

freedom and liberty; the war for independence; the establishment of the Constitution—all looking forward to the time and preparing the way for the restoration of the gospel, the opening of this dispensation.

The dispensation of the fulness of times was introduced upon the earth by the visit to the boy Joseph Smith of the Father and the Son and other heavenly beings. Darkness was dissipated and there came an outpouring of light and intelligence. The kingdom of God, as indicated in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, has been established upon the earth and is rolling forth as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, and it will continue to do so, looking forward to the time of the coming of the Lord.

The timetable of life

Through his experience and his omniscience, our Heavenly Father knows the end from the beginning. Through his prophets he has revealed and does reveal the history of mankind, the timetable of life upon this planet.

This is the dispensation of the

fulness of times, when the keys of all former dispensations have been given to the prophets of the restoration, a time when God has spoken from the heavens and angels have appeared to man, a time when men and women have the Holy Ghost conferred upon them, and by the power of the Holy Ghost we may know the truth of all things. There is need for this great power in the earth today.

The history of this world is in fulfillment of the plan prepared in the heavens before this earth was created. That which the world calls Mormonism is based upon the rock of revelation. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the eternal truth, the plan of life and salvation. I testify to these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Harold B. Lee

We have just listened to Elder Joseph Anderson, an Assistant to the Twelve.

We will now be pleased to hear from President Spencer W. Kimball, President of the Council of the Twelve, who will be our concluding speaker.

President Spencer W. Kimball

President of the Council of the Twelve

Brothers and sisters and friends: Much has already been said in this conference about the powerful influence for good that the family and home training have been and will be upon the rising generation. For the past three months President Harold B. Lee has been speaking through film the great story *Strengthening the Home*. It is going to many people in many lands and in many languages.

Family and home life

It seems that while the world accepts the spurious and the vulgar and the errors, there is an increasing number of wise leaders who write and speak of the importance of the family and home life.

One such leader wrote: ". . . strong family life is indispensable, not merely to the culture but actually the survival of any people."

(Paul Popenoe, *Family Life*, September 1972.)

He continues: "In the history of mankind one nation after another has followed this pattern [of degrading the family life and substituting other patterns for it] and they have disappeared."

The family provides the involvement in selfless activities and the acceptance of responsibility. He says, again:

"... for the well being of the community; for the very existence of the nation, one of the first questions asked about any proposed change in the culture should be, 'Will it strengthen the family?'"

Great plan of life

The Lord organized the whole program in the beginning with a father who procreates, provides, and loves and directs, and a mother who conceives and bears and nurtures and feeds and trains. The Lord could have organized it otherwise but chose to have a unit with responsibility and purposeful associations where children train and discipline each other and come to love, honor, and appreciate each other. The family is the great plan of life as conceived and organized by our Father in heaven.

To any thoughtful person it must be obvious that intimate association without marriage is sin; that children without parenthood and family life is tragedy; that society without basic family life is without foundation and will disintegrate into nothingness and oblivion.

The Father knew all this when he gave this command to his children in November 1831. He was not arguing that there should be families. He seemed to take that for granted and commanded: "... as parents have children in Zion ...

they shall also teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord." (D&C 68:25, 28.)

We see the blessings of family life as we make contrasts. In the address above referred to, President Lee gave these figures:

"Of 180,000 divorces recorded by the Census Bureau ... 57 percent were in homes where there were no children; 21.2 percent where there was only one child; and in families with five or more children, divorces were less than one percent."

This is a telling story.

Training in the home

Once when I talked to leaders in a foreign world where different ideologies touch their children, I asked how the parents were able to hold their children and keep them from the evil, and their reply was so natural and so proper:

"We train our children in our homes so completely in the way of right and truth that the destructive, godless philosophies and heresies of their other teachers run off without penetrating, like water on a duck's back, and our children remain true to the faith."

Ah, that is the answer. Family life, home life, home evenings, dedicated, selfless parents. That is the way the Lord ordained our lives to be.

Checklist for success

More than a decade ago a major in the U.S. Air Force told of his test flights. He was born of goodly parents who taught him righteousness. He had flown 25 different types of military aircraft in 4,000 hours in the air. He had flown 142 combat missions in Korea and had received many distinguished medals. He told us that "before takeoff every pilot takes a few moments to make a last-minute check of his engine, flight

controls, hydraulic and pneumatic systems and other essential sub-systems of his aircraft to be sure the flight can at least begin safely. . . . His reactions to emergency conditions must be instinctive and as infallible as human thought and reflexes permit.

