

The Delta Phi Kappa Chorus then sang the song, "Discovery."

President Tanner

President David O. McKay's message will be read by his son, David Lawrence McKay.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

(Read by his son David Lawrence McKay)

● My beloved brethren, it has always been my nature to enjoy the company of my associates. I love to be with my friends.

The older I grow the more intense becomes my appreciation of fellowship in the brotherhood of Christ. I sense that tonight more deeply more sincerely than ever before, as I can be with you only in spirit; but still I feel that it is one of the most inspirational experiences in life to associate, even in spirit, with men who hold the Holy Priesthood.

Responsibilities of priesthood

Recently, as I have read the reports of the brethren who have returned from touring the missions, my heart has been thrilled at the great latter-day work that is being accomplished—especially the great missionary cause in which we are engaged. And I say this not only to our over twelve thousand missionaries serving in the 88 missions of the Church, but also to this great body of priesthood. Ours is the responsibility—greater than ever before:

1. To proclaim that the Church was divinely established by the appearance of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and that divine authority through the priesthood is given to represent Deity in establishing Christ's Church upon the earth.

2. To proclaim that its assigned responsibility is to fulfill the admonition of Jesus to his apostles: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:19-20.)

3. To proclaim peace and goodwill unto all mankind.

4. To exert every effort and all means within our reach to make evil-thinking men good, and good men better, and all people happier.

5. To proclaim the truth that each individual is a child of God and important in his sight; that he is entitled to freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly; that he has the right to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. In this positive declaration, we imply that organizations or churches that deprive the individual of these inherent rights are not in harmony with God's will and with his revealed word.

Teaching by personal contact

There is no teaching of morality without personality, and the best means of preaching the gospel is by your personal contact. Personal contact is what will influence those investigators. That personal contact—the nature of it, its effect—depends upon you. That is the thing I wish to emphasize. Each one should remember that somewhere there is an honest soul waiting to hear the truth, and it may be that you are the only one who can reach that inquiring soul.

Members of the Church are or can be effective missionaries. We saw that exemplified in Great Britain in 1923. Before that time the elders were using the newspapers, and the British newspapers were very antagonistic. They refused to publish the truth about the Church. After we had won the favor of the press, we decided to put this challenge to the members of the Church: "This year we should like every member in the British Mission to bring into the Church at least one

member. It may be your mother, it may be your father, it may be a child, it may be a neighbor, it may be one of your associates in business, but these and others know you, and so prejudice is largely removed from their hearts—that is, if your personality radiates the principles of the gospel so as to bring confidence to the hearts of the individual.” And if you look at the records in Great Britain for 1923, you will find that there were three times the number of converts we had in any other previous year for many years.

Challenge to priesthood

Now I challenge you holders of the priesthood, as I have done before, and as I did to the Saints in Great Britain in 1923, to take the responsibility, each of you, of bringing one member into the Church each year. Think of the growth of the kingdom of God if just you holders of the priesthood within the sound of my voice accept that challenge.

We are all missionaries. We may drop a word here, bear our testimony, be an exemplar by what we do; and, as we accept this call and discharge our duties in the stakes, wards, quorums, and the mission field, our acts will “roll from soul to soul and go forever and forever.”

I have said that personality is a very important factor in removing prejudice and in bringing investigators. However, that personality must be such that we radiate confidence; and unless our actions are in harmony with our pretensions, our personality will produce a disappointment instead of confidence. This means, therefore, that you brethren carry the responsibility of preaching the gospel by your actions even more than by your words.

Responsibility of personal influence

There is one responsibility that no man can evade. That is the responsibility of personal influence. The effect of your words and acts is tremendous in this world. Every moment of life you are changing to a degree the life of the whole world. Every man has an atmosphere or a radiation that is

affecting every person in the world. You cannot escape it. Into the hands of every individual is given a marvelous power for good or for evil. It is simply the constant radiation of what a man really is. Every man by his mere living is radiating positive or negative qualities. Life is a state of radiation. To exist is to be the radiation of our feelings, natures, doubts, schemes, or to be the recipient of those things from somebody else. You cannot escape it. Man cannot escape for one moment the radiation of his character. You will select the qualities that you will permit to be radiated. That reminds me of the following poem, the author of which is unknown.

