

to go to college." Then he told me he had some fear that the old gang would be waiting for him, and he might drift back into some old habits.

He had become one of our leaders, the kind of missionary you could trust with any assignment. I advised him to go back home and to invite his old friends to attend sacrament meeting, where he was to make his report, to hear of the change that had come into his life. I then counseled: "Spend some time with your parents, and then take the first bus out of town. A way will be opened up for you to get into college and develop the newly found talents you discovered in the mission field."

And as I stood and looked upon this young man at the stake conference, I saw the rough stone was now polished and would continue to change lives for good.

A divine program

I thank the Lord for our missionary service. It is a divine program. I thank the Lord for our young men and women who represent him before the world in helping build Zion, and in so doing develop their own spiritual knowledge. May our parents always instill in their sons a desire to go on a mission.

Elder O. Leslie Stone

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My dear brothers and sisters: I don't know why I should be shaking as I am. I am among friends. I know that no one loves me more than these brethren who are sitting before you, and I love them. Nearly all of them have visited our home and stayed with us and left their blessings.

Call to serve

When President Lee called me to

God bless our missionary homes. May he also bless our missionaries, as promised by President John Taylor, who said of missionaries, ". . . he is commissioned of the great Jehovah to bear a message . . . and God has promised to sustain him. He has always sustained His faithful Elders, and He always will." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 24, p. 35.)

May your sons respond to the great call that shall be theirs, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Harold B. Lee

When I was called to be a member of the Quorum of the Twelve thirty-one and a half years ago, one of the Presidency said something very meaningful. There are two times when a man shouldn't be expected to say very much: one, at the beginning of his career, and the other, at the end of his career.

We told these brethren that we didn't expect them to preach a sermon, but we did want to have them bear their testimony and let you feel their spirit. Two of the great men of the world, Brother O. Leslie Stone, to be followed by Brother James E. Faust.

be a stake president about sixteen years ago, I remember on the way home he said, "President Stone, I want you to prepare now for the day when you will be released." And I assured him that I was ready any time the Brethren wanted to release me. But you know this time when he called me the other day, he didn't say a word about that. Later he told me the appointment was for life.

I feel humble, grateful, and assure

you and the Brethren of my willingness to serve, to devote my time, energy, and means for the upbuilding of the kingdom.

The Savior on one occasion, realizing the many temptations that we are faced with in this life, made this statement: "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33.) We have tried to live by that rule in our family. My sons, who have both been mission presidents, used to quote that to me when I was talking to them about the future of their lives.

Prospective elders

Now, I want you all to remember the program of prospective elders, and I am going to tell you why. I was a prospective elder when I met my wife in Blackfoot, Idaho; and after I had courted her for some time and decided (and let her know) that she was the girl of my dreams, she let me know in no uncertain terms that I had to "shape up." A temple marriage was the only marriage she was interested in.

After shaping up, I was ordained an elder and secured a temple recommend. We were sealed for time and eternity in the Salt Lake Temple April 23, 1924. I am very grateful for my eternal companion and for my family, including fourteen grandchildren. It was my wife's birthday yesterday, the day that I was sustained as a General Authority.

I would like to testify to you that the greatest happiness that has come into our lives has been when we have been living the gospel and serving the Master, and I have to tell you just a little story.

Covenant to serve

A few years ago, roughly twenty-five, I was starting a new business. I was having difficulty in getting it into black figures. I don't like to operate in the red, and I went to my Heavenly Father on bended knees and made a covenant with him that if he would bless me with inspiration and guidance to make that business successful, I would serve him and I would be liberal with my time and means for the upbuilding of the kingdom.

The Lord did bless us abundantly, and I now pledge to President Lee, President Tanner, President Romney, and all these Brethren that I shall put forth my best efforts to fulfill this new assignment. I love the Lord, and I want to serve him.

Favorite scripture

On the day I was put in as stake president, President Lee quoted this scripture. It has always stuck in my mind, and I would like to quote it to you because it is one of my favorites:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5-6.)

I pray I may always do this, in the name of Jesus Christ.

President Harold B. Lee

Thank you, President Stone. We shall now hear from James E. Faust, who was also sustained as an Assistant to the Twelve, after which the congregation and chorus will join in singing "Come O Thou King of Kings."