

Gratitude and testimony

I thank my wife, my seven children, my mother and father, for making this calling possible. I pledge my full support and loyalty to my brethren and to the Lord and ask for his peace and blessing to be with me as I grow in my assignment.

I have a great testimony of the gospel, for I know that it is true. I bring the greetings of the Saints in eastern Canada and all the missionaries there to all brethren of the priesthood around

the world. I leave this testimony humbly, and in the worthy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

Brother M. Russell Ballard has just spoken to us.

Brother John H. Groberg will be our next speaker. He was the president of the Tongan Mission, and since then has been a regional representative.

Elder John H. Groberg

Of the First Quorum of the Seventy

My dear brethren, on occasions such as this there is much to be felt, but little to be said. I feel it important that I say four things.

First of all, publicly and in the presence of the Lord and his servants, I wish to accept the invitation that President Kimball has extended to spend the rest of my life in the service of the Lord.

Secondly, I want to ask for your help. I recognize that I am weak and I need your help. As I have done some deep soul-searching over the last few days, I have come to the inescapable conclusion that many, if not most, of my so-called "accomplishments" have been much more the result of the efforts of others than they have of my own efforts.

We often hear of the need of our departed dead for us to go to the temple and do temple work for them, that is, we think of their dependence upon us. While I don't have a complete understanding of these things, I want to bear my testimony that I am sure we have at least as great a dependence upon them, if not more so, than they do upon us.

We need to help one another. Our salvation depends upon it.

Gratitude for family and friends

Thirdly, I would like to express my appreciation for all those who have been so kind and patient with me, to the leaders of the Church who I know have gritted their teeth at times and watched the errors I have made and yet have patiently led me and directed me. I hope and pray that I may be at least as kind and as patient with others, in whatever responsibility I am given, as they have been with me. I express appreciation to my wife and children, my parents, friends, and neighbors—no one could have finer neighbors than we do.

It was mentioned that we should listen to our wives. They have qualities that we don't have. In many cases womanly intuition should be listened to. When we were preparing to come down, my wife said, "Now, were we supposed to get anything in to the paper?"

I said, "No, they said they have all the information they need."

Saturday, April 3

First Day

She said, "I'll bet they get it wrong."

Sure enough, when we opened up the *Church News*, they had shorted us two children. For your information, we have a little Jane Marie and a Viki Ann who came after Thomas, who was mentioned in the paper. I told Jean that I would set the record straight.

But I can't say in words my appreciation for my wife and my children. Maybe just this: that I love her—I always have, and I always will and our children also.

Personal Testimony

Lastly, I would like to bear my testimony that I know that our Father in heaven lives, and, maybe more importantly, I know that he loves us as his children. I know that Jesus is the Savior of the world. I know that he loves us. He is our friend, with all that that implies. He loves everyone. My particular

experience has been more with the people of the islands. I would just like to say to the quiet, sweet-spirited people of the islands, my particular *Ofa Atua* (heartfelt love). You have softened my soul, saved my life, showed me the meaning of sacrifice and love, and given the incomparable blessing of faith.

I know that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, that President Kimball is a prophet of God. I bear this testimony in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

You have just heard Brother John H. Groberg from Idaho Falls, former president of the Tongan Mission.

It will be our privilege now to hear Brother Jacob de Jager from Holland, who was a regional representative of the Twelve.

Elder Jacob de Jager

Of the First Quorum of the Seventy

My beloved brethren, what a glorious occasion it is to make the personal acquaintance, in my new calling to assist in building His kingdom, of so many worthy, chosen sons of our Heavenly Father, of whom I know for sure that Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16); and of whom the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Ye are they whom my Father hath given me; ye are my friends." (D&C 84:63.)

There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord has brought us together here, since it was revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith: "And he that is faithful shall be made strong in every place; and I, the Lord, will go with you." (D&C 66:8.)

Life in the Church

We have come here from all corners of the world, and I myself from a small town in Holland where only a handful of four members of the Church reside. Therefore, I am sure that many of you could tell an interesting story about your conversion and baptism into the Church; about your first contact with the missionaries; and about the three stages we all have to go through when entering the kingdom here on earth—the entry stage, the development stage, and the stewardship stage—all part of man's eternal progression from the preexistence to the life hereafter.

The purpose of my being here tonight is to share my testimony with