

and feeling the spirit of their messages.

His continued effort brought him near to the Lord in his search for truth; he then received a testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

A noble wife continued for 37 years to teach her children to honor their father, for she promised that he would one day honor his priesthood. This promise was realized, and he became a diligent and faithful follower of the Lord.

Our faithful pioneers sang, "Press on, press on" ("Though Deepening Trials," *Hymns*, no. 285) as they faced difficult and trying times. The youth of the Church today sing, "Carry on, carry on" ("Firm as the Mountains Around Us," *Hymns*, no. 42) in the face of modern trials.

Blessings through endurance

There are many, many examples of those who have received blessings

through continuing in righteousness. There are also numberless examples of those who have been denied the Lord's blessings because they turn from righteous paths and do that which is wrong.

May the Lord bless each of us with the strength, courage, and faith to continue what we commence in righteousness. I testify to you that God lives. May we each follow the counsel of the Lord to continue in righteousness ourselves, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Kimball

Elder Rex D. Pinegar of the First Council of Seventy has just addressed us.

We will now hear from Elder Robert L. Simpson, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles. He will be followed by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve.

Elder Robert L. Simpson

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My beloved brothers and sisters, I am grateful for this opportunity and for the spirit of the testimonies that have been borne here this morning.

Just a couple of weeks ago I was passing through the Salt Lake airport and had a less-than-five-minute contact with a young man that impressed me very much. During our brief contact he found out about my affiliation with the Church. He found out that the yellow pad that I had in my hand was in preparation for some thoughts to give at the Saturday morning session of general conference.

I observed a tenderness between him and his wife and his three children. And I knew that he was a man with deep spiritual sensitivity. But having only three or four minutes to chat, as I boarded my aircraft, I discovered that I

didn't know his name, I didn't have his address. But I want you to know that much of what I say this morning is because I know he is listening to this particular session of conference.

Teachings of Christ

We are met here this morning hopefully that we might communicate well about the Lord Jesus Christ, because incorporated in his precious teachings are the most urgent, the most important, and the most vital of all information pertaining to the ultimate happiness and eternal destiny of man.

I earnestly seek his divine help and guidance that the intent of my heart will not be misunderstood, and perhaps our communication can be like the prophet Isaiah when he said, "Come now, and

let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18); and this for one purpose only, that we might all be blessed more abundantly.

As I proceed now to share these few thoughts with you, I declare with the apostle Paul as he taught the saints of Rome:

"I am ready to preach the gospel to you. . . ."

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation."

Then he concluded, "It is the power of God . . . to every one that believeth." (Rom. 1:15-16.)

And I promise you that the Holy Ghost stands ever ready to bear witness to all who earnestly seek the truth that they might recognize that truth.

Missionary zeal

A Protestant minister who was somewhat perturbed about losing some of his parishioners to the Mormon Church asked one of our missionaries: "Why do you proselyte amongst my people? They are all good Christians. You should be spending your time with the heathen nations." And the reply came: "If you, sir, knew for certain that God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ had shown themselves and spoken again in this time of the world's history, restoring vital information and also restoring true priesthood authority to man, would you be able to remain silent?"

No man could, and so it is with some 18,000 young men and young women throughout the world today who seek the singular privilege of sharing with as many as will pause to listen, that in very deed God the Father and his Son did appear to a young lad in this day and age, all of which was preliminary to the second coming of the Lord and Savior as foretold by the prophets.

The Restoration

These same missionaries proclaim to the world that, following this

remarkable visitation by two members of the Godhead, priesthood authority was restored to the earth through special heavenly messengers. Who else but John the Baptist would be better qualified for the honor of restoring the Aaronic Priesthood, the authority to baptize by immersion? For it was he whom the Savior sought out when the Savior felt the need to establish the example of baptism by immersion and by proper authority.

Who else but the apostles Peter, James, and John would be more appropriate or better qualified to restore the Melchizedek Priesthood just a few weeks later? Yes, those same great apostles who walked and talked with the Savior during his brief ministry, returned to earth for a specific purpose in our time.

God's house of order

Yes, with all of the soberness of my soul, I declare that God's house is a house of order. His holy purposes are not carried out by man's whim or fancy but, rather, in this church which bears his name, sacred ordinances can only be performed by proper authority. We agree with Paul that "no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." (Heb. 5:4.) Priesthood authority of the Lord Jesus Christ was restored by John the Baptist, by Peter, James, and John in the spring of 1829.

Since the reestablishment of the Lord's true church 144 years ago, there has been a driving compulsion among the members of the Church to share their good feeling with their neighbors, with their friends, and abroad. "Every member a missionary" has become a byword in this Church, as thousands can be found throughout the free world bearing witness, explaining the restoration, and radiating the Spirit of Christ unto all who will listen.