“You tell on yourself by the friends
you seek,
By the very manner in which you
speak,
By the way you employ your leisure
time,
By the use you make of dollar and
dime.
You tell what you are by the things you
wear,
And even by the way you wear your
hair,
By the kind of things at which you
laugh,
By the records you play on your phono-
graph.
You tell what you are by the way you
walk,
By the things of which you delight to
talk,
By the manner in which you bury
deceit,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.
By the books you choose from the well-
filled shelf.
In these ways and more you tell on
yourself.”

A light set upon a hill

Men and brethren of the priesthood, so live your lives that you set the proper example to those about you. You are a light, and it is your duty not to have that light hidden under a bushel, but set upon a hill that all men may be guided thereby.

You brethren of the priesthood should radiate what our twelve thou-

sand missionaries should also radiate to the nations of the world:

First, worthiness. This means that every man is a Christian gentleman; that he has integrity, is honest and trustworthy; that every husband is true to the ideals of chastity; that every young man refrains from indulgence in tobacco, in strong drink or drugs, and keeps himself free from the sins of the world; that every man is worthy to represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Second, testimony. Every member of the Church should be converted and have a knowledge of the gospel, including a knowledge of the scriptures. How wonderful it would be if every member of the Church could, as Peter of old, "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you. . . ." (1 Pet. 3:15.) A man must know what he teaches before he can effectively teach it to others!

Third, service. Are you willing to serve? Do you have the vision King Benjamin had when he said, ". . . when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God"? (Mosiah 2:17.) True Christianity is love in action. There is no better way to manifest love for God than to show an unselfish love for one's fellowmen. That is the spirit of missionary work!

And fourth, inspiration—the seeking of divine guidance through prayer. When one senses the glory of the gospel, when one realizes how comprehensive it is and what a great guide it is to a true philosophy of living, he senses his own need for help and guidance. That is the fourth help in the performance of missionary work—guidance through prayer!

Story of ancient king

Especially to you young men in the Aaronic Priesthood as you begin from the time you are deacons to prepare to serve full-time missions for our Father in heaven, may I relate this story:

There once was an ancient king who called a young man to him and said,

"Youth, I have a precious gift that I must ask you to carry to the nations of the world, to all the people of the uttermost parts."

"O king," said the youth, "I am young. The world today says youth is not worthy; youth is frivolous with no aim. Can you trust youth with your precious gift?"

The king answered, "The world is wrong in misjudging youth. Youth has always met with a high courage whatever life brings. Youth is filled with hope; youth is joyous and happy."

"Then," said the youth, "I will try, and I shall succeed."

"That is well," said the king. "My gift is very precious. You must bear it to all the people, and they can keep it only as they give it away."

"I do not understand," replied the youth.

The king said, "My son, my gift can neither be bought, nor weighed, nor measured. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, all have need of this gift."

"I implore you, O king, give it to me."

Then the king spoke more firmly: "Underneath all new things are the things that never change. They are: *the beauty of honor, the joy of service, the sublimity of integrity and sacrifice.* O youth, the hope of the world rests in these three things and the changeless things that I am naming for you. Remember, skies grow dark, birds sleep, winds moan, yet you must go on far afield in the spirit of those changeless things. You will grow weary, you will not understand, you will climb the steep heights and be carried down to the depths, you will visit palaces and hovels, you will go to workers, you will go to loungers, to those who weep and to those who laugh."

And the youth said, "O king, how shall I find my way?"

And the king answered, "I will give you two things: first, a lantern of tolerance to light your way, and second, a magic cloud to bear the burdens that beset you."

The youth said, "I am ready. Give me the gift."

And the king said, "The precious gift is peace, my son. Peace through tolerance and peace through helpfulness—one hand clasped in mine and the other outstretched to all humanity."

That king might well have been the King of the world, Jesus Christ, and the young man might well have been you, my young fellow workers in the Church of Christ. The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will ask you to go to all the world and preach the gospel. You will be given higher authority than you now have to represent the Savior, just as the king gave that young man a commandment to take a message of peace.

Message of peace

In order to bring peace to the hearts of men in the world, take this message, my brethren. The people you teach must have these great truths in mind.

First, teach faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and accepting him as the Only Begotten Son of the Father, who came and redeemed all men from death, all men, and who established the principles of the gospel, by obedience to which men may gain salvation in his kingdom. And as Peter said before the judges in the Sanhedrin, "... there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) Young men, take that message and instill faith in the hearts of the people of the world in God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ—faith that Christ's Church has been established in this age, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, as he established it in the former days when Peter, James, and John lived as leaders.