" . . . Yet, there is something missing on the printed checklist which to me has become as necessary to a successful flight as lowering the wheels for a smooth landing. It is a prayer to ask my Father in heaven to bless me that my best judgment and skill will guide my actions, especially in periods of stress. There have been several instances . . . in which I know the answer to this prayer has been received with dramatic suddenness. . . ."

Being born of goodly parents in a goodly home with goodly training in his infancy, childhood, and youth, he seemed to feel secure in his hazardous work.

Preparation dispels fear

This major was unafraid, for he was prepared. He knew the power of the Lord's statement: "If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30.)

Someone said that "fear and fortitude are opposites but both are necessary for the growth of character. . . . wholesome fear generates its own antibodies."

These three lines were lettered on the mantel in an English hotel at the time of Dunkirk, a time when every man or boy who could navigate, no matter how amateurishly, found a hero in himself brave enough to help rescue England's army:

"Fear knocked at the door.

Faith answered.

No one was there."

During the blitzkrieg, many a man saw a sign down by the London

docks and followed its suggestion: "If your knees are knocking, kneel on them."

Again, the revelation says, "If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear."

Early training

That preparation comes from infancy and childhood training, when faith is born and character established. It is a bit late to try to build faith when the ship is sinking or the plane is falling or the head-on collision is certain.

One air navigator gave us this: "I had said my prayer back in the fifteenth orbit"; and another: "Courage is said to be fear that has said its prayers."

If children are tuned in on the right wave length, if they are taught early the responsibilities of time and eternities, they will usually react properly when engulfed in emergencies. If they have conscientiously and faithfully done all that is expected of them, nothing can be too far wrong. The Nephite prophet insisted: ". . . ye pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places; and in your wilderness." (Al. 34:26.)

Legacy to children

And what a great legacy to our children Isaiah promised: "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isa. 54:13.)

Surely every good parent would like this peace for his offspring. It comes from the simple life of the true Latter-day Saint as he makes his home and family supreme.

"Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed." (3 Ne. 18:21.)

Is that too much to ask?

I was in Idaho Falls and was the

guest in a home of a typical Church family. There were a dedicated set of parents and many children. The oldest was in military duty in the dreaded South Pacific, and the hearts of the family followed him from place to place. They handed me his latest letter from the war zone. I read this:

"There have been times when we were so scared, we would tremble, but the fear was out of our minds with prayer and the knowledge that we were being guided by the Lord.

"Dad, I love my religion and I am proud that I had someone like you and Mother to teach me to pray. Then I also know that you are praying for me each morning and night. . . ."

Spirituality in the home

Spirituality is born in the home and is nurtured in the home evenings, in the twice-a-day and oftener daily prayers, in the weekly meetings when the family goes en masse. That spirituality as the foundation of one's life comes to his rescue when emergency strikes.

Security is not born of inexhaustible wealth but of unquenchable faith. And generally that kind of faith is born and nurtured in the home and in childhood.

Prayer is the passport to spiritual power.

The time at home

From World War II comes a story of a young Utah boy who was called to serve his country in the faraway places across several time zones.

On his wrist he wore the conventional wristband watch to tell him the time in the area in which he was living. But strangely enough, he carried a larger, old-time heavier watch in his pocket, which gave

another time of day. His buddies noted that frequently he would look at his wrist watch, then turn to the old-fashioned one in his pocket, and this led them, in their curiosity, to ask him why the additional watch. Unembarrassed, he promptly said:

"The wristwatch tells me the time here where we are, but the big watch which Pa gave me tells me what time it is in UTAH. You see," he continued, "mine is a large family—a very close family. When the big watch says 5 a.m. I know Dad is rolling out to milk the cows. And any night when it says 7:30, I know the whole family is around a well-spread table on their knees thanking the Lord for what's on the table and asking Him to watch over me and keep me clean and honorable. It's those things that make me want to fight when the goin' gets tough. . . . I can find out what time it is here easy enough. What I want to know is what time it is in UTAH." (Adapted from Vaughn R. Kimball, "The Right Time at Home," *Reader's Digest*, May 1944, p. 43.)

I knew this family well. I knew the sailor slightly. I knew this father. His cows had to feed a large family, but his greater interest was the growing children who needed more than milk and bread. I have knelt in mighty prayer with this wonderful family. The home training has carried through to the eternal blessing of this large family.

Faithfulness to family duties

O my beloved hearers, what a world it would be if a million families in this church were to be on their knees like this every night and morning! And what a world it would be if nearly a hundred million families in this great land and other hundreds in other lands were praying for their sons and daughters twice daily. And what a world this

would be if a billion families through the world were in home evenings and church activity and were on their physical knees pouring out their souls for their children, their families, their leaders, their governments!

