

which was like consuming fire. . . . it seemed as though my body would consume away." (*Life of Heber C. Kimball*, 1945 ed., p. 22.)

On these rare and marvelous occasions, one feels the power of the Holy Ghost enter his body as if it were a wave of electricity. While he is under that spiritual influence, he experiences an indescribable joy throughout his whole being. Yes, he feels a love for everybody and everything far surpassing his natural ability to feel love and joy on other occasions. An experience of this kind is more dynamic, more powerful, and more awe-inspiring than any sensation that could be received through the physical senses. Such a dynamic experience leaves a lasting impression on the recipient that time does not dim and that he can never deny.

For example, if this powerful witness from the Holy Ghost comes to bear testimony of the divine nature and truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, the person who has had that witness borne to his heart will know beyond a shadow of doubt, just as surely as he knows that he is alive, that the Book of Mormon is true—that it is the word of God.

Moroni's Promise

When Moroni was finishing the Nephite records preparatory to hiding them for future generations, he gave us the key to receiving a testimony. He wrote:

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things

are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

"And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things." (Moroni 10:4-5.)

This dynamic witness has come to me, as it has to thousands of other people who have followed Moroni's injunction. As a result of a gift from God through the power of the Holy Ghost, I know as positively as I know any other fact with which I am thoroughly acquainted that the Book of Mormon is true. It is a divine and sacred record of the history and religion of the ancient Americans. This knowledge is so thoroughly entrenched in my entire being that with all my heart, strength, and might I bear testimony to the divine authenticity of this holy book.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ, let us build, sustain, and retain our testimonies by living ". . . by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God." (D&C 84:44.) And then our names shall be ". . . written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27), and we shall be ". . . sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise . . ." (D&C 132:26) to rise in the resurrection of the just to be crowned with glory, exaltation, and eternal life.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner:

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve will be our concluding speaker.

ELDER LeGRAND RICHARDS *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My heart is full of gratitude to my Father in heaven for the privilege of attending this great conference with you, my brethren and sisters, and those who have attended the other sessions of the conference. And I have rejoiced in the testimonies and the messages of

all of my brethren who have spoken prior to my talk, and particularly commencing with that masterful address, the keynote to the conference, delivered by President McKay yesterday morning. I think that was no less than a miracle. Those of us who have been

Saturday, October 2

Second Day

close to him and know the difficulty he has had for some time in expressing himself and have heard him here with the freedom that he had know that it could not have been other than the blessing of the Lord.

I am grateful to all of you good people for the experience I have had with so many of you as I have labored with you in the Church, as I have been in your stakes and in your missions. I sit here on the stand, and I have a happy feeling in my heart as I look along the rows and as I meet you and recall the experiences we have had together. It is a wonderful thing, and I thank God for your faith and your faithfulness. Just think of the power there is represented in this meeting today with all you wonderful leaders of the missions and the stakes and the wards, as you are gathered here in this great conference. And I thank you, as I know the brethren do, for your prayers for us of the General Authorities. And we pray for you and thank God for you and for your love and for your support.

The "Sea of Faith" Ebbs Away

As I tried to think what I might say at this conference, I thought of an article that I read a short time ago in one of the national magazines, written by the senior editor under the title "The Battle of the Bible." That whole article was devoted to the failure of the churches to perform what the churches should do in the world today, and I thought I would like to read you just three sentences from that article:

"You feel religious restlessness everywhere you go. The big denominations, long placid, are suddenly possessed by turmoil." Then he adds: "Many Protestant leaders believe that the church will not survive as it is." (T. George Harris, *Look*, July 27, 1965, p. 17.)

Now think of that! Then I thought of what Brother Benson, just having returned from Europe, told us in our meeting in the temple Wednesday, that in that land only three percent of the people attend their churches. What a lack of faith!

Then I thought of the words of Paul of old when he said that perilous times

should come: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. . . ." (2 Tim. 3:1-2.)

And then I asked myself, in the face of such declarations, What is the remedy? And I have come to think that there is only one remedy, and that is the voice of a living prophet. I thank God that we believe in a living prophet, that we have a living prophet to guide us in these latter days.

