

Since he was installed as President six months ago, he has been down in Mexico with Sister Smith. He has been to the Arizona Temple, where he gave the sealing keys to a new temple presidency. He has been in the Hawaiian Islands, where he participated in an anniversary of the Church College of Hawaii, and some of the early events in the history of that place.

In connection with this conference, there has been an intense assignment to the President of the Church.

A week ago Thursday, all the General Authorities met in an upper room of the temple fasting and praying, trying to prepare themselves spiritually for this conference. I believe we witnessed the outpouring of the Spirit, which is an evidence of the Lord's answer to the prayers that were offered at that time. President Smith addressed the General Authorities. He participated in the Relief Society conference and spoke to the sisters. He spoke at the Sunday School conference. He addressed this conference in the first session. He addressed the priesthood session, and he will address this session.

### Role of counselors

As I thought of the role of President Tanner and myself as his counselors, I thought of a circumstance in the life of Moses, when the enemies of the church in that day were just as they are in this day. They were threatening to overcome and tear down and to stop the work of the church. As Moses sat upon a hill and raised the rod of his authority, or the keys of his priesthood, Israel prevailed over their enemies; but as the day wore on, his hands became heavy and began to droop at his side.

And so they held up his hands so they would not be weakened and the rod would not be lowered. He would be sustained so that the enemies of the church would not prevail over the saints of the Most High God. (See Exod. 17:8-12.)

### Sustaining the President

I think that is the role that President Tanner and I have to fulfill. The hands of President Smith may grow weary. They may tend to droop at times because of his heavy responsibilities; but as we uphold his hands, and as we lead under his direction, by his side, the gates of hell will not prevail against you and against Israel. Your safety and ours depends upon whether or not we follow the ones whom the Lord has placed to preside over his church. He knows whom he wants to preside over this church, and he will make no mistake. The Lord doesn't do things by accident. He has never done anything accidentally. And I think the scientists and all the philosophers in the world have never discovered or learned anything that God didn't already know. His revelations are more powerful, more meaningful, and have more substance than all the secular learning in the world.

Let's keep our eye on the President of the Church and uphold his hands as President Tanner and I will continue to do.

President Smith, we honor and sustain you in that high place because the Lord has put you there. It will now be our delight, our beloved President, to give you an opportunity to leave us your blessing as we conclude this great conference. ○

## President Joseph Fielding Smith

● My dear brethren and sisters: As we conclude another great conference of the Church, I desire to leave my blessings upon you.

### The power to bless

The priesthood is the power to bless mankind, and all of those who hold

the priesthood are expected to use it within the sphere of their assignment to bless their fellowmen. When any of us use this authority in righteousness, and as directed by the Holy Spirit, our acts are binding and will be recognized by the Lord both in time and in eternity.

And so I feel to bless the saints, all those who love the Lord and who signify their devotion to his cause by keeping his commandments. I wish to bless them temporally and spiritually and pray God our Father to pour out his bounties upon them so they may be prospered in all their righteous endeavors.

### Gratitude for blessings

I speak for myself and for all of you and pour out my soul in thanksgiving to the Lord for all he has so bounteously bestowed upon us.

We have been set up as a free people by the power of our Eternal Father. The beauties and bounties of nature are ours, and we have these truths by obedience to which we can live lives that will be pleasing in his sight, that will give us peace and joy in this life, and assure us of an eternal and abundant life with him in his everlasting kingdom.

### Prayer

I feel to say, O our Eternal Father, pour out thy Spirit more abundantly upon these thy saints, upon this remnant of scattered Israel which has gathered to thy gospel in these last days.

Thou knowest that as a people we desire to serve thee, to keep the commandments, and to carry thy message of truth and righteousness to thy people everywhere. For this reason we send our missionaries to every part of the world. I have had my sons in the mission field constantly for many years. One is in the mission field at this present time in a foreign country, where he has been for several years.

We thank thee, our Father, for the great outpouring of truth and light that has come from the lips of thy servants at this conference, and which has been carried into the hearts of honest men everywhere by the power of thy Holy Spirit.

We thank thee that we have been fed the bread of life, that we have been strengthened spiritually and are now renewed and refreshed and ready to go forth on thy errand, doing to the

best of our abilities those things which thou wouldst have us do.

Our Father in heaven, we are grateful for all thou hast given us; we acknowledge thy hand in all things, and we pray for the success and triumph of thy purposes in all the earth.

We know that thou hast spoken in this day as thou didst in days of old, and we are pleased to be instruments in thy hands of carrying thy message to the world, and of standing as lights to the world so that they, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify thee.

And unto thy holy name we ascribe the honor and glory in all things both now and forever.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen. ○

### President Harold B. Lee

Thank you, President Smith, for that blessing, I am sure that we can all take it back with us from you as the representative of our Father here upon this earth.

We should like to express our deep appreciation to the following who have furnished the singing for this conference:

The Tabernacle Choir, for their excellent singing on the Saturday morning broadcast session and on both the morning and afternoon sessions today, and the men's chorus at the priesthood session on Saturday night.

The Singing Mothers from the Bountiful, Kaysville, Layton and Woods Cross Regions, who furnished the music for the morning session on Friday.

The University of Utah Institute Chorus, who furnished the music for the afternoon session on Friday.

The Brigham Young University Choruses, who furnished the beautiful music for the afternoon session on Saturday.

We also express thanks and deep appreciation to the conductors and organists for these various singing groups.

We express appreciation also to all who have in any way contributed to