

five years, to have the hardening of the steel—to watch and work with these men who have been called as special witnesses of God, that they might know and teach and train the priesthood holders with whom they deal.

Do you realize that these men have revelation every Sunday when a stake is formed? As a Regional Representative assisting and kneeling in prayer with them as they give voice through the Spirit, one is able to participate in knowing that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that we have a prophet of God who is here this day, and that we have special witnesses who will lead and guide us, if we will but listen to their voice.

I ask the Lord in prayer that I might be able to be an example to help lift others, as these men have been over the years. My 17-year-old son said to me, "Dad, do you think, really, you will ever be like them?"

He said it in a little nicer way, but I thought of my life which I dedicate and give and consecrate, that I might be an instrument in His hand, working under the direction of all the General Authorities and asking their help that we might work as one.

Blessings

I dedicate my life and service, and as Paul declared in First Corinthians, "And my speech and preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Elder Bernard P. Brockbank

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

The greatest blessing that can come to mankind is to be numbered with the Saints of the Lord. Today there are millions of God's children waiting to be taught the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, as Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few." (Luke 10:2.)

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:4-5.)

I ask the Lord's blessings upon all those who have made this day possible for me: my Primary and Sunday School teachers; a mother and father who are truly "goodly parents," who have taught me and who have been an example for my whole life; my brother and sister have always been examples for me to follow with their faith and service in the Church; my wife and my boys—my son on a mission, Stephen, and David, who is here in Salt Lake with me now. They are a great strength to me.

I ask the Lord's blessings, that I might be one in purpose with the Twelve and with all the General Authorities, and with you, my brothers and sisters; and I say to the priesthood holders that any one of you could be here this day. One cannot ask the question "Why me?" and dwell on it. But I will do as the prophet has said, to put behind me my past life and dedicate and consecrate all my time, talents, and efforts to His work. And I say this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

Elder Robert D. Hales, a new Assistant to the Twelve, has just addressed us.

Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve.

The last dispensation

In accordance with latter-day revelation from the Lord, we are living in the last days of the dispensation of the fulness of times. And according to statisticians the world's population has

increased from one-fourth billion when Jesus Christ lived on this earth to over three and a half billion today and the increase continues.

The phenomenal population growth in these, the latter days, is by divine power with divine purpose.

The dispensation of the fulness of times has staggering statistics, perilous times, and worldwide need for millions of valiant Saints and missionaries.

“... to every nation”

The Lord, by revelation to his Prophet Joseph Smith, declared and commanded the Latter-day Saints to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation and people. He said, “Proclaim my gospel from land to land, and from city to city. . . .

“Bear testimony in every place, unto every people.” (D&C 66:5, 7.)

“For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.” (D&C 1:2.)

“This gospel shall be preached unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” (D&C 133:37.)

“Every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own language, through those who are ordained unto this power.” (D&C 90:11.)

Missionary work

The scriptures are filled with commands and promises and calls and rewards regarding missionary work.

The Lord gave this important warning by commandment to his Latter-day Saints: “Labor ye in my vineyard for the last time—for the last time call upon the inhabitants of the earth.” (D&C 43:28.)

“It is the eleventh hour, and the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard.

“And my vineyard has become cor-

rupted every whit; and there is none which doeth good save it be a few; and they err in many instances because of priestcrafts, all having corrupt minds.

“And verily, verily, I say unto you, that this church have I established and called forth out of the wilderness.

“And even so will I gather mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, even as many as will believe in me, and hearken unto my voice.

“Yea, verily, verily, I say unto you, that the field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickles, and reap with all your might, mind, and strength.

“Open your mouths and they shall be filled. . . .

“Yea, open your mouths and spare not, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your backs, for lo, I am with you.

“Yea, open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying: Repent, repent, and prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;

“Yea, repent and be baptized, everyone of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost.” (D&C 33:3-11.)

A commandment

Again, by commandment of the Lord missionary work is the duty and responsibility of every member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jesus said, “I give unto you a commandment, that every man, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member, go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded.

“And let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness.

“And go ye out from among the wicked,” the Lord said. “Save yourselves.” And the Lord commanded, “Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.” (D&C 38:40-42.)

