

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

meeting and thought you might like a ride."

This man, startled and somewhat angry at this early Sunday morning disruption of his sleep, said, "No. I'm not interested," and slammed the door. He wondered how the Church got his name.

The following Sunday morning again the doorbell rang. The member opened the door and saw this same individual, bright and smiling, on his way to priesthood.

"Just dropped by in case you had changed your mind. We would like you to join us."

He got an unfriendly reply of, "Go away! Leave me alone!" and slammed the door shut.

A week later the events were repeated. The home teacher added, "We have a great group of men. We need you. You're a member of our quorum. Would you mind if I stop by next Sunday?" This man, who wanted to get lost from activity, decided the only way to stop his early-morning caller was to go to the meeting and prove he was not interested.

The next Sunday when the home teacher rang the doorbell, he was not greeted with a "Go away! Leave me alone!" but with a man dressed and ready to prove his disinterest. But the spirit of the priesthood meeting, the friendly handclaps, the sincere interest changed his attitude and awakened the conscience of a man who needed a gentle push.

### Response to charge

Priesthood quorum leaders are responding to the charge by President Kimball to "reach out to the prospective elders who are, in . . . many cases, the fathers of so many of our boys and girls." ("Lengthening Our Stride," p. 2.) This challenge should stimulate our best efforts, cause us to ponder, to study better ways. He does not have a magic button to push, only you, the priesthood leaders. He is saying to you, "Why can't

we do better, be better?" He highlights the urgency today—not tomorrow—to-day.

The Church could not function effectively in helping the Lord accomplish his divine purpose unless sufficient power and authority were delegated. This is the principal reason for the Lord bestowing on men the holy priesthood to act in his name, to have the power and right to assist him in his divine purpose. The Savior said, "[teach] them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20.) Inactive fathers and husbands must first be found and then taught how to live the gospel.

### Durango Colorado Stake program

Six months ago Raymond Gerloch was called as elders quorum president in the Durango Colorado Stake. He reports wonderful success in reactivating members. Home teaching is their success tool. They use filmstrips to help teach and motivate the inactive. Seven quorum members have each purchased a film projector which home teachers use in the homes of the inactive.

One prospective elder had remarked, "Don't send the home teachers to my home anymore." This man and his wife were visiting at the home of another inactive member when the home teachers arrived with their film projector. He saw the filmstrip, his heart was touched, and the home teachers were invited to again visit his home. These understanding home teachers helped bring him back.

The leaders of this quorum selected the best qualified to teach a gospel study seminar, inviting four couples at a time to this discussion group where they learn gospel truths. All ninety-three members of this quorum have been identified and are being contacted. The elders president said, "We don't have any failures, only minor setbacks." All but four members are now receiving the home teachers, and, he says, "And we'll get those four."

They are forming more committees, athletic as well as social, proving to the inactive members that there is fun and joy in the Church. After appointing a husband as chairman of a committee, his wife is called to assist him and becomes involved. The men of this quorum camped overnight in the mountains and for six hours they reported they sat around a campfire discussing the Church. The elders president reported, "We had a real spiritual feast."

As soon as a man is ready for a calling, the quorum president assists the bishop in developing an appropriate position for him. When the leaders began having proper priesthood interviews, home teaching increased from 30 to almost 100 percent. This quorum has been resourceful in developing new ideas, but they attribute their success to the dedication of home teachers plus the blessings of the Lord.

"We have a humble prayer before we call a man to a position, and we have never had one turn us down."

Men who had been away from the Church a long time have said, "I thought no one really cared." This quorum has caught the spirit exemplified by the Lord: "And as all have not faith, search ye diligently and teach one another." (D&C 88:118.) President Gerloch has caught the vision of how to recover the lost.

Today stake presidents are calling Melchizedek quorum leaders who are being taught and trained in effective principles of priesthood organization and reactivation. These new leaders are alert and not like the farmer Elder Sterling Sill referred to who was hauling produce to market in his wagon drawn by two horses. The horses were having a difficult time and the grade seemed very steep. Finally the farmer asked a stranger, "How far is it to the top of this hill?" The stranger said, "You're not on a hill. Your rear wheels are off."

