

will have a glimpse of how our Heavenly Father wants us to live, not only as brothers and sisters but as very close friends.

Appreciation for confidence

I humbly bear testimony to you this day that this is our Heavenly Father's work, and that I approach this new assignment in all humility, aware of the fact that I need your blessings to carry on and to function as our Master would have me serve. May I express to President David O. McKay my gratitude and appreciation for his confi-

dence in calling me to serve with him and these brethren, my friends, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

President Alvin R. Dyer

I am sure that we will all feel the effects of the service of this good man in this new calling.

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve will be our next speaker, and he will be followed by Elder Theodore M. Burton, Assistant to the Twelve.

ELDER LEGRAND RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve

● I should first like to extend my congratulations to Elder Ashton on his call. He can't help it, but I'm his uncle by marriage and I am proud of him. Furthermore, he is a son of my first counselor when I served as the Presiding Bishop of the Church, and of all the men who have been General Authorities in this church, I think his father was one of the most beloved throughout the entire Church.

Expression of love

Now I greet all of you brothers and sisters here today and express my love for you and my appreciation for your kindness to me as I travel throughout the Church, and my congratulations for your great contributions in helping to build our Father's kingdom. In your presence I would like to express my love for my Father in heaven and for his Son Jesus Christ and for the holy scriptures, for without them what would we know about the love of our Father in heaven, who gave us his Only Begotten Son, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life"? (John 3:15.) And what would we know about the life and the labors, the teachings, the example, and the great atoning sacrifice of the Redeemer of the world? No wonder we love him and are proud to be his representatives!

Words of the prophets

I love the scriptures. I love the words of the prophets, for the Lord has permitted many of them to look down through the stream of time and behold coming events of great importance in this world.

I think of the words of Jesus as he walked with two of his disciples as they were on their way to Emmaus following his resurrection, and we are told that "their eyes were holden that they should not know him." (Luke 24:16.) When he heard what they had to say, he realized that notwithstanding the time he had spent with them, they did not comprehend the magnitude of his ministry, and he said: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." (Luke 24:25.) Commencing with Moses and the prophets, he showed them how in all things the prophets had testified of him.

Two great events foretold

To me there are two great events recorded in the holy scriptures that are outstanding above all others, and one is the announcement by the holy prophets of the coming of the Redeemer of the world in the meridian of time. Those prophets were permitted to describe his life and his ministry in such minute detail that they even told

how lots would be cast for his clothing at the time of his crucifixion. Then the next important event outlined by the holy prophets, in my estimation, is what the prophets had to say about his second coming and the preparation for that coming, and that is the mission of this great church.

I think of the words of the apostle Peter. He said:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pet. 1:19-21.)

Time of restitution

I like the words of the prophets who have declared this day. I think of the words of the apostle Peter following the day of Pentecost, when he said the heavens must receive the Christ "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 3:21.) We have that restitution. There isn't time today to go into the details of the ministration of heavenly messengers that have been sent to this earth in order to restore the gospel and prepare the way for his coming, which is the restitution of all things.

I like the statement by John the Revelator when he was banished upon the Isle of Patmos and the angel of the Lord said, "Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." (Rev. 4:1.) He was shown the great power that would be given to Satan to make war with the saints—the saints were the followers of the meek and lowly Master—and that Satan would be given power over every nation and every kindred and every tongue and every people, but after he saw that great day of darkness he also saw a day of light. He saw "another angel fly in the midst of heaven, hav-

ing the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." (Rev. 14:6.) That doesn't leave out anybody! We have that everlasting gospel that the Lord promised to send to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

Marvelous work and a wonder

I like the statement of Isaiah. He said the Lord had declared the end from the beginning. (See Isa. 41:26.) It is all there in the holy scriptures if we know how to read them and understand them in the spirit in which they were written, namely, the spirit of the Holy Ghost. He said: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isa. 40:8.)

I like the statement of Isaiah, who, when he saw the conditions when men would worship God by the precepts of men, said: "Wherefore the Lord said . . . behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." (Isa. 29:13-14.)

We have that marvelous work and a wonder, and I know that as you do, and we have a great responsibility to share that with our fellowmen throughout the world. I trust that those who are listening to this conference will be impressed with the fact that this Church has more to offer than any other church in all this world.

