

a house. When Christ comes in, it hurts abominably. We knew the roof and the gutters needed fixing, Lewis said, but all of a sudden we find that he starts putting up a new story here, and he shoots out a new wing there. We knew that the cottage needed fixing and those things needed doing, but this? (See *Mere Christianity* [New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1943], p. 174.) Well, Christ's love can be tough. What is he trying to do with us? In his best seller, *The Road Less Traveled* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978), Dr. M. Scott Peck said that no matter how much we may pussyfoot around it, all who ask the question "What is God's love leading to?" come to a single terrifying conclusion: God wants us to become like himself. We are being prepared for godhood, and it hurts; it hurts abominably, but there is peace.

In those early morning hours, there came to my mind the theme from Ralph Rodgers's play *III Nephi*:

I feel my Savior's love in all the  
world around me. . . .  
He knows I will follow him, give  
all my life to him.  
I feel the Savior's love, the love  
He freely gives me.  
(*"I Feel My Savior's Love," The  
Choirbook*, pp. 36-37.)

On behalf of these brethren who have joined me, we pledge our energy, our love, our prayers, our faith, in humble obedience to a call we did not seek, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### President Benson

We have just listened to Elder John K. Carmack, a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Sister Ardeth G. Kapp, general president of the Young Women, will now speak to us. She will be followed by Elder L. Tom Perry, a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

## Sister Ardeth G. Kapp

### Desire to know and do Lord's will

My brothers and sisters, my heart is full of joy today, and I commend the great and noble leadership of those in the past who have done so much to put the foundation in place for the youth of today. My heart resounds to the heritage left us by those in years gone by, and now, on the threshold of today, I feel my heart saying, "O youth of the noble birthright, Carry on, carry on, carry on!" (Firm As the Mountains Around Us," *Hymns*, no. 42).

In times of great joy and struggle and disappointment, my great companion, Heber, and I have come to know the Lord and felt his Spirit in our home and in our lives. We have known that peace "which passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) in times of disappointment and in times of

great blessings. In our home, I think perhaps the phrase used most frequently by my husband is, "I want to know the Lord's will, and I want to carry it out." And I repeat that and add my commitment to what he has taught me by his example.

### Heritage and parents' testament

Today I reflect on my early ancestor, John P. Greene, who received the Book of Mormon from Samuel Smith, the Prophet Joseph Smith's brother. John gave it to his wife, Rhoda Young, who then passed it on to her brothers, Phineas Young and Brigham Young. I remember that John was the marshal in Nauvoo, and I rejoice in the heritage of faithful Latter-day Saints down through the years.

I am grateful to my father and my mother, who, before passing on, wrote in their last will and testament not what you would expect—of material things, for they had few—rather, they left with us in their last will and testament a statement of their testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ, their most precious possession. And now I think of the lines of that poem which says:

**To every young woman: we love you, we believe in you**

If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies  
grow  
In Flander's fields.  
(John McCrae, "In Flanders  
Fields," quoted in Bartlett's  
*Familiar Quotations*, p. 912.)

We'll not break faith, none of us. This is a generation of hope and faith and aspirations, and as leaders of young women throughout the world, our prayer is to live so that God's divine intervention will be felt in our hearts, in our actions, in our attitudes, and in our deeds, and that our receptivity to the priesthood power and direction will be sensitive and responsive. The forces of evil are so real today, and the subtleties of deceit would strive to divert us from the promises and blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To the young women of the Church, and to a little Beehive girl who came up today and shook my hand and said, "I'm twelve years old and I'm a

Beehive," to every young woman in every corner of the Church, I say, we love you, we need you, we care about you, we believe in you, and the goal of eternal life is not beyond our reach.

**Expression of commitment**

It has been my privilege to know of the power and strength of the Brethren who sit in the councils of the Church, guiding this great work in these latter days. And we're part of that great work. We'll work to have every young woman throughout the Church stand in the valiant ranks of loyalty, commitment, and dedication. Mothers, stand firm; and fathers, have courage to be strong. Leaders, support those great parents. And together in unity we'll prepare a generation that will be prepared for the Lord's commendation, that he may have a house of worthy members when he returns.

To this solemn and sacred trust, I commit all of my energies and my efforts. I rejoice in the opportunity to be a part of this great work, and bear my testimony in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**President Benson**

Sister Ardeth Kapp, the new general president of the Young Women, has just spoken to us.

Elder L. Tom Perry, a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, will now address us.

## Elder L. Tom Perry

Before I begin my prepared message, I would personally like to thank two great women for their devoted years of service. Sister Smith and Sister Cannon, you have been like great beacons of light to guide the women of the

Church and many, many others from troubled seas into a safe harbor. May God continue to bless you that your inspiration and encouragement will continue to be felt by the women of the world.