Need for the Voice of a Prophet

There are many thinking people in the world today in religious circles who believe that we need the voice of a prophet. I remember, when I was down in the South as a missionary, there appeared an article in *The Atlanta Constitution*, the largest newspaper of the South, reporting a Methodist conference where Bishop Ainsworth discussed the conditions existing in the churches relative to the alarming conditions observed today and urged the churches and people of all faiths to engage in a crusade to save civilization from moral decadence; and then the bishop added:

"Never in the nation's history was the arresting voice of a prophet of God more needed than it is today." (November 27, 1936.)

Now, it is wonderful if people begin to realize the need of the arresting voice of a prophet of God. Another article appeared in the *Beds and Herts Saturday Telegraph* (Luton, England) a short time before that wherein the Reverend James A. Sutherland discussed the need of a prophet, and I would like to read you what he said:

"We all recognize that something has got to be done, for at the moment we are in a plight. Where our earthly leaders falter, our people drift and die. We cannot forget that when the blind set out to lead the blind, chances are that both will find themselves in a ditch. A dictator being out of the question, WHAT ABOUT A PROPHET?"

"The Prophet never is self-appointed. It is well to keep that in mind. Nor is he chosen of his fellows. Always he is Heaven sent. Yet I am cheered at the thought that he has a knack of appearing at the right time. That being so, I incline to the belief that our Prophet must surely be getting ready for us. Let us not forget that; hope and pray as we will for his coming. Men have an old habit of greeting the true prophet with stones. We need not be surprised if an old-fashioned welcome awaits the Prophet of our day. No one can say when such a prophet will come, but of our need of him, there is no question." (November 18, 1930.)

Isn't it wonderful to think that spiritual leaders are beginning to recognize their failure, that they need the word of living prophets, like Amos of old said: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7.)

Another article appeared in *The Atlanta Journal* while I was in the South, quoting Bishop Warren A. Candler of the Methodist Church. He discussed the decadent condition of the Christian world and said: "The whole world, especially our own country, needs a revival of genuine religion."

After discussing that need, he said, "We need the reappearance of prophets sent from God." (August 9, 1936.)

I think that it is a wonderful thing that these men recognize that they don't have what it takes!

Another article appeared in the *Alabama Christian Advocate* while I was in the South, under the title "The Cry for Prophets," and I would like to read you that:

O timorous Church of Christ,
Cease counting your gain and losses.
The future, imperiled is calling
With the voice of a million crosses!
Calling for faithful Prophets and Seers,
To rise up and prophesy—
To kindle a fading vision afresh,
Lest a visionless people die.
Our sins are many, our needs are sore;
O, *Prophet, show us the roll—*

Take up the scales of God once more,

And weigh the things of the soul.
Point not alone to the Patriarchs

For the leading we need today—
Scrolls of the Ancients we cherish,
But the Prophets must lead the way.

(Marshall Wingfield, August 6, 1936.
Italics added.)

Another statement came from one of the leaders of the Methodist Church, Dr. John Lidgett, as follows:

"It is undoubtedly true that we need a revival of religion, but such a revival cannot be man-made. It must be God-given. We must pray for it, work for it, but that alone will not make it possible. *It must come from God.*"

As already indicated, when a true prophet is sent, an old-time welcome will await him. This thought is also expressed in Giovanni Papini's *Life of Christ* in these words:

"All the prophets who have ever spoken upon the earth were insulted by men, and men will insult those who are to come. We can recognize prophets by this, that smeared with mud and covered with shame, they pass among men, bright-faced, speaking out what is in their hearts. No mud can close the lips of those who must speak. Even if the obstinate prophet is killed, they cannot silence him. His voice multiplied by the echoes of his death will be heard in all languages and through all the centuries." (1923 ed., p. 93.)

Prophets Speak

It is the mission and the privilege and the responsibility of the Latter-day Saints to bear witness to all the world that the God of heaven has raised up a prophet in our day to usher in the restored gospel of his Son Jesus Christ, and it is our responsibility to bear that message.

