

to carry sessions of this conference in many countries.

Following President Hinckley's remarks, the Tabernacle Choir will sing "Come, Follow Me."

The benediction will then be offered by Elder Gerald E. Melchin of the Seventy, and the conference will stand adjourned for six months.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

Brethren and sisters, traditionally the President of the Church, at the close of the conference, has offered words of benediction. President Benson, who is now in his ninety-first year, feels that he could not stand and address us, but I wish to say that we have been greatly uplifted by his very presence, with his smile and the wave of a hand as an expression of love.

Words from President Benson

May I, in conclusion, read some of the words he has said in the past on this occasion and from this pulpit.

"I commend my Brethren . . . for the excellent addresses they have given. My humble prayer is that all of us will follow the counsel and instruction we have received.

"As we have felt the Spirit and made new and sacred resolves, may we now have the courage and fortitude to carry out those resolves" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1988, p. 97; or *Ensign*, May 1988, p. 84).

"We should like to reaffirm to all the world that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is led by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in Christ. We accept and affirm His teachings as revealed truths from God. We know Him to be the literal Son of God. We love Him as our resurrected Lord and Savior.

"We believe there is 'none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved' (Acts 4:12).

"So we invite all men, as the Book of Mormon declares, to 'Come unto Christ, and be [redeemed] in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your [heart], mind and

strength' (Moroni 10:32)" (*Ensign*, Dec. 1985, p. 5).

The testimony of the prophet

"I bear witness to you that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world—the very Son of God.

"He was *born* the babe of Bethlehem.

"He *lived* and ministered among men.

"He was *crucified* on Calvary.

"His friends *deserted* Him.

"His closest associates did not fully *understand* his mission, and they *doubted*. One of the most trusted *denied* knowing Him. . . .

"He asked *forgiveness* for His tormenters and then willingly gave up his life.

"His body was *laid* in a borrowed tomb.

"An immense stone was placed over the opening.

"In the minds of his stunned followers over and over echoed some of his last words, ' . . . be of good cheer; I have overcome the world' [John 16:33]" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1964, p. 119).

Thoughts of love and blessing

Last Thursday, in a meeting in the temple of all of the General Authorities, where we bore testimonies one to another and partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, President Benson stood before his brethren and said with conviction and emotion, "I love you, my brethren. I bless you in your great ministry."

Every man there was deeply touched as he felt of the spirit of our great leader. As we close this conference, I am confi-

dent he would have me say to each of you in his behalf, "I love you, my brethren and sisters. I bless you in the great work which you are doing in living the gospel of Jesus Christ and in carrying out His teachings."

To these words of his I add my own testimony that God our Eternal Father lives; that Jesus is the Christ, the Only Begotten of the Father born in the flesh, the Savior and Redeemer of mankind, who offered His life on Calvary's cross in atonement for the sins of all mankind; that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the living God; and that every man who has succeeded him in the office of the Presi-

dency of this Church has been a living prophet—including Ezra Taft Benson, whom we love and for whom we pray as the Lord's anointed in our day and time. Of these things I testify and leave my blessings. May God be with you and bless you as you travel to your homes, and may His guiding light be the lodestar of your lives, I humbly ask, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

The choir sang "Come, Follow Me."

Elder Gerald E. Melchin offered the benediction.

Summary of Conference Music

The Mormon Youth Chorus, conducted by Robert C. Bowden, furnished the choral numbers for the Saturday morning session of the conference.

Music for the Saturday afternoon session was provided by a Primary children's choir from the Granger Utah Region, conducted by Glenda C. Nordfelt.

At the general priesthood session, music was furnished by a combined men's choir from the Ephraim, Orem, Salt Lake, Salt Lake Community College, Ogden, and Logan institutes, conducted by Douglas Brenchley.

The Tabernacle Choir, conducted by Jerold Ottley and Donald Ripplinger, provided music for the Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon sessions.

Throughout the conference sessions, prelude, postlude, and interlude music and accompaniments on the Tabernacle organ were played by Robert Cundick, John Longhurst, and Clay Christiansen, Tabernacle organists.

F. Michael Watson
Clerk of the conference