### Story of reactivation

Recently a man told how he be-

came lost in the middle of a ward with 500 members: "My wife and I had our first contact with the Church when two sweet, spiritual missionaries called. They came, they taught, they converted. We literally lived off their spirit. Like many converts know, the first thing after you are baptized, those two wonderful elders are transferred.

"It was extremely difficult for us to keep that same spirit. We felt we could not go it alone. We withdrew from Church activity. My wife told the visiting teachers not to come back, and the home teachers were asked to leave us alone.

"I suppose in the elders quorum one morning they discussed some 'lost' brethren who needed to be 'found.' Yes, I was lost. One day there came a knock at our front door. As I opened it, I saw a young, smiling, freckled-faced man who said he was the elders quorum president and asked if he could talk to me for a few minutes.

"In the coming weeks he came many times to bring us vegetables from his garden, eggs from his chickens, a birthday card for our daughter. Sometimes he came just to talk. He got me involved in the sports program. He even apologized for anyone who may have hurt our feelings. What did he do that got us back? He loved us. He was sincere. He cared. He gave me his personal testimony. He helped me to search my soul. He helped me to pray to my Father in heaven.

"For the love this man gave my family, we will be eternally grateful. The Lord has poured out his blessings on us. We have been to the temple of the Lord and sealed for eternity. We have returned to the temple many times and gained further light and knowledge promised to us.

"I am now working with this elders quorum president as his counselor. My wife is teaching Primary and is a visiting teacher. I was lost, but because someone cared, someone took time, someone took the risk of showing his love and concern, I was found and was able to

lead my family back to the Lord." He went on to say, "I plead with all members of the Church to look around and help guide lost children back to their Heavenly Father."

Our prophet has spoken. Quorums are accepting this challenge, "Why can't we?" The quorums know that we can. They all realize that there are thousands of men who are waiting only for the friendly extending of the hand. Quorum presidents realize, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand." (Rom. 13:12.)

I testify that Jesus the Christ is the source of priesthood power. No power can stay the progress of his church. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **President Marion G. Romney**

Elder David B. Haight, Assistant to the Twelve Apostles, has just spoken to us.

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve.

## **Elder Henry D. Taylor**

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

As in all ages of history, youth today are faced with making many important and far-reaching decisions. President Spencer W. Kimball has announced that the Church has need of more missionaries. He declared that the time has come now when we should "lengthen our stride, . . . change our sights and raise our goals."

### **Need for missionaries**

As President Kimball issued this challenge in April 1974, he said, "Today we have 18,600 missionaries." (The members accepted this challenge and today we have in excess of 21,000.) He then said: "We can send more. Many more! . . . When I ask for more missionaries, I am not asking for more testimony-barren or unworthy missionaries. . . . the young people will understand that it is a great privilege to go on a mission and that they must be physically well, mentally well, spiritually well, and that 'the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.'"

As the President continued, he said, "The question is frequently asked: Should every young man fill a mission? And the answer has been given by the

Lord. It is 'Yes. Every young man should fill a mission.'"

### **All not prepared**

In addition to filling a mission, President Kimball pointed out, "Every man should also pay his tithing. Every man should observe the Sabbath. Every man should attend his meetings. Every man should marry in the temple and properly train his children, and do many other mighty works. Of course he should. He does not always do it."

As the President continued, he said, "We realize that while all men definitely should, all men are not prepared to teach the gospel abroad. Far too many men arrive at the missionary age quite unprepared to go on a mission, and of course they should not be sent. But they should all be prepared. There are a few physically unfit to do missionary service. . . . There are far too many unfit emotionally and mentally and morally, because they have not kept their lives clean and in harmony with the spirit of missionary work. They should have been prepared. Should! But since they have broken the laws, they may have to be deprived, and thereon hangs one of our greatest