

President Andrew O. McArthur of the St. George Stake offered the opening prayer.

God Is Intelligence," after which Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve, will be our speaker.

President Smith

The MIA Girls Centennial Chorus will now favor us with "The Glory of

The song, "The Glory of God Is Intelligence," was rendered by the MIA Girls Centennial Chorus.

ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

Of the Council of the Twelve

● President McKay, and my beloved brethren and sisters:

My heart has been touched, as I am sure yours have been, by the beautiful singing of this MIA girls' centennial chorus. I am sure that for them, in their loveliness at this time of life, it is wonderful "to discover that they are being discovered!"

MIA theme

Now, with their presence and their participation, it would seem appropriate to turn to this year's MIA theme: "For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled." (Morm. 8:22.) This, my beloved young friends, whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever you're thinking, wherever you're going—this, I promise you, you can count on.

We come to you today—to you, our beloved young people everywhere—with an awareness that you face a complexity of choices such as we at your age had never heard of, and yet with an awareness that the principles are as clear-cut as they ever were, as they always were.

And in the few moments I have, I'd like to touch quickly upon a number of subjects:

Important commitment of marriage

First, I know of no more complete or important commitment, in time or in eternity, than marriage. In marriage we choose the closest companion of our life. In marriage we choose the parents of our children and the heritage they have. Don't let this choice ever be made except with earnest, searching,

prayerful consideration, confiding in parents, in faithful, mature, trustworthy friends, making sure the person you marry shares your ideals, your convictions; a person with ambition, integrity, and intelligence; a person of cleanliness, of faith, of reverence and respect, to whom you would be willing to trust your children, and your own happiness, forever. Oh, be sure you choose a mate of character and kindness. And don't be stampeded by the music and the moonlight.

May I share a quotation from President Tanner that is much worth remembering: "The parents that you should honor more than any others are the parents of your children-to-be. Those children are entitled to the best parents that it is possible for you to give them—clean parents." (Church News, April 19, 1969, p. 2.)

Statements on morality

And now on the matter of morality: May I cite two significant sources: "The finest piece of mechanism in all the universe," said Dr. David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, "is the brain of man and the mind which is its manifestation. . . . The sober man is the one who protects his brain from all that would do harm. . . . The Twentieth Century . . . will be strenuous, complex . . . [and] will ask for men of instant decision, men whose mental equipment is all in order. . . . No one can afford to look downward for his enjoyments. . . . The pleasures of vice are mere illusions, tricks of the nervous system, and each time these tricks are played it is more and more difficult

for the mind to tell the truth. Such deceptions come through drunkenness and narcoticism. In greater or less degree all nerve-affecting drugs produce it: nicotine, caffeine, opium, cocaine, and [all] the rest, strong or weak. Habitual use of any of these is a physical vice. A physical vice becomes a moral vice, and . . . to cultivate vice is to render . . . our mind incapable of normal action. . . . One and all, these various drugs . . . tend to give the impression of a power or a pleasure . . . which we do not possess. . . . One and all their function is to force the nervous system to lie. One and all the result of their habitual use is to render the nervous system incapable of ever telling the truth. . . . Indulgence . . . destroys wisdom and virtue; it destroys faith and hope and love. . . . Whatever you do, . . . count all the cost."

Thus spoke the eminent educator, Dr. Jordan. And this he added: "To be clean is to be strong. . . . To say no at the right time, and then stand by it, is the first element of success. . . . He is the wise man who, for all his life, can keep mind and soul and body clean." (Selected from *The Strength of Being Clean and The Call of the Twentieth Century.*)

And now, for the second source: Dr. Frank Crane said: "Nature keeps books pitilessly. Your credit with her is good, but she collects. . . . She never forgets; she sees to it that you pay her every cent you owe, with interest. . . . Every generation a new crop of fools comes on. They think they can beat the orderly universe. They conceive themselves to be more clever than the eternal laws. They snatch goods from Nature's store and run. . . . And one by one they all come back to Nature's counter and pay—pay in tears, in agony, in despair; pay as fools before they have paid." (*Four Minute Essays: Pay, Pay, Pay!*)

Laws of life in force

There isn't any way to cheat nature, to bypass law, to run away from life. The commandments haven't been repealed; the laws of morality, the spiritual laws, the laws of life are still in force and effect.

Oh, don't let others drag you down, and don't drag yourself down. No matter what cynical or immoral or even honestly mistaken people may say, don't let them destroy your faith or your virtue, or lead you to a lower way of life.

And when they try to tell you what you're missing, you tell them what they're missing: peace and self-respect and a quiet conscience—happiness—and the assurance of the highest opportunities of everlasting life.

The question of love

Now to turn to the question of love: There are tests to which love should be put. Don't trust the love of anyone who would propose to you what is improper. Don't trust the love of anyone who would hurt or embarrass you or tempt you to evil, or endeavor to induce you to do that which would lead you to shame or sorrow.

The test of love is in how we live. If we do really love someone, we would do for them, or induce them to do, only what would be for their happiness and peace and protection, for their benefit and blessing.

If we truly love our parents, we will prove our love by living honorable lives and by respecting them, caring for them, taking them into our confidence.