The second plan that you are to teach, young men, is kindness toward all men. You cannot have enmity in your hearts toward any one man. Some men may try to deprive you of your privileges, but you keep kindness in your heart and prove to the world that you have the spirit of the lowly Nazarene who preached to the poor on the Sea of Galilee. With faith, with kindness, let your heart be filled with the desire to serve all mankind. The spirit of the gospel comes from service

in the good of others. Listen to that paradoxical saying of the Son of Man: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." (Mark 8:35.)

Responsibility to preach gospel

My dear young brethren of the Aaronic Priesthood, prepare for that day when you will go out into the world to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ; and, as you prepare, you will so radiate that you will truly be missionaries here at home, here and now.

The responsibility of the Church is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as restored to the Prophet Joseph Smith, not only to preach it and proclaim it by word, by distribution of literature, but more than anything else by living the gospel in our homes and in our business dealings, having faith and testimony in our hearts, and radiating it wherever we go.

Brethren, there is nothing that can stop the progress of truth excepting only our weaknesses or failure to do our duty.

In conclusion, let me urge more diligence in living and radiating the principles of the gospel. The older I grow the more thrilled and more grateful I am for the Church of Jesus Christ, and the more impressed I am with the importance of declaring this truth to the world.

Divine Sonship of Christ

God bless the missionary cause, not merely to increase our membership—that will follow inevitably—but to declare the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the divinity of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Upon you, my fellow workers, and the two-and-one-half million members of the Church, rests the responsibility of declaring to the world the divine Sonship of Jesus Christ.

Now, there are many who believe it is true. There are millions of honest souls who believe it, but they need men and women who will declare it, and declare that they have a testimony of that truth.

Testimony

I bear you that testimony tonight. I know our Lord and Savior is at the head of this church, that he is guiding it. I know it as I know I live. I know that he with his Father restored this gospel as it was given in the meridian of time in its simplicity, in its beauty, in its divinity. I know that these brethren, constituting the General Authorities, are true servants of the Lord. I know that there are thousands—hundreds of thousands—of men and women in the Church who have that testimony. I pray that we may use the means that have been put into our hands to harvest the rich group of souls waiting to hear this message.

Paul said he heard a voice calling him over into Macedonia, and he went into Europe and found honest souls

waiting. We hear the voice calling, not only in Europe and Macedonia, but here at home and in the uttermost ends of the earth, "Come and give us the gospel."

God help us to heed that call—answer it, that we may harvest the crop of honest souls to the glory of the Lord, who said, ". . . this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39), I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Alan J. Smith of the Draper 1st Ward in the Mount Jordan Stake, who has just returned from a mission in Australia, will now address us.

ELDER ALAN J. SMITH

It is thrilling to look over this great congregation of priesthood holders tonight, and to ponder the magnitude of the power that we hold. And what a humbling experience it is for me to represent the many thousands of returned missionaries. What a glorious opportunity a mission is. Simply defined, missionary work is sharing with others the most important message on earth. No satisfaction is greater than that of seeing others grow and progress in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I vividly recall the events leading up to my call and entrance into the mission field. I had to wait several months after my nineteenth birthday for a quota to become available, and these were months filled with great anxiety. I had many questions about the mission field, and my preparedness for it. Where would I be called? Was I really prepared to teach others the gospel when my own knowledge was so small? What was the mission field really like?

My anxieties were aroused one day as my bishop called me into his office and informed me that a quota was available and proceeded to interview me. Both his interview and that of my stake president were very significant.

Both of these inspired men had soul-searching questions which stimulated my thinking, and both expressed their confidence in me. An awareness of the confidence and the trust the Church places in its missionaries was being awakened in me, and I began to appreciate the seriousness of the work to which I would soon be called.

A few days later I received a letter from President McKay, and my fingers must have trembled nervously as I opened it and read my call from a prophet of God to preach the gospel in Australia. The ensuing weeks were filled with hasty preparations for the mission field. How grateful I am that I took the opportunity to learn the first missionary discussion and gain a basic understanding of the others before entering the Salt Lake missionary home.

The week spent in the mission home was exciting and interesting. We listened to the inspired teachings of the presiding brethren of the Church, and endeavored to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for missionary service.

It was a great moment in my life when Elder Bruce R. McConkie set me apart as a missionary. One statement