
The Choir sang "The Lord's Prayer."

Elder Royden G. Derrick offered the invocation.

President Hinckley

In view of his recent call to serve as the president of the Washington (D.C.) Temple, we hereby extend to Elder Franklin D. Richards an honorable release as one of the Presidents of the First Quorum of the Seventy. He has served as the Senior President of that quorum since it was organized.

Also in view of the call of Sister Shirley W. Thomas to assist her husband in his duties as president of the Australia Melbourne Mission, we extend to her an honorable release from her service as the second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency.

All who wish to join in extending a sincere vote of thanks and appreciation to Elder Richards and Sister Thomas for their remarkable service, please indicate by the uplifted hand. Thank you.

It is proposed that Elder Richard G. Scott be called as one of the Presidents of the First Quorum of the Seventy, filling the vacancy created by the release of Elder Franklin D. Richards.

Those in favor manifest it by the uplifted hand. Contrary, if there be any, by the same sign.

It also is proposed that Sister Ann Stoddard Reese succeed Sister Shirley W. Thomas as the second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency.

All in favor please manifest it by the uplifted hand. Any opposed by the same sign.

With these exceptions, there have been no changes in the General Authorities or general officers of the Church since the last general conference. It is proposed, therefore, that we sustain all of the General Authorities and general officers of the Church as at present constituted.

All in favor manifest it by the uplifted hand. Any opposed may so manifest it. Thank you.

President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke without announcement.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

Faith as our foundation

To Latter-day Saints throughout the world, and to men and women of goodwill everywhere: we greet you in the name of the Lord as we gather from near and far in this great world conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We affirm before all men our belief in God the Eternal Father and in his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. This is the first article of our faith and the foundation of all of our work.

President Kimball's influence

We are particularly pleased to have with us—yes, pleased and honored—this remarkable man whom we sustain as a prophet of God, our prophet, seer, and revelator, our friend and leader, President Spencer W. Kimball.

We regret that the condition of his health does not permit him to speak to us. We have heard him many times in the past as he has spoken from this pulpit, and the memories of his great testimonies continue to encourage and strengthen all of us.

Who can measure the influence of this man upon others? I suppose if we

were to seek for just one word to characterize him, it would be *love*.

The power of love

I read from my notebook a statement he made on October 23, 1980, to a large assembly of Chinese brethren and sisters in Taipei, Taiwan. He said on that occasion:

"Somehow the Lord gave me from the time of my birth a spirit of love. I loved my companions in the mission field. I loved those against whom I played basketball as a boy. I loved people in all the world. I love you."

If he were to speak to us this morning, I am confident that would be the tenor of his remarks. This great reaching out with love has been the chemistry of his remarkable leadership. His life is a lesson for each of us, a lesson in the wondrous power of love.

Though his body is tired and weak, the force of that leadership is felt throughout the Church in all the world. It is an agent that binds us together as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Its unifying influence is felt in all of the higher councils of the Church.

Hallmark of the true church

We are grateful that President Romney is also with us as First Counselor in the First Presidency. He also is having health problems. Were he to speak, I am confident that he would testify of this great and moving power in the life and character of our President. I bear witness of it. I am confident that each of the Twelve and the Seventy and the Bishopric could do likewise.

I thank each one of the members of these councils and quorums who con-

stitute the General Authorities of the Church. I thank them for their love and loyalty, for their faith and devotion, for their unity of purpose and action, under the leadership of our President.

The Lord said that except ye are one, ye are not mine (see D&C 38:27).

This great unity is the hallmark of the true church of Christ. It is felt among our people throughout the world. As we are one, we are his.

Onward progress of the kingdom

And so, as we open this great conference, from which there will be radiated across the world a feeling of love, we pray that we shall be blessed of the Lord. We pray for our prophet dear, whom we love and honor. We pray for one another that we may go on in unity and strength. If we do so, no power beneath the heavens can stop the onward progress of this great kingdom. I pray that we shall never be wanting in our faith, in our devotion, in our love for the Lord and his work, and in our desire to serve unitedly for the advancement of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Hinckley

The Tabernacle Choir will now sing "Send Forth Thy Spirit."

President Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, will then address us.

The Tabernacle Choir sang "Send Forth Thy Spirit."