If we love the Church, we will prove that love by how we serve and honor our membership in it.

Sometimes we say we love the Lord, but he has told us how to prove that love: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15.)

Don't be deceived by false or selfish or counterfeit love from any source.

Faith in God's word

Now, as to faith: Believe me, you can count on all that God has said. More than a hundred thirty-six years ago, to a young prophet he said simply, ". . . tobacco is not . . . good for man. . . ." (D&C 89:8.) It has taken medical science more than a century to prove that the Lord knew what he was talking about. When he tells us something, he expects us to believe it.

It doesn't take faith to believe the Word of Wisdom any more. It just takes a little common sense.

I have been privileged to know some of the most brilliant men of the earth, in many countries, worldwide. I have a great respect for research and scholarship and for the skills and talents and minds of competent men. But I have never known a man who knew enough so that I was willing to trust him with my everlasting life. I only know one place to put such trust. Oh, I plead with you to go all the way with your Father in heaven, for you will see—all of us shall—in time and in eternity the promises of God fulfilled. This you can count on.

Principle of repentance

Now a word about repentance: It seems significant that repentance is given as the second great principle of the gospel: "Faith, repentance. . . ." (Article of Faith 4.)

We all make mistakes. If our repentance is sincere, we have the right to approach him for forgiveness, but remember we are not entitled to any quota of mistakes. It is *always* better that we don't make them. And surely we shouldn't go on stupidly or stubbornly repeating the same old mistakes over and over again. We ought to have learned our lessons. It isn't enough to be just as good today as we were yesterday. We should be better. The Lord doesn't deal in theories. When he says perfection is possible, we'd better be improving. But one of the most devilish doctrines that anyone could advocate would be to say that because someone had made a mistake, it wouldn't matter if he made one more, or many more. The best time to repent is now, before the next time.

But don't let anyone tell you ever that you are beyond repenting, or that there is no point in repenting, or that it is all right to postpone repentance.

The burden of sin

I think it was our beloved Brother Harold B. Lee who said that the heaviest burden in the world is the burden of sin. Don't carry it around with you. Don't tamper with evil.

Don't flirt with temptation. Don't live with a quarreling conscience. Confide in those who love you, who can help you—your parents, your bishops, your stake presidents. Clean out the clutter of the past and live to have peace and a quiet conscience.

Many centuries ago Mencius said, "Let men decide firmly what they will not do, then they will be free vigorously to do what they ought to do." (*Discourses*, iv.) All of us ought to decide firmly what we will not do. We shouldn't have to argue with ourselves at each time of temptation. Taught as we are, our decisions against evil ought to be more or less automatic.

In the words of Marcus Aurelius, "If it is not right, do not do it; if it is not true, do not say it." (*Meditations*, Bk. xii, sec. 17.)

Laws that can be counted on

And now, as to law: We have seen men walk on the moon and we have marveled at the minds of men. But remember this: It was possible to go to and from the moon because there are laws that can be counted on, because the Creator keeps creation in its course.

I witness to you, my beloved young friends, that the moral and spiritual laws are as much in force and effect as are the physical laws.

Study, learn. Don't drop out. Seek wholesome knowledge. Develop your talents. Increase in competence. Take counsel. There is safety in counsel. Don't stubbornly and rebelliously decide to go it alone in life. Keep your sense of humor. Keep your standards. Love and respect your parents. Keep close to the Church. Be active in it. Love and serve your country, your community. Love and enjoy life. Choose the right. Keep the heritage you have. Seek the guidance of your Father in prayer. Be happy. Have faith: "For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled."

This I witness to you as I witness that God lives; that you are his children; that he sent his divine Son to show us the way of life and redeem us from death; that the gospel has been restored to earth. This you can count

on—and your life can be as happy and wonderful as anyone would ever want —“not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just a year, but always.” (Irving Berlin, “Always.”)

God bless you and be with you, my beloved young friends, this day—and always—I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

President Joseph Fielding Smith

We will now hear from Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, Assistant to the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder James A. Cullimore, also an Assistant to the Twelve.

ELDER BERNARD P. BROCKBANK

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

● My dear brothers and sisters: It is a joy to be in the atmosphere of peace and love, and that is what seems to be radiated here today. I would like to give a few general thoughts in the few moments that I occupy. I would like to quote a few statements from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Statements of Jesus

Jesus said, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” (John 6:38.)

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17.)

Brothers and sisters, our assignment is not to condemn the world, but to help save the world.

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” (John 10:10-11.)

“... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6.)

“... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12.)

In Jesus Christ and his teachings and example we have God’s truth; we have God’s way and God’s example for full and abundant life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Savior of the world, the Messiah and Redeemer of all mankind, and the

only mediator between God and mortal man.

Jesus said, “. . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6.)

The apostle Peter said, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12.)

Miracles performed by Jesus

Jesus is the only mortal man who proved his divine godliness by the many miracles that he performed. He “rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was calm:

“And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.” (Luke 8:24-25.)

Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fishes and fed five thousand hungry people. He “commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

“And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

“And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.” (Matt. 14:19-21.)

Before witnesses Jesus raised the dead maid and Lazarus. He took the dead maid by the hand and called, saying, “Maid, arise. And her spirit came