

DOCTRINES OF THE GOSPEL

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"WHEN THE WORLD WILL BE CONVERTED"

By President Spencer W. Kimball
from an address delivered at a
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My beloved brethren and sisters, this is a momentous time. I am sure that you know how weak I feel in this place that Brother Lee has filled so admirably. No one expected what has happened less than I. I felt absolutely certain that I would die, when my time came, as President of the Twelve. I had no idea that this could ever happen. But since it has happened there is only one thing for us to do and that is to move forward and that is our purpose today.

I said at President Lee's funeral that no one had prayed harder than Sister Kimball and I for his restoration when he was ill and for his continuation while he was well. He was such an admirable leader, and so I approach this new responsibility with fear and trembling.

Now, all of you have much to do with the missionary work of the Church in stakes or missions. May I now discuss with you some of the things which have been uppermost in my mind. Every area of the Church must properly feel that its work is of greatest value, but let me quote the Lord in a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith:

"And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!" (D&C 18:15.)

If there were no converts, the Church would shrivel and die on the vine. But perhaps the greatest reason for missionary work is to give the world its chance to hear and accept the gospel. The scriptures are replete with commands and promises and calls and rewards for teaching the gospel. I use the word command deliberately for it seems to be an insistent directive from which we, singly and collectively, cannot escape.

I ask you, what did he mean when the Lord took his Twelve Apostles to the top of the Mount of Olives and said:

"....And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8.)

These were his last words on earth before he went to his heavenly home.

What is the significance of the phrase "uttermost part of the earth"? He had already covered the area known to the apostles. Was it the people in Judea? Or those in Samaria? Or the few millions in the Near East? Where were the "uttermost parts of the earth"? Did he mean the millions in what is now America? Did he include the hundreds of thousands, or even millions, in Greece, Italy, around the Mediterranean, the inhabitants of central Europe? What did he mean? Or did he mean all the living people of all the world and those spirits assigned to this world to come in centuries ahead? Have we underestimated his language or its meaning? How can we be satisfied with 100,000 converts out of nearly four billion people in the world who need the gospel?

After his crucifixion the eleven apostles assembled on a mountain in Galilee and the Savior came to them and said:

"....All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

(He said "all nations.")

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:18-20.)

Again the word power and the word command and the promise of continual support.

In 1830 when the Lord sent Parley P. Pratt, Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whitmer, and Ziba Peterson to the Lamanites he added:

"....I myself will go with them and be in their midst; and I am their advocate with the Father, and nothing shall prevail against them." (D&C 32:3.)

Did he mean all the nations then extant? And then he said,

"....And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...."(Matt. 28:20.)

Do you think he included all the nations that would be organized up until that time? And as he commanded them to go forth, do you think he wondered if it could be done? He reassured us. He had the power. He said, "All power is given me in heaven and in earth....and I am with you always"

Again as Mark records the events after the resurrection, he upbraided those who had some doubts about his resurrection, then commanded them:

"....Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15.)

And this was just before the ascension. Do you think he meant Egypt and Palestine and Greece? Do you think he included the world of 33 A.D. or the world of 1970, 1980, 1990? What was included in his phrase "all the world" and what did he mean by "every creature"?

And Luke records the event --

"....That repentance and remission of sins should be preached....among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47.)

Again, his last command. Surely there is significance in these words! There was a universal need and there must be universal coverage.

As I remember the world as Moses saw it - it was a big world.

"....And Moses beheld the world and the ends thereof, and all the children of men which are, and which are created...." (Moses 1:8.)

I am constrained to believe that at that time the Lord knew the bounds of the habitations of man and the areas that would be settled and already knew his people who would possess this world.

Still impressing Moses with the magnitude of his words and glory, the Lord showed him more.

"....Moses cast his eyes and beheld the earth, yea, even all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold, discerning it by the spirit of God.

"....And their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore.

"And he beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof." (Moses 1:27-29.)

Remember also that Enoch, the prophet, beheld the spirits that God had created. (See Moses 6:36.) These prophets visualized the numerous spirits and all the creations. It seems to me that the Lord chose his words when he said "every nation," "every land," "uttermost bounds of the earth," "every tongue," "every people," "every soul," "all the world." "many lands."

Surely