

ELDER HAROLD B. LEE*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

A week ago this afternoon I spent a glorious hour in President McKay's apartment office considering the subject about which he wished me to talk: the presentation of what he said our leaders have been talking about for fifty years—the importance of teaching the gospel in the home. He indicated that this would be something of a theme in this general priesthood meeting tonight.

Theme of Fifty Years

With that much of a lead or a guide to what I might say, I thought it wise to take a look backward to pick up the thread of thinking of our leaders over this fifty-year period and glean from the wisdom of the past a guide to our plans for the present as well as the future.

I thought to begin that review most properly we should give to you again what you have heard and read in some of our official handbooks, the letter from the First Presidency a few years ago which actually laid the foundation and indicated the direction that the correlation program should take. And so I thought that probably I should read again one or two paragraphs by which you can follow the plan by which the correlation is being developed. I quote from that letter:

"Home the Basis of the Righteous Life"

"The home is the basis of a righteous life and no other instrumentality can take its place nor fulfil its essential functions; the utmost the auxiliaries can do is to aid the home in its problems, giving special aid and succor where such is necessary, that in aiding the home the auxiliaries may well consider thinking of the home-life of the people as having three periods, the first, from birth to twelve years of age or the childhood period; then the youth period from twelve years up to the early twenties; and then adulthood, from the early twenties on to the end of life.

". . . We feel assured that if the whole Church curricula were viewed from the vantage point of what we might term the total purpose of each and all of these [priesthood quorums and auxiliaries], it would bring about such a collation and limitation of subjects and subject matters elaborated in various Auxiliary courses as would tend to the building of efficiency in the Auxiliaries themselves in the matter of carrying out the purposes lying behind their creation and function.

"We would therefore commend to you Brethren of the General Priesthood Committee the beginning of an exhaustive, prayerful study and consideration of this entire subject, with the co-operative assistance of the Auxiliaries themselves so that the Church might reap the maximum harvest from the devotion of the faith, intelligence, skill and knowledge of our various Auxiliary Organizations and Priesthood Committees." (*Conference Report*, April 1963, pp. 82-83.)

Correlation to Strengthen the Home

That's the end of the quotation.

In those instructions there were four important factors named in developing effective correlation. First, we must see that the whole effort of correlation is to strengthen the home and to give aid to the home in its problems, giving it special aid and succor as needed.

Priesthood Totally Employed

Second, the strength of the priesthood must be fully employed within the total responsibility of priesthood quorums as clearly set forth in the revelations.

Auxiliary Organizations Also

Third, we must survey the purposes lying behind the creation and purpose of each auxiliary organization.

Knowledge of Gospel to be Enhanced

And fourth, the prime and ultimate objective of all that is done is the

building up of a knowledge of the gospel, a power to promulgate the same, a promotion of the faith, growth, and stronger testimony of the principles of the gospel among the members of the Church.

Correlation

Now, to give you just a quick statement as to the progress that has been made up until now. We have endeavored to proceed as a Correlation Committee in an orderly and logical manner: first, by placing the priesthood quorums as the Lord has directed us in his revelations; second, by giving strength to the home in ways that I will presently outline as they have been approved by the First Presidency and the Twelve; and third, by a total correlation of the curricula and activities of all the organizations, priesthood, auxiliaries, institutes, and seminaries. This last phase is now in its final stages of development looking toward full implementation.

Organization and Functioning

One of the musts in this fully coordinated church program is to get our leaders—the General Authorities, general boards, stake, mission, ward, and branch authorities—to “think” correlation through these three heaven-ordained institutions instead of diverting to a fringe committee of some sort for a certain activity or instruction which might well have been encompassed within the boundaries of the completely correlated priesthood, home, and auxiliary responsibilities.

We have witnessed a tendency to use in some cases the correlation program of home teaching, for example, as the “whipping boy” for any deficiencies in the performance of the various organizations as compared to its previous figures, and some would have us believe that it is the home teaching program that has caused that downgrading of comparative statistical figures.

Every auxiliary and priesthood leader in the Church is given a voice in the functioning of each organization with the home teachers to see that every church member is given attention as needed.

The real fault in many cases is with the leader who in the monthly ward council meeting should have aided in perfecting the most effective correlation of his particular organization with home teaching. We would like those things kept in mind by all of you leaders as you move these programs forward.