This kind of family life could bring us back toward the translation experience of righteous Enoch. The millennium would be ushered in. Enoch was asked questions about himself; he answered, among other things, ". . . my father taught me in all the ways of God." (Moses 6: 41.) And Enoch walked with God and he was *not*, for God took him.

Enoch and his people dwelt in righteousness in the City of Holiness, even Zion. And Zion was taken up into heaven.

Yes, here is the answer: righteous, teaching parents; obedient, loving children; faithfulness to family duties.

These qualities in a home make for security and character in the lives of children.

Parental love

The following verses of Adelaide Proctor, written more than a century ago, emphasize unity of the family and real parental love.

A childless man of wealth offers ease and security in exchange for one of seven children. Which shall it be?

"Which shall it be? Which shall it be?

I looked at John, John looked at me,
And when I found that I must speak,
My voice seemed strangely low and weak:

'Tell me again what Robert said,'
And then I, listening, bent my head.
This is his letter:

*'I will give
A house and land while you shall live,
If, in return, from out your seven,
One child to me for aye is given.'*

"I looked at John's old garments worn;

I thought of all that he had borne
Of poverty, and work, and care,
Which I, though willing, could not share;

I thought of seven young mouths to feed,

Of seven little children's need,
And then of this.

"'Come, John,' said I,
'We'll choose among them as they lie
Asleep.' So, walking hand in hand,
Dear John and I surveyed our band:
First to the cradle lightly stepped,
Where Lilian, the baby, slept.
Softly the father stooped to lay
His rough hand down in a loving way,

When dream or whisper made her stir,

And huskily he said: 'Not her!'

"We stooped beside the trundle bed,
And one long ray of twilight shed
Athwart the boyish faces there,
In sleep so beautiful and fair;
I saw on James's rough, red cheek
A tear undried. E'er John could speak,

'He's but a baby, too,' said I,
And kissed him as we hurried by.

"'Pale, patient, Robbie's angel face
Still in his sleep bore suffering's trace.

'No, for a thousand crowns, not him!'

He whispered, while our eyes were dim.

"'Poor Dick! bad Dick! our wayward son—

Turbulent, restless, idle one—
Could he be spared? Nay, He who gave

Bade us befriend him to the grave;
Only a mother's heart could be
Patient enough for such as he;
'And so,' said John, 'I would not dare

To take him from her bedside prayer.'

"Then stole we softly up above,

And knelt by Mary, child of love;
 'Perhaps for her 'twould better be,'
 I said to John. Quite silently
 He lifted up a curl that lay
 Across her cheek in a wilful way,
 And shook his head: 'Nay, love, not
 thee,'

The while my heart beat audibly.

"Only one more, our eldest lad,
 Trusty and truthful, good and glad,
 So like his father. 'No, John, no!
 I cannot, will not, let him go.'

"And so we wrote, in courteous way,
 We could not give one child away;
 And afterward toil lighter seemed,
 Thinking of that of which we
 dreamed,

Happy in truth that not one face
 Was missed from its accustomed
 place;

Thankful to work for all the seven,
 Trusting the rest to One in heaven."

May we in the Church and in
 this world come to know the Lord's
 ways and follow them explicitly, I
 pray.

I add my solemn witness that
 President Harold B. Lee is the Lord's
 divinely called prophet to this world,
 in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

After President Kimball's ad-
 dress and without announcement,
 the Tabernacle Choir sang "Rever-
 ently and Meekly Now."

President Harold B. Lee

President Spencer W. Kimball,
 President of the Council of the
 Twelve, has just spoken to us fol-
 lowed by the Tabernacle Choir sing-
 ing "Reverently and Meekly Now."

We are grateful to the owners
 and managers of over 350 television
 and radio stations for offering their
 facilities to make proceedings of the
 conference available to millions
 throughout many areas of the world.

The proceedings of this session
 have been carried from the Taber-
 nacle over direct oceanic cables to
 a large number of members and
 friends assembled in chapels
 throughout Great Britain, Germany,
 France, Holland, Belgium, and
 Austria.

We shall now conclude this
 sixth session of the conference with
 the Tabernacle Choir singing from
 the 148th Psalm, "Lord, Who Has
 Made Us for Thine Own," after
 which the benediction will be pro-
 nounced by Elder Eldred G. Smith,
 Patriarch to the Church.

This conference will then be
 adjourned until two o'clock this
 afternoon.

The Tabernacle Choir sang
 "The 148th Psalm."

The benediction was offered by
 Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to
 the Church.

The conference was adjourned
 until two o'clock p.m.