

enjoy by virtue thereof, including the gift of the Holy Ghost. When I was appointed a member of the Twelve, I said from this pulpit that I would rather have my children enjoy the companionship of the Holy Ghost than any other person or individual in this world; and I feel the same today, for them and for me, and for all of you, and I leave you my love and blessing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

President Marion G. Romney

Elder LeGrand Richards, a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, has just spoken to us.

Before hearing President Kimball's concluding remarks, we should like to express, on behalf of all who have listened to the singing during sessions of this general conference, appreciation and our sincere gratitude to the members of the Tabernacle Choir for again giving so generously of their time to bring us the beautiful and inspiring music heard at this conference. We are appreciative of the lovely music performed by the Primary children's choir at the Saturday afternoon session and for the combined Tabernacle Choir and Mormon Youth men's choir that sang at the priesthood session last night. We are thankful to their conductors and organists.

We thank all who have contributed in various ways to the success and inspiration of this conference, especially the General Authorities who have given such appropriate and

inspiring messages and such beautiful prayers.

We appreciate the attention given by local and national press representatives of radio and television in reporting the sessions of this conference.

We thank our city officials for the cooperation given this conference; the city traffic officers for courteously and efficiently handling the increased traffic; the Fire Department and the Relief Society and Church Health Unit nurses, who have been on hand to render service throughout the conference.

We are grateful to the Tabernacle ushers for seating the great audiences of these conference sessions in such a courteous manner.

We again express appreciation to the owners and managers of the many radio and television stations who have given public service time to carry sessions of this conference in the United States, Mexico, and Canada; and by satellite to Australia, Central and South America, and, for the first time, to Spain and Taiwan.

We thank the interpreters who have provided translation for the sessions of the conference.

Our beloved prophet, President Spencer W. Kimball, will be our concluding speaker of the conference, after which the Tabernacle Choir will sing "Love at Home."

The benediction will then be offered by Elder Carlos E. Asay, a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

This conference will then stand adjourned for six months.

President Spencer W. Kimball

Beloved brothers and sisters, is there anyone who doesn't know Brother LeGrand Richards, who has just spoken? Is there anyone who doesn't know the great missionary he

has been? When I was a member of the stake presidency in Arizona, Brother Richards came to our stake; and after all the thousands of good things he had to give us, I remember

so very well that he and I both went down to Miami, Arizona, to conclude our conferences, and we sat there and talked about the gospel most of the evening. I don't know whether he will remember that or not, but it was very impressive to me. The First Presidency recently went with some of the General Authorities down to an area conference in New Mexico and we got caught with a plane breakdown. They had to send back to Denver to get some parts. While the rest of us were sitting around waiting, Brother Richards started talking to the pilot and the stewardess, and he taught them the gospel. That's the kind of missionary he is.

I think he mentioned 28,000 missionaries, and I think we now have 29,000 plus. Anyway, we are very, very grateful to Brother Richards and all the other Brethren who have been as faithful as he explained to us in his sermon.

A wonderful conference

It's been a wonderful conference! It has been good for all of us to be here. I've been grateful for the remarks of the Brethren who have spoken. The Lord has answered their prayers for divine help in the preparation and delivery of their sermons.

I express appreciation to all of you who have traveled so far to come here, some of you at great sacrifice and inconvenience. We are grateful for your devotion and ask the Lord to bless you with a capacity to be touched in your hearts by the messages you have heard, long after we have sung the songs and long after we have said our last amen. We realize so much depends on what you as leaders do as you return to your homes to work again with those in your stakes and wards and individual homes.

Joshua and Caleb

I should like to refer to the great story of the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. In that story there is an account of one special man that moves and motivates and inspires me. His name was Caleb.

Shortly after Moses led Israel out of bondage from Egypt, he sent twelve men to search out the promised land and to bring back word about living conditions there. Caleb and Joshua were among the group. After spending forty days on their mission, the twelve men returned. They brought back figs and pomegranates and a cluster of grapes so large it took two men to carry it between them on a pole.

The majority of the search party gave a very discouraging report on the promised land and its inhabitants. Although they found a land that was beautiful and desirable and flowing with milk and honey, they also found that the cities were walled and formidable and that the people, the "sons of Anak," looked like giants. The Israelite scouts said that they felt like grasshoppers in comparison. Caleb, however, saw things a little differently, with what the Lord called "another spirit," and his account of the journey and their challenges was quite different. He said, "Let us go up at once, and possess [their land]; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30).