In all this we recognize that we must teach and reteach with patience and long-suffering until the basic fundamentals of correlation are fully understood and applied in every ward, priesthood quorum, and auxiliary organization, to the end that, hopefully, every General Authority, and stake, and mission authority will catch the vision of the possibilities of a concentrated effort of church organization in a mighty answer to the problems afflicting the world in which we live.

Restatement of Fundamentals

Now, we should make a restatement and recitation of those fundamentals which are essential always to our learning in the Lord's work. In defining the fields in which the priesthood quorums must take precedence: First, by a careful reading of the revelations we have found this:

“The duty of the elders, priests, teachers, deacons, and members of the church of Christ—An apostle is an elder, and it is his calling to baptize; . . .

“And to teach, expound, exhort, baptize, and watch over the church; . . .

“The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and administer the sacrament,

“And visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties. . . .

“The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them; . . .

“And is to be assisted always, in all his duties in the church, by the deacons, if occasion requires.” (D&C 20: 38, 42, 46-47, 53, 57.)

After the Lord had given these plain instructions, one of the great revelations on priesthood closed with this

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great admonition with which you should be familiar.

"Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.

"He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved shall not be counted worthy to stand." (*Ibid.*, 107:99-100.)

"Watching Over the Church"

Home teaching then means "watching over the Church" as the scriptures have defined it. Missionary work is but home teaching to those who are not now members of the Church, and home teaching is nothing more or less than missionary work to church members.

Missionary Function, to the Seventy

The major responsibility in missionary work has been given to the seventies quorums, aided by the Aaronic Priesthood. Quorums of seventy, we have heard during our entire lifetime, are one day to be called out as quorums to preach the gospel, and some of us thought that meant to some far-away country. The day is here when seventies are being called as quorums, where every member of the seventies quorum can engage in some phase of missionary work. We remember again what the Lord said, that the Council of the Twelve should call upon the seventies when in need of assistance to fill the various calls for preaching and administering the gospel instead of any others. This is not to be construed to lessen the feeling of every member of the Church to be a missionary. The missionary plan calls for the Saints to co-operate fully as requested and led by their leaders. In stakes which presently have few seventies, other priesthood holders must be assigned to these prime missionary duties.

First, before I pass this subject, I should call attention to the fact that our Aaronic Priesthood was given a very vital place in the revelations where the Lord told us:

"Therefore, take with you those who are ordained unto the lesser priesthood, and send them before you to

make appointments, and to prepare the way, and to fill appointments that you yourselves are not able to fill.

"Behold, this is the way that mine apostles, in ancient days, built up my church unto me." (*Ibid.*, 84:107-108.)

Youth Missionary Assignment

And that becomes now the Aaronic Priesthood youth missionary committee—a priest, a teacher, and a deacon, with the bishopric heading up the Aaronic Priesthood, aided by the girls of comparable ages. They now are to enlist and to, shall I say, proselyte their friends and bring them into church activity programs.

Genealogical Assignment

In the genealogical work, we recall the words of the Prophet Joseph: "The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead." (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 356.) And then in a great revelation the Lord said:

"Now the great and grand secret of the whole matter, and the *summum bonum* of the whole subject that is lying before us, consists in obtaining the powers of the Holy Priesthood. For him to whom these keys are given there is no difficulty in obtaining a knowledge of facts in relation to the salvation of the children of men, both as well for the dead as for the living." (D&C 128:11.)

To provide an effective relationship with the priesthood, the high priests group leader in each ward has been designated as an adviser to the genealogical work. While all quorums have responsibility in genealogical work, the leadership and co-ordination in the ward rest with the bishop and the high priests group leader. Melchizedek Priesthood quorums are right now engaged in studying their place in the genealogical program in their Melchizedek Priesthood quorum classes.

Welfare Assignment

A scripture quoting King Benjamin has long been quoted describing our welfare program. Now we apply it to the priesthood quorums: ". . . I would

that ye should impart of your substance to the poor," he said, "every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants." (Mosiah 4:26.)

Here again, while all quorums are to participate, the great strength of the elders quorums of the Church are specifically charged with advisory co-ordination of church welfare under the direction of the bishop.