Reference has been made today to the words of Peter when he said:

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

"Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the

mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:20-21.)

I ask you, and I ask the world: How can there be a restitution of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began without a living prophet upon the earth unto whom such a restitution can be conveyed by the powers of heaven, because no man, no prophet of God, is ever self-sent? He must be called and sent by our Father in heaven.

When Moroni, the prophet, who lived upon this American continent four hundred years after the birth of the Savior, visited the Prophet Joseph as a messenger from heaven, a resurrected being, he visited him three times during the night and again the next morning. Joseph was then only seventeen years of age, and Moroni told him that his name would be had for good and evil among every nation and every kindred and every people and that his name should be spoken of for both good and evil among all people.

We sing, "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah! Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer," (W. W. Phelps, *Hymns*, 147) while the world has denounced him as a false prophet until they finally put him to death with his brother Hyrum. He said that he felt much like the Apostle Paul when he made his defense before King Agrippa, and I read you his testimony:

"I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two Personages, and they did in reality speak to me; and though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me, reviling me, and speaking all manner of evil against me falsely for so saying, I was led to say in my heart: Why persecute me for telling the truth? I have actually seen a vision; and who am I that I can withstand God, or why does the world think to make me deny what I have actually seen? For I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it, neither dared I do it; at least I knew that by so doing I would offend God, and come under condemnation." (Joseph Smith 2:25.)

Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the Restoration

The evidence that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God is seen on every hand in the great organization of this Church and its great achievements and accomplishments. It has been said that one of the presidents of the United States said that this was the greatest organization in the world for the development of men and women. And we know that that is true. Men not of the Church even have borne testimony, and not only that, but as Brother Milton R. Hunter and Bishop Simpson have just talked about the testimony that God plants in the hearts of millions who have already borne witness, many of them have gone on to their rest. However, thousands like you men and women sitting here today have planted in your hearts by the power of the Holy Ghost a witness that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. And that, after all, is the best knowledge that one can get.

The Prophet Joseph Smith has given to the world more revealed truth than any prophet who has ever lived upon the face of the earth, aside from Jesus Christ the Lord, as far as any records we have today evidence anything to the contrary.

Many thinking people, not members of the Church, have recognized in Joseph Smith a conundrum and wondered where his power came from. A writer for the *New York Herald*, who had visited with the Prophet Joseph Smith back in 1842, published this:

"Joseph Smith is undoubtedly one of the greatest characters of the age. He indicates as much talent, originality and moral courage as Mahomet, Odin or any of the great spirits that have hitherto produced the revolutions of past ages. . . . While modern philosophy, which believes in nothing but what you can touch, is overspreading the Atlantic states, Joseph Smith is creating a spiritual system, combined also with morals and industry, that may change the destiny of the race. . . . We certainly want some such prophet to start up, take a big hold of the public mind—and stop the torrent of

materialism that is hurrying the world into infidelity, immorality, licentiousness and crime." (Quoted by George Q. Cannon, *Life of Joseph Smith the Prophet*, 1958 ed., p. 345.)

It is a prophet, the voice of a prophet, that this world needs today.

Now, you remember the statement contained in the book *Figures of the Past* by Josiah Quincy, the former mayor of Boston, saying:

"It is by no means improbable that some future textbook, for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destiny of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: *Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet*. And the reply, absurd as it doubtless seems to most men now living, may be an obvious commonplace to their descendants." (1926 ed., p. 317.)

A college president, who taught down at Brigham Young University just a short time ago, at the close of his service there, made this statement:

"It may well be that the Mormon people have the key that will eventually save this country."

Men do not make statements like that without some reason for it. He had seen the lives of the people, and he knew something of the accomplishments of this Church.

Comments of World's Fair Visitors

Here are a few comments from a few of the visitors to our exhibition at the New York World's Fair, and this is just an inkling of the marvelous comments of people who have written in those books back there as visitors and made their comments:

One said, "There is hope for the world with people like you."

The next one: "More of this, no doubt shall save our world." (They begin to realize the power there is in this Church.)

