular general session meeting of our priesthood of the Church will be held here in the Salt Lake Tabernacle this evening at seven o'clock. Priesthood members only are invited to be present. The priesthood session will not be broadcast publicly, but in addition to the overflow meeting in the Assembly Hall the proceedings of this priesthood meeting will be relayed by closed circuit broadcast originating in the Tabernacle to members of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood assembled in 400 separate locations in all parts of the United States and in Canada. It is estimated that approximately 12,000 holders of the priesthood will be on Temple Square and approximately 60,000 others will be gathered in other locations from coast to coast and in Canada.

The Sunday morning session at ten o'clock will be broadcast by many radio and television stations in the West, short-wave in England over Station WRUL beamed by five transmitters near Boston to Europe, South America, Central America, Africa, and parts of

Asia. This session will also be broadcast during early morning hours over KSL and KIRO radio at Seattle, and will be heard by members of the Church in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and many Islands of the Pacific.

The CBS Radio Network Tabernacle Choir broadcast tomorrow morning will be from 8:35 to 9:00 a.m. Those desiring to attend this broadcast must be in their seats not later than 8:15.

Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve will be the speaker on the Church of the Air Broadcast on CBS Radio tomorrow at 7:35 o'clock.

There will be large crowds attending the services on Sunday. We ask you to please be courteous, gracious, to one another at all times, and especially when standing at the entrance of the Tabernacle and when driving automobiles.

The Brigham Young University combined Chorus, who have furnished this lovely music under the direction of Maughan McMurdie, with Roy M. Darley at the organ, will now sing "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning."

The benediction will be offered by Elder Weldon V. Moore, formerly president of the Australian Mission, and then this Conference will stand adjourned until the General Priesthood Meeting this evening and the General Session tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

### President Hugh B. Brown

After the singing of that favorite hymn in such an inspiring manner I am impelled to say just a word to the members of this Chorus. I would like to turn around and face them but if I did they couldn't hear me.

When I listen to the Singing Mothers I am stirred to the depths. When I listen to the Tabernacle Choir I am lifted to the heights. But this afternoon these young people have brought us very close to heaven as they have sung and shouted "Hosanna to God and the Lamb."

I wanted to say just a word, because I know that President McKay invariably has something to say to the young people, and especially to the choruses who sing for us. His heart is with them. You young people have his love, his blessing, and his confidence. God help you and bless you as you compete, not