Correlation of Curricula

Moving now to a correlated curriculum and the activities of the priesthood quorums, the fundamentals of this program, as I have told you, have already been predetermined; what will be taught, subjects taught from three-year-olds up to the oldest adult, and the general plan have already been approved. Our committees are now working on a fully co-ordinated program to present to the First Presidency. We are hopeful that this will be accomplished within the next year or so.

Parents and the Home

In all of these studies we have never had absent from our minds the responsibilities the Lord has placed upon the parents in the home in the teaching of our children. You recall what the Lord said:

The Divine Charge to Parents

"And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.

"For this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized.

"And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands.

"And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.

"And the inhabitants of Zion shall also observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

"And the inhabitants of Zion also shall remember their labors, inasmuch as they are appointed to labor, in all faithfulness; for the idler shall be had in remembrance before the Lord." (D&C 68:25-30.)

"Home Evening" Statement of 1915

The instructions to which I have made reference and about which President McKay spoke were given about fifty years ago. I read from a letter sent out to the Church in 1915 over the signature of President Joseph F. Smith, Anthon H. Lund, and Charles W. Penrose. But I suppose it is something like Mark Twain said about the weather: "We talk a lot about the weather, but we don't seem to do anything about it." Now we have talked a lot about family home evenings, and this is the announcement which was made. After I have given you this I will make a few comments and then outline the program by which we are now to give strength to the teaching of the family by the parents in the home. This is a quote from the letter.

"We advise and urge the inauguration of a 'Home Evening' throughout the Church, at which time father and mother may gather their boys and girls about them in the home, and teach them the word of the Lord. . . . This 'Home Evening' should be devoted to prayer, singing hymns, songs, instrumental music, scripture reading, family topics, and specific instructions on the principles of the gospel, and on the ethical problems of life, as well as the duties and obligations of children to parents, the home, the Church, society, and the nation."

Then to those who would put this family home hour or evening into practice the Presidency made this promise:

"If the Saints obey this counsel, we promise that great blessings will result. Love at home and obedience to parents will increase. Faith will be developed in the hearts of the youth of

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Israel, and they will gain power to combat the evil influences and temptations which beset them."

Assignment to Sunday Schools

Our Sunday School organization has been helping to emphasize this important responsibility by articles in *The Instructor* and by a program which they have entitled, "Gospel Living in the Home."

Assignment to Primary Association

Our Primary organization has had what they have called a Primary Home Partnership, by which the lessons taught in Primary are carried into the home, hopefully to become a part of the family home evening.

President Joseph F. Smith, in commenting about the responsibility of parents in teaching their children, said this:

Counsel of the Prophets on Teaching Children

"Do not let your children out to specialists in these things, but teach them by your own precept and example, by your own fireside. Be a specialist yourself in the truth. Let our meetings, schools and organizations, instead of being our only or leading teachers, be supplements to our teachings and training in the home. Not one child in a hundred would go astray, if the home environment, example and training, were in harmony with the truth in the gospel of Christ, as revealed and taught to the Latter-day Saints." (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, p. 302.)

About this same matter President Wilford Woodruff said:

"It is one of the greatest blessings that God ever bestowed upon children that they have had parents who were in possession of true principles in relation to their Heavenly Father, salvation, eternal life, and were qualified and capable of teaching and traditionating their children in the same that they may be qualified to fulfil the object of their creation. . . . Ninety-nine out of every hundred children who are taught by their parents the principles of honesty and integrity, truth and vir-

tue, will observe them through life." (*Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, pp. 266-268.)

And then from President Heber J. Grant:

"I have heard men and women say that they were going to let their sons and daughters grow to maturity before they sought to teach them the principles of the gospel, that they were not going to cram the gospel down them in their childhood, before they were able to comprehend it. When I hear men and women say this, I think they are lacking faith in the principles of the gospel and do not comprehend it as they should. The Lord has said it is our duty to teach our children in their youth, and I prefer to take His word for it rather than the words of those who are not obeying His commandments. It is folly to imagine that our children will grow up with a knowledge of the gospel without teaching. . . . I may know that the gospel is true, and so may my wife; but I want to tell you that our children will not know that the gospel is true, unless they study it and gain a testimony for themselves. Parents are deceiving themselves in imagining that their children will be born with a knowledge of the gospel." (Heber J. Grant, *Gospel Standards*, p. 155.)

