

Testimony

I would like to share with you my testimony, that I know that God lives, that I know that Jesus is the Christ, as well as I know that the Holy Ghost can murmur and whisper in your ear the same testimony that I have today about the veracity of the Book of Mormon and all the principles that exist in the church of Jesus Christ on earth today.

And this I bear solemn witness to you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Marion G. Romney

We have just listened to Elder Charles A. Didier, a new member of the First Quorum of Seventy.

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder William R. Bradford, who also was sustained yesterday as a member of the First Quorum of Seventy, and he will be followed by Elder David B. Haight, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

Elder William R. Bradford

of the First Quorum of the Seventy

My dear brothers and sisters, I'm overwhelmed by this occasion and the circumstances that bring me here. A few nights ago my wife and I stood together over a telephone in Santiago, Chile. We were holding each other and weeping openly after having received a call from President Kimball to serve in this sacred quorum.

I confess my weakness before you. I know, however, that the Lord will build a strength of armor and power around those who seek his Spirit. Throughout my life, my decisions have been influenced by a whispering voice saying, "Come, follow me." It is a great honor and privilege to obey as the Spirit directs. I assure you that the channel is open that this might happen.

Homage to family

I pay homage to my family and forefathers for their devotion in caring for the gospel in its infancy, from the Restoration until now, and for their struggle to preserve Zion in some of its tender moments. I pray that I might always honor their sacred and holy names. My father and mother will leave in just a few days to start their third full-time mission. Their love and example have had profound influence on my life. My father taught me not to be a

toe-dipper, but to plunge into the good things of life, to bathe all over in the sea of the gospel. My mother has taken me to that seashore every day of my life.

How can a man put into words the love in his heart for his eternal wife and sweetheart and for the priceless joy that the children she gives him bring. This is a sacred joy. It's the joy the scriptures tell us about when they say, "And men are, that they might have joy." (2 Ne. 2:25.) Our companionship brings great tenderness to this mortality.

A time for reaping

During the new mission presidents' seminar which was held in June, my wife and I had the privilege to be taught by President Kimball and many of the other General Authorities. President Kimball penetrated our minds with the fact that this is a time for reaping: the harvest is upon us. The hour has come to gather the wheat from among the tares. Most of my life I have been closely associated with planting and harvesting. I know the anxiety in the heart of the planter when the tares are overtaking the wheat.

The Lord has said, "Therefore, let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest is fully ripe; then ye shall first gather out the wheat from

among the tares, and after the gathering of the wheat, behold and lo, the tares are bound in bundles, and the field remaineth to be burned." (D&C 86:7.)

The harvest is fully ripe. We are now sent for the last time to gather it in. The sickle is in our hands. We must use it while the day lasts. I feel the word of the Lord being fulfilled. In the Chile Santiago Mission, 120 missionaries, thirty-two of them native Chileans serving in their own land, baptized 220 people during the month of September. Among these there were forty families. The missionaries in Chile love to follow the prophet.

I am honored to be one of the workers. I take great comfort in knowing that the Savior directs this work, that his direction comes when the living prophet and those who follow him listen and hear the voice as it is dictated by the Holy Spirit.

Solemn witness

I bear solemn witness that this work is true, that President Kimball has the vision of its completion. With a repentant spirit I present myself to the Lord. I dedicate all my strength and whatever gifts the Lord has blessed me with to be used in his service, as I am directed by the prophet and by the holy men who serve in these general quorums. I testify to you that they are holy

men, called to direct the reaping down of the harvest. I express my profound love for the prophet and tell you that I know in a very special way that he takes direction from a true and living God.

I am drawn to the Lord's words to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery when he said, "Fear not to do good, my sons, for whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap; therefore, if ye sow good ye shall also reap good for your reward.

"Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail. . . .

"Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.

"Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and feet; be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." (D&C 6:33-34, 36-37.)

I bear solemn witness that this church is true, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Marion G. Romney

Elder William R. Bradford, a new member of the First Quorum of Seventy, has just spoken to us.

Elder David B. Haight, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve.

Elder David B. Haight

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

Addressing the Regional Representatives seminar last October, President Kimball stirred our souls with an enlarged perspective of our responsibility as priesthood leaders. He said, "We must do things differently and better!" Several times he issued the challenge, "Why can't we?" ("Lengthening Our Stride," unpublished Regional Representative Seminar Address, Oct. 3, 1974, p. 4.) Our visits to stakes

indicate this message is getting through.

Reactivation of elder

Recently I heard of a far-sighted home teacher in an elders quorum who was given the name of an inactive member. On his way to priesthood meeting early one Sunday morning, he called at the home of this member.

"I'm on my way to priesthood