The next one: "Have seen nothing equal to it as far as religion is concerned."

Comments of Visitors at Welfare Square

We have similar statements from people who have visited our Welfare Square here, where the Church has made preparation to take care of underprivileged and needy people. I read you a few of those statements:

"It is a pattern for our federal government to attempt to follow."

"This is the most wonderful thing I have ever seen, and I hope to come back again."

"This, to my way of thinking, is a real religion."

"We believe your church and its members are doing the great deeds that may someday achieve a true brotherhood of man."

We knew that, but we are grateful to know that other people are finding it out!

The Book of Mormon

Besides the great organization of the Church, we have the Book of Mormon to which Brother Milton R. Hunter has just referred, a tangible evidence; and that evidence is something that the world is beginning to recognize, even some of the ministers. No man would dare write a book of five-hundred pages and put in it such a promise as was read here by Brother Hunter, that when it comes if you would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, he would manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost.

A minister who visited our exhibit at the fair in New York wrote this:

"I am reading the Book of Mormon, and it is a revelation, and I believe it is the truth."

A minister wrote from the East some time ago, and he said that he had had a Book of Mormon in his library for years, and he had never read it. He said, "Recently I started reading it." And in this letter he referred to Alma and Mosiah and King Benjamin and their wonderful teachings, and he said, "I am quoting from them in my sermons to my people."

A minister of the gospel toured here

Saturday, October 2

Second Day

on this temple block some years ago, and then he wrote a letter back and said that he had been a minister of the gospel for thirty-seven years, that he had acquired a library that had cost him over \$12,000 (and that was when money was money; it would cost him a lot more now!), and he said, "But I have in my library a book that is worth more than all the other books, because it is the word of God." And he mentions it as the Book of Mormon.

Some of you have heard President Nicholas G. Smith, when he was president of the California Mission, tell us from this pulpit about how he was invited by the Dean of Religion at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to let him take a copy of the Book of Mormon, and President Smith gave him one that had been marked by the elders. And then he invited Brother Smith and the missionaries to come and listen to his sermon, and they did. He held up that Book of Mormon; he read verse after verse that had been marked by the elders, and he said this:

"I have here a volume of scripture which has been in our midst for a hundred years, and we have not known about it."

And then he read many passages which the elders had marked and said this:

"This is not a dead book; it lives." And then repeating, "Isn't it beautiful?" And then he added, "Why can we not fellowship a people who believe in the beautiful things I have read to you today?"

Now brothers and sisters, people don't need to be in the dark. If they are just willing to be open-minded and will investigate the truth that we have to offer, they cannot help but know that this is the work of God the Eternal Father.

"Come, Listen to a Prophet's Voice"

In closing, I say to all of our friends who are not of us, of every church and every creed, in the words of our song:

"Come, listen to a prophet's voice,
And hear the word of God,
And in the way of truth rejoice,

And sing for joy aloud.
We've found the way the prophets
went

Who lived in days of yore;
Another prophet now is sent
This knowledge to restore."

(Hymns, 46.)

That is our testimony to the world,
and we testify that we have a living
prophet.

I bear you my witness to that effect
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner:

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve has been our concluding speaker.

The Brigham Young University Combined Choirs will sing "O Be Joyful, All Ye Lands," conducted by Kurt Weinzinger.

The benediction will be offered by Elder Heber G. Taylor, formerly president of the Eastern Atlantic States Mission, after which this conference will be adjourned until 7 o'clock this evening, when the General Meeting of the Priesthood of the Church will be held in this the Salt Lake Tabernacle. 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 Priesthoods assembled in 400 separate locations in all parts of the United States and Canada.

The Sunday morning session will be broadcast by many radio and television stations in the west, short wave in English over Station WRUL, beamed by five transmitters near Boston to Europe, South America, Central America and parts of Asia.

Tomorrow morning's session will be carried in English by direct wire from the Tabernacle over the oceanic cable to a large number of saints assembled in chapels throughout Great Britain, to the Darmstadt chapel near Frank-