Lessons for Teaching in the Homes

This next year will see some definite steps taken to strengthen the hands of the parents in carrying out these great God-given admonitions in placing stress upon the teaching of the gospel in the home. The first step will be to give every parent a set of lessons, one for each week throughout the coming year, for them to teach the gospel to their family in the home. As we have talked about the frequency of this, we are not sure whether one for every week, or three for a month, or two for a month, or one a month may be the desirable, but we call your attention to this. I have studied the proposed lessons which we are going to have studied by the priesthood quorums on the subject of what the father's responsibility is in teaching the gospel in the home. The Relief So-

ciety will teach a similar lesson once a month in the Relief Society for the mothers. As I read these proposed lessons, the more of these weekly home lessons we can have taught in the home, the better we will be able to correlate with the priesthood instruction and the Relief Society lessons.

Auxiliary Supporting Publications Monthly

There will be, we suppose, some optional activity. We are asking auxiliary heads to publish month by month next year suggestions for suitable activities for each age group represented—the Primary for little children, the Era for teenage children, the Sunday School for both old and young, and the Relief Society for mothers primarily. The time has now come when the General Authorities have decided to correlate and co-ordinate all of these efforts under the direction of the priesthood, and we announce, then, a new program to assist parents in the teaching of the gospel in the home. This program, "Teaching and Living the Gospel in the Home," is to be inaugurated throughout the Church in January 1965. As an example, the first four lessons for Primary children are as follows:

"I Am a Child of My Heavenly Father."

"I Am a Child of My Heavenly Father with Special Gifts from Him."

"I Am a Child of My Heavenly Father—His Heir."

"As a Child of My Heavenly Father I Have the Right to Pray to Him."

Melchizedek Priesthood Lessons

The Melchizedek Priesthood lessons, as I have said, will be given throughout the entire year of 1965 designed to help the fathers and every priesthood holder become better fathers and husbands. The general theme of these lessons is "Magnifying the Priesthood in the Home." As an example, the first ten lessons are as follows:

"Why the Church Has Initiated a Family Home Evening Program."

"Studying the Scriptures."

"Carrying Out the Challenge Relating

to the Program Given in Priesthood Meeting."

"Activities Outlined in Home Program."

"The Eternal Family Is One of the Most Important Ways to Obtain Lasting Joy."

"The Family and the Patriarchal Order."

"Providing Opportunities and a Proper Environment for the Spirit Children of Our Heavenly Father to Come to this Earth."

"Teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Children."

"A Basic Unit of Society."

"Making Satisfactory Adjustments in Marriage."

Relief Society Lessons for Mothers

I came across one of the lessons for the Relief Society to teach mothers what their role is in teaching the gospel in the home, and I found this rather interesting observation, "How often in past years have we heard a Latter-day Saint mother say, 'I wish my husband could have heard the discussion today. Had he done so, I am sure he would feel differently about a particular problem we have in our home.'" It is a realistic observation that with widely divergent points of view the efforts of one parent often may nullify the efforts of the other parent, sometimes with great detriment to the persons involved and to the problems which need to be resolved. The first Relief Society lesson is entitled "Introduction for Teaching the Gospel in the Home"; the second one, "The Eternal Family."

Home Evening Manual

Simultaneously fathers and mothers will be taught, and the home teachers in their visits to the homes of members in December 1964 will explain the new program and will present the parents with the *Home Evening Manual*. Additional instructions and suggestions will be given to the home teachers during 1965 so that they can be of assistance to the parents in strengthening home relationships.

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The Program's Introduction

In order to introduce this program, it is proposed that at one of the first priesthood meetings after this general conference there be a program carried out to introduce to the priesthood in each stake in the Church the family home evening program. We have now material which will be sent to you to give you suggestions on that program.

In introducing the program in each ward we have prepared a filmstrip on the family home evening program which may be available to every stake and through the stake to every ward. The major objectives of the filmstrip are to explain the family home evening program, to interest and motivate parents in implementing the program, and to demonstrate to parents methods by which they can carry out the program in their own families.

These lessons can be adapted, and suggestions will be made in order to fit every age child in the home.

With that much having been said, we would like to call your attention to what the Lord has said:

"How long can rolling waters remain impure? What power shall stay the heavens? As well might man stretch forth his puny arm to stop the Missouri river in its decreed course, or to turn it up stream, as to hinder the Almighty from pouring down knowledge from heaven upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints." (D&C 121:33.)

