

## Elder J. Thomas Fyans

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

I was born of goodly parents, and while they are on the other side, I have an assurance that my angel mother and my saintly father rejoice in this call. I love my family.

### Reading of scriptures

In the past few months, for some reason I have had an insatiable desire to read the scriptures. Reflecting on the personal events of this conference, it could be that the Holy Spirit, referred to by President Romney, felt that this kind of spiritual preparation would be appropriate.

Through the Old Testament and the Pearl of Great Price, I shared a prophetic vision of the coming of the Savior. The blessings, responsibility, and challenge of Abraham and his posterity have become more clearly implanted in my heart.

Through the New Testament, I returned to Bethlehem to the site of the manger, saw in my mind's eye a reflection from the waters of the Sea of Galilee of past holy events, bowed my head in gratitude at the empty tomb, and all that intervened lifted me a little more heavenward.

Through the Book of Mormon, I saw the blessings of obedience and the suffering of disobedience in the lives of the eternal spirit posterity of Lehi and others who were led to this promised land, giving me a panorama of our Heavenly Father's desire to nurture and perfect—even by adversity—his children.

From the pages of modern scripture revealed in the tender years of the establishment of the Lord's kingdom in our day, the following truths seem most appropriate: “. . . three Presiding High Priests . . . form a quorum of the Presidency of the Church”; (D&C 107:22) and the Twelve, “under the direc-

tion of the Presidency . . . [are] to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations. . . .” (D&C 107:33.) “. . . Whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture. . . .” (D&C 68:4.)

When these words distill upon my soul, I stand in reverential awe in the presence of these appointed brethren. Particularly am I indebted to the four members of the Council of the Twelve who serve as advisers to Internal Communications.

Because of dedicated associates, these scriptures of today—the sermons of this conference—will be within the covers of the *Ensign* and in your homes as April matures and May is born. We can know the will of the Lord, the mind of the Lord, and the word of the Lord as we ponder these modern scriptures.

At this moment, another area of Internal Communications is interpreting simultaneously these proceedings into a dozen languages.

I hope this detail will not seem inappropriate, but in the spirit of recognizing other wonderful associates, I am pleased to report that 93 percent of the materials you will use in the curriculum year beginning this coming September are already available. The remainder of the items will be ready this coming week. I love my associates.

### Demonstration of love

The first commandment instructs us to love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind, and strength, “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Matt. 22:37, 39.) We love our neighbors. We think they love us. I submit as evidence homemade lemon cream pies and salads that were brought to our home yesterday.

As food moves from their home to ours and from our home to theirs, my eternal companion is responding to her desire to be in the service of her fellow beings. This outward action is but an indication of what flows deeply inside her. She stands on higher ground and constantly extends her hand to lift me and her children by her exemplary action. Our five daughters, four of whom are married, and their loved ones have been most responsive to her. As she beneficially influences these eternal spirits, she is showing her love for the Lord. In my lifetime of Church service, she has always smiled approbation and encouragement. No man could have a more congenial, supportive companion.

President Kimball and your inspired counselors, President Benson and the special witnesses who form your quorum, as we assist you we place on the altar before you our hearts, our

might, our minds, and our strength. In unity, my companion and I commit whatever we are to His service. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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The choir without announcement following Elder Fyans sang the song, "Jesus, Our Lord, We Adore Thee."

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### President Spencer W. Kimball

We have just listened to Elder J. Thomas Fyans, newly sustained Assistant to the Twelve, followed by the Tabernacle Choir rendering the beautiful song, "Jesus, Our Lord, We Adore Thee."

We will now be pleased to hear from Elder Delbert L. Stapley of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, who will be our concluding speaker.

## Elder Delbert L. Stapley

Of the Council of the Twelve

My beloved brothers and sisters and friends, the Savior announced, "Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world." (3 Ne. 11:10.) "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.)

There is much written and many sermons given concerning Christ—his ministry, teachings, miracles, atoning sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension to eternal glory. He is truly our Lord and Savior, our Redeemer and God. He said, "... I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:38.) "I am come that they might have life, and ... have it more abundantly." (John 10:10.) "And ... I will come again, and receive

you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3.)

### Purpose of Savior's ministry

This is the purpose of our Savior's ministry on earth: that we might have life eternal and dwell in the heavens with him and our Heavenly Father.

His teachings were given that we might know the way to life eternal. The many miracles he performed were given as a witness and testimony that he is indeed the Son of God. His atoning sacrifice, the giving of his life, shows his great love for all mankind. He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13.) He has proven he is a friend to us. Yet, have we taken