The responsibility

Upon no other group of men in the world rests greater responsibility than upon the priesthood holders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And every member of the Lord's church should live and prepare himself to be a savior of men. By preaching the gospel of salvation to the world, the Saints become saviors of men. Of his Saints the Lord said, "They were set to be a light unto the world, and to be saviors of men." And he added these words of warning: "And inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savor, and is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men." (D&C 103:9-10.)

Saints who do not become saviors will be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Now is the time to do missionary work. Now is the time to be saviors.

To all who will teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to their friends and neighbors the Lord has promised salvation to their souls. Hear this divine counsel and promise:

"O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day. . . .

"For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul." (D&C 4:2, 4.)

Reason for missionary work

I would like to quote several statements that were given by President Kimball. He said:

"Perhaps the greatest reason for missionary work is to give the world its chance to hear and accept the gospel. The scriptures are replete with commands and promises and calls and rewards for teaching the gospel. I use

the word *command* deliberately," he said, "for it seems to be an insistent directive from which we, singly and collectively, cannot escape. . . . [Ours is a missionary church. We must prepare missionaries. We must be missionaries.] Every young man should fill a mission. . . . What an army we should have teaching Christ and him crucified! . . .

"[We hope to go to all the world. How we'll do that only the Lord knows, but we are trying to find out.] I believe that the Lord is anxious to put into our hands inventions of which we laymen have hardly had a glimpse. . . . He will open the gates and make possible the proselyting. . . . I believe the time has come when we must . . . change our sights and raise our goals." ("When the World Will Be Converted," *Ensign*, Oct. 1974, pp. 4, 8, 10, 13, 14.)

The worth of souls

Today the following words from the Lord should always be uppermost in our thoughts and actions. The Lord has commanded, "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God;

"For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

"And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

"And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth!

"Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people." (D&C 18:10-14.)

Cry repentance

Brothers and sisters, we are all called to cry repentance unto the people. "And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people," the Lord said, "and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father." What a bless-

ing and achievement it is when you help one of God's children to become god-like and prepare to live with our Heavenly Father in his celestial kingdom. "And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father," the Lord said, "how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:15-16.)

Jesus said the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Then he gave this important commandment that often we overlook, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2.) If all the Saints would pray to the Lord to send forth laborers unto the harvest, we'd have many more. A prophet of God said, "Every member a missionary." That is a prophetic statement with prophetic power.

A divine promise

The following divine promise has great eternal meaning to the Saints of the Lord. Jesus said, "By hearkening to observe all the words which I, the Lord their God, shall speak unto them, they shall never cease to prevail until the

kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet, and the earth is given unto the saints, to possess it forever and ever." (D&C 103:7.)

The number of saints that will possess this earth "forever and ever" depends, in part, on the missionary effort of the valiant Saints that live on this earth in the latter days.

Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.) We should give, we that have testimonies, the Lord's children a chance and opportunity to know the only true God and Jesus Christ.

I love and sustain President Spencer W. Kimball. He's truly a prophet of God. I bear witness that God lives, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

He to whom you have just listened is Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve Apostles will be our concluding speaker.

Elder Mark E. Petersen

Of the Council of the Twelve

One of the first things the Lord taught the Prophet Joseph Smith at the beginning of this dispensation was that he must take the divine commandments seriously.

"Trifle not with sacred things"

In order to impress this upon Joseph's mind, at one time God took from him the power to translate. He also rebuked him for the loss of the 116 pages of manuscript of the Book of Mormon. He chastened the Prophet also when his family did not live the gospel as they should.

The Lord then firmly commanded

his young servant: "Trifle not with sacred things." (D&C 6:12.)

When speaking further about the translation of the ancient record, the Lord again commanded: "Trifle not with these things." (D&C 8:10.)

And when the Lord gave instructions concerning missionary work, he again required that the brethren take his word seriously and declared, "They shall give heed unto these words and trifle not." (D&C 32:5.)

Neither should we trifle with the Lord nor with his word, for as he himself said, God will not be mocked. (See D&C 63:58.)

But in spite of all the Lord has said,