The Priesthood to Point the Way

We have discovered an interesting fact at our Mormon Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York: that the great strength of our pavilion as a missionary project is not in the paintings, not in the sculpture work, not in the film, but in the presentation of the missionaries who have the priesthood of God and in the wonderful spirit which our missionaries have.

As you go out tomorrow look to the east, just underneath the west towers of the great Salt Lake Temple, and see a depiction of the dipper pointing toward the North Star, which Truman O. Angell said in an article in the *Millennial Star* was to symbolize to the Church "that through the priesthood of

God, the lost might find their way." May every priesthood holder remember that responsibility.

"No Fallen Lighthouse!"

I was at Boston Stake conference a few weeks ago. We installed a young pilot who had served in the Air Force, a fighter pilot, as a counselor in the stake presidency. I was very much impressed by his feeling of responsibility. He said something which I want to impress upon you leaders throughout the entire Church. He said, "I am very fearful of this responsibility now as a member of the stake presidency, because I have come to know that the most dangerous of all traffic aids is a fallen lighthouse, since so many people depend upon it for guidance and for safety."

To Guarantee Success

To have a leader that fails, a "fallen lighthouse" upon whom God depends in a ward or stake or in a general capacity, is the most dangerous thing in the world, because so many are depending on the functioning of that particular man. And so we propose to give out to the Church now these plans which we ask you as stake leaders to be prepared to announce in your stakes as soon as you can after this conference. We will give you materials to help train your ward people and home teachers in order that we may get off at the beginning of the year in this great project of the Lord, that for fifty years has been urged and now is to be strengthened by a set of planned lessons for the parents in the home, actually outlined for the parents to teach their children and to carry out appropriate activities to aid in the strengthening of the home. As I have thought of home night, I have thought of my own family, and I suppose all of you have as you have been listening. When our oldest daughter was to be married to a fine Latter-day Saint boy the two mothers were in the corner of the room talking to each other, and the mother of our oldest daughter said, "You know, from the time my little girl was born, I have been praying all my life that somewhere a mother

would be preparing a son worthy to marry my daughter." And this other mother smiled and said, "Isn't that strange? This is my only son who is being married to your daughter, and ever since he was born, I, too, have been praying that somewhere there would be a mother preparing a daughter worthy to meet and to marry my son."

It is that kind of home attention—mothers preparing daughters, fathers and mothers, sons—that will make us and our homes stronger today.

Four Standard Works for Everyone

One of the hopes we have in this program is that the four standard works will be in the possession of every boy and girl deacons age and older and that on Easter, on birthdays, on Christmas, on New Year's, you make this a part of your family giving to your children, so they may have the joy of personally owning the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price, and from these precious pages begin to be instructed in the ways of the Lord.

As I thought of what we are doing now and its possible impact, the words of the Prophet Micah came, "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Mic. 4:1-2.)

BROTHER GRANT PACE

(A Deacon from Holladay Fifth Ward, Olympus Stake)

This is something I will never forget—standing before this great meeting of priesthood bearers. When you think that in this one room there are prophets, apostles, and all the General Authorities

Unity, the Way

I say to you Latter-day Saint mothers and fathers, if you will rise to the responsibility of teaching your children in the home—priesthood quorums preparing the fathers, the Relief Society the mothers—the day will soon be dawning when the whole world will come to our doors and will say, "Show us your way that we may walk in your path."

May the Lord bless us all. We thank the Lord tonight for a prophet leader who has the vision and courage to continue to guide us and to point the way to the strengthening of the Church through the priesthood of Almighty God which I bear testimony in his power and in his authority for the salvation of all mankind within the limitations as indicated by each setting apart by the laying on of hands. To that I bear humble testimony in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown

I hope we will all heed this enthusiastic address.

We are trying in these priesthood meetings to bring messages from the Lesser Priesthood to all of us. This evening we have arranged to hear from a Deacon and from a Priest. Brother Pace has been chosen. He is a Deacon from the Holladay Fifth Ward, of the Olympus Stake. He will now speak to us on "How Teaching in My Home Has Benefited My Life."

Then, without further announcement, Brother Scott Peterson, a Priest from the Bountiful Thirteenth Ward, of the Bountiful North Stake, will speak to us on the same subject.

and church leaders from all over the world you can see why a 13 year old deacon doesn't feel very big or very important.

But I have been assigned to talk about