Words can hardly convey the joy and the fulfillment that accompany conversion to the truth, all made

possible by the miracle of forgiveness, as repentance paves the way for baptism.

Missionary efforts

May I invite you to participate on a rapid world tour as we glimpse quickly at just a sample or two of what is happening everywhere as this great latter-day missionary momentum rolls forth.

I am thinking, first of all, of a South Pacific family of 14 whose family unit had been so badly broken through parental indifference and irresponsible acts that four of the older children were in reform school and three youngsters were in foster-home custody. Today you will find a solid family unit headed by parents who have goals, proper discipline, and great love for their children, who have been sealed to them for eternity in the temple of God. The two oldest boys are full-time missionaries, striving to bring the same hope to many others. All of this because a desperate father, contemplating suicide, listened to two young men—one 19 and the other 20—and he believed what they told him.

Not long ago I listened to this testimony from a black man nearing the end of a long prison sentence: "I found the truth behind these prison bars," he said. "There has been plenty of time to study and to think. My one ambition now is to qualify for baptism, after my debt to society has been paid, and then go back home to Mississippi to tell my people about this great church."

While winging across the South Pacific, an airline stewardess asked me and my wife if we were Mormons after our third serving of milk. Receiving a positive answer, she said with a radiance we shall never forget: "I can hardly wait to get back to California after this trip because I am scheduled for the third discussion from the missionaries, and I already know that it is true." Yes, she was baptized. She found a young man to match her faith.

They have a beautiful little family. They're on their way.

The gospel and the family

May I introduce you to a successful young executive who writes: "Our family had it made. My wife and I were close, the three children were well adjusted, and then it happened. Jeff and Angela started to attend Primary with the neighbor's children. From then on each Primary day our dinner hour became an instant replay of Primary. As parents, we couldn't believe the great thoughts and attitudes—yes, and 'a little child shall lead them.' [Isa. 11:6.] Well, that was the beginning [he writes], and now after two years as members of the Lord's true church, we really do have it made. Our family didn't really know what family unity and true happiness were all about until Mormonism came into our family circle."

One woman in a South American country, intrigued by the sincerity of the Mormon missionaries, invited them back to meet the family that evening. But unfortunately her husband did not share her feelings, and the young men were greeted by a note on the door turning them away. She fasted and prayed that the Lord might intercede. And you know, it was just about six weeks later that the husband told her about two fine young men he had met on the bus coming home. He arranged for them to share their message with the family, and all six were baptized. It was not until then that the wife explained that these were the same two young men whom she had tried to introduce him to earlier. "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform." (See *Hymns*, no. 48.)

A happy people

Most people agree that Mormons are happy people, Mormons are stable people, and Mormons are dedicated people. Mormons are trustworthy

people, and Mormons are healthy people. And yet I hear you saying, "Ah, but I know a Mormon who does thus and so." My testimony to you today is that if you know a Mormon who is doing wrong, it is not because of his religious teachings. It is in spite of his religious teachings, and we sincerely hope that he will repent soon, for where much is given, much is expected.

"Try me and see," says the Lord. Whether your life be racked with profound problems or whether you think you have it made, I declare with total confidence that your life can only find genuine and lasting fulfillment in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Lord's formula

Why not use the same formula suggested by the Savior to test the truth of his church? My witness to you here today is the same as his declaration to a group of well-meaning critics 2,000 years ago, when he said:

"My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (John 7:16-17.)

I declare in all kindness and sincerity that your eternal life and the salvation of your family depend upon what happened in the life of Joseph Smith, a prophet of God. May you find out soon is my humble prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Kimball

We have just listened to Elder Robert L. Simpson, Assistant to the Twelve.

We shall now hear from Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve Apostles who will be our concluding speaker.

Elder Mark E. Petersen

Of the Council of the Twelve

I would like at this time to express the deep appreciation I feel, and I am sure all of you feel, for the magnificent leadership of President Kimball. He thrills us; he thrills me and I am sure he thrills you. He is a mighty man of God, and yet he is so humble. He has the common touch; we all love him very much. And I am sure that I may speak for everyone of you in saying to him this day how grateful we are for his leadership and that we uphold and sustain him with all our hearts and all our souls. President Kimball, we are grateful for your leadership.

Keeping the Sabbath day

I have a friend whose name is Kenneth. He has a lovely wife and four

young children and is a good citizen and a generous provider.

His family is united. They do things together, go places together, have fun together. Some people may wonder what more they possibly could have. But they do lack one thing—and it is a serious deficiency. They do not have that something which could make their happiness and togetherness permanent.

They are so satisfied with the present that they never have considered the possibility that someday it may all stop and that they won't have this happiness, this togetherness, any longer and that their present enjoyment may become but a pleasant memory.

Kenneth and his wife, Lucille, are good people, honest and upright. They don't go to church, though, and they