Coming of Elijah

I like the words of Malachi the prophet, when he saw the latter days and said: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Mal. 4:5-6.)

What would the consequences really have been, had it not been for the coming of Elijah the prophet, and

how could the kingdom be prepared for the coming of the Master without all these things finding their fulfillment? All of this constitutes what Paul said when he said the Lord had revealed unto him the mystery of his will, "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth. . . ." (Eph. 1:10.)

We have that responsibility, and we are the only church in the world that knows anything about that marvelous mystery that God revealed to Paul of this great work of uniting that which is in heaven with that which is here upon this earth.

Gathering of Israel

I like the statement of Isaiah, which was quoted by Moroni to the Prophet Joseph when he visited him three times in the night, and again the next morning when Joseph was only a lad 17 years old. He quoted the words of Isaiah where the Lord said that he would set his hand again the second time to gather scattered Israel. (See Isa. 11:11.) He has been doing that. Many of you are descendants of those who have been gathered from all over this earth in fulfillment of that prediction. He said he would bring in the dispersed of Judah, and after 2,000 years of their wanderings and their persecutions, they have been led back to their own land, for God gave them that land as an eternal inheritance.

Ensign for the nations

And that isn't all. He said he would set up an ensign for the nations. (Isa. 11:12.) Now I don't know what you think about an ensign. It seems to me that means he would do something better than he had ever done before or that could be found anywhere else in all this world. That is what this Church really is. Now if I should make reference to a few comments made by people who have come among us and have been sufficiently without prejudice that they could recognize what this Church is doing, I hope nobody will think that I am boasting.

We had here in our midst just a few

years ago a great economist, not only of the United States but of the world. One of our banker friends gave a banquet for him at the Hotel Utah. There were 25 of us invited there, and after the governor and the President of the Church had said a few words, they asked this man if he would like to say something. He stood there and his jaw began to quiver and the tears began to roll down his cheeks, and he made this statement: "I have never stood in such presence in my life. I have to come out here to these valleys of the mountains to find the kind of Christianity I think can save the world." (*Just to Illustrate* [Bookcraft, 1961], p. 181.) Now we are happy that he could recognize that.

We had a man here in our midst a short time ago, a Dr. Polian of Iran. He was sent to the United States by his government to study the American people. After spending three days here in Salt Lake City, he made this statement: "I have been in the United States eleven months as a representative from my government to study the American people, and I have obtained a more favorable impression of them in the two days I have spent in Salt Lake City than in all the rest of the eleven months." (*Ibid.*, p. 129.) Now there must be something that provokes that kind of a statement.

Statement at Washington conference

I want to read you a statement that impressed me very much, and I apologize to Brother [Marion D.] Hanks for doing it. During President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration, a youth conference was held in Washington. There were 7,000 representatives there from all over the United States and probably from other countries. Brother Hanks was asked to give the keynote address—not just to be one of the speakers at the convention, but to deliver the keynote address. After he had concluded, the man who had conducted the meeting made this statement:

"As I sat here I reflected that Mr. Hanks comes from people that were driven from our region of the country because of the things they believed, and suffered bitter persecution for their

ideals, who went finally to the far reaches of this country where they thought themselves away from all this. Now we have invited a leader of that people to come here to talk to us of the same ideals and principles for which we drove them away." (*Ibid.*, p. 208.)

It takes truth a long while to travel, but she finally gets her boots on. I am reminded of the fable about Truth and Error: they went out into the river to bathe, and Error came out first and dressed herself in Truth's clothing and has been traveling in it ever since. But because Truth wouldn't dress herself in Error's clothing, we always speak of the naked Truth!

Comments of visitors

Just a few years ago we had the president of a college down in California teach at the summer school of Brigham Young University. At the close of the summer, in an interview with one of our reporters, he made this significant statement: "It may well be that the Mormon people have the key that will eventually save this country." There must be something back of a people and a program that would call for such compliments from a president of a college. Incidentally, he was so impressed that he has since joined the Church!

Now we have people come here by the millions to our Visitors Center. Some of them go away feeling like they have been in heaven, because the things they see there are so wonderful. Then they are taken to Welfare Square, and we have a book down there where they can write their impressions of what they see. I'd like to read you just a few statements. The book is full of them, but this is just typical of the impressions. This is from a representative from England: "This has been an extraordinary experience, and it seems to me to be one of the best examples of practical Christianity in the modern world."

This one is from a Baptist: "It is a pattern for our federal government to attempt to follow." A non-Church member: "This is the most wonderful thing I have ever seen, and I hope to come back again." A Hebrew: "This in

my way of thinking is a real religion." A non-Church member: "We believe your church and its members are doing the great deeds that may some day achieve a true brotherhood of man." We knew that. This is the greatest brotherhood in all this world anywhere. And then from a Catholic: "A wonderful project and something other faiths might well copy." A Methodist: "I'm flabbergasted"—whatever that means! An Episcopalian: "Beyond belief."

Hope for the world

Now I want to read you just a few words from people who attended the New York Fair, and they had a book there where these impressions could be written after they had seen our display. First, a Catholic priest: "I think I will leave my priesthood and join you." A Lutheran from New York: "It is very difficult and words cannot express the true feeling of goodness one gets while touring your pavilion." A Catholic from New York: "There is hope for the world with people like you." A Protestant: "I love it—sounds great. Please send me someone." There are a lot more just like that, but I wanted you to hear a few.

Now there must be something to this institution. Isn't that what Isaiah meant when he said that he would set an ensign to the nations? People see that we are doing things differently than they have been done before. We had a man on the campus at Brigham Young University in June 1968. He said that he had been at that university in Provo, Utah, year after year since 1940, and then he added this: "I am becoming convinced that the only salvation for the United States is for all Christians converting to Mormonism." They will be converted just as fast as our great army of Mormon missionaries can reach them; and if, in the words of Jesus, they truly hunger and thirst after righteousness, they shall be filled.

The restored gospel

God bless you all, brothers and sis-

ters. We have the greatest thing to offer in all this world. It is the restored gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a reformation. It came from heaven, from holy messengers, and I bear you that witness because I know it as I know that I stand here. May God help us to share it with our neighbors and our friends and the whole world, I pray, and ask God to bless you all in

the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

President Alvin R. Dyer

We have listened to the faith-promoting remarks of Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve.

Elder Theodore M. Burton, Assistant to the Twelve, will now speak to us.

ELDER THEODORE M. BURTON

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

● My brothers and sisters: One of the most beautiful prayers ever offered is found recorded in the Gospel of John. It was given as Jesus opened his heart in prayer to God the Eternal Father, pleading for unity not only among the apostles, but also asking that those who follow their words might reach a state of unity such as that found in the Godhead. They were to preach a gospel of peace and love, and so he said:

Christ's plea for unity

"Neither pray I for these [the apostles] alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

"That they all might be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20-21.)

Our present world is torn by argument, dissension, violence, war, and rumors of war, and because of the turmoil on every side, men's hearts are beginning to fail them. If men are to retain their sanity and hope, they must have an assurance of a peaceful solution for the ills of mankind. This assurance can be given if we who claim to be true followers of Jesus Christ demonstrate that unity spoken of in that great prayer from which I have quoted Christ's plea for unity.

Necessity for unity

I feel impressed to stress the necessity for unity as one of the greatest needs of our present-day world. Not

only does it apply to the world in general, but it is particularly important within the Church if we are to take our rightful place in leading mankind toward peace.

In our generation the Savior gave us a statement so often used by the late President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.: ". . . I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine." (D&C 38:27.)

This doctrine is built upon true love, even the love of Christ, and is a most important principle of the gospel. Without the love of one man for another, how can justice and real freedom ever be achieved? Unless every man esteems his brother as himself and practices virtue and holiness before the Lord, how can that person hope to live in the presence of God, where unity, love, virtue, and truth abound? No unrighteousness can exist in the presence of God, and unless we learn to overcome disunity and unrighteousness here upon the earth, we cannot hope to be restored to live in the presence of God the Eternal Father in the resurrection to come.

Causes of disunity

What causes disunity and friction? There are many reasons for disunity, but one of the principal reasons is the ego of man himself. I define this ego as the desire to be acknowledged as a person different from others. This desire is not evil in itself. In fact, properly directed, it can be a great virtue. There is a certain amount of faith or pride in one's self that every successful and happy person must have. Only