Joshua and Caleb were men of great faith, and they joined in urging that the Israelites go *immediately*, to the promised land, saying:

"If the Lord delights in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

"Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for . . . the Lord is with us: fear them not" (Num. 14:8-9).

But the faint-hearted Israelites, remembering the security of their Egyptian slavery and lacking faith in God, rejected Caleb and Joshua and sought even to stone them to death.

Because of their lack of faith, the children of Israel were required to spend the next forty years wandering about and eating the dust of the desert, when they might have feasted on milk and honey.

The Lord decreed that before Israel could enter the land of Canaan, all of the faithless generation who had been freed from bondage must pass away—all go into eternity—all except Joshua and Caleb. For *their* faith, *they* were promised that they and their children would live to inhabit the promised land.

Forty-five years after the twelve men returned from their exploration of the land of promise, when the new generation of Israel, under the leadership of Joshua, was completing its conquest of Canaan, Caleb spoke to Joshua:

“Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me . . . to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

“Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

“And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

“As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me [at least in the spirit of the gospel and its call and needs]: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, . . . both to go out, and to come in” (Josh. 14:7-8, 10-11).

“Give me this mountain”

From Caleb’s example we learn very important lessons. Just as Caleb had to struggle and remain true and faithful to gain his inheritance, so we must remember that, while the Lord has promised us a place in his kingdom, we must ever strive constantly and faithfully so as to be worthy to receive the reward.

Caleb concluded his moving declaration with a request and a challenge with which my heart finds full sympathy. The Anakims, the giants, were still inhabiting the promised land, and they had to be overcome. Said Caleb, now at 85 years, “Give me this mountain” (Joshua 14:12).

This is my feeling for the work at this moment. There are great challenges ahead of us, giant opportunities to be met. I welcome that exciting prospect and feel to say to the Lord, humbly, “Give me this mountain,” give me these challenges.

Pledge and challenge to follow the Lord

Humbly, I give this pledge to the Lord and to you, my beloved brothers and sisters, fellow workers in this sacred cause of Christ: I will go forward, with faith in the God of Israel, knowing that he will guide and direct us, and lead us, finally, to the accomplishment of his purposes and to our promised land and our promised blessings.

“And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

I will “wholly follow the Lord my God” to the fullest extent of my energy and my ability.

Earnestly and fervently I urge that each of you make this same

pledge and effort—every priesthood leader, every woman in Israel, each young man, each young woman, every boy and girl.

My brethren and sisters, I testify to you that this is the Lord's work and that it is true. We are on the Lord's errand. This is his church and he is its head and the chief cornerstone. I leave you this testimony, in

all sincerity, with my love and blessing, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

The Choir sang the hymn "Love at Home."

Elder Carlos E. Asay pronounced the benediction.

GENERAL WELFARE SESSION SATURDAY MORNING

A general welfare services session was held in connection with general conference on Saturday morning, October 6, 1979, beginning at 7:00 A.M. Invited to attend this meeting were General Authorities, Regional Representatives, stake presidencies, high councilors involved in welfare work, bishoprics, and stake and ward Relief Society presidencies and others responsible for operating welfare production projects.

President Spencer W. Kimball presided at this session and President Marion G. Romney, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, conducted it.

President Romney opened the meeting with the following remarks:

President Marion G. Romney

We are happy to welcome you to this general welfare services meeting attended by general and local priesthood leaders and sisters of the Relief Society. The matters to be presented at this meeting are of vital importance to the effectiveness of the

welfare program. We, therefore, request that you instruct those under your direction in the things you will be taught here.

Under the direction of Jerold Ottley with Roy Darley at the organ, we shall begin this meeting by singing hymn number 195, "Redeemer of Israel." The invocation will offered by Elder Dean L. Larsen, a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

The congregation sang the hymn "Redeemer of Israel."

Elder Dean L. Larsen offered the invocation.

President Romney

Our first speaker will be President N. Eldon Tanner, First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Following President Tanner's address, we shall view a slide/tape presentation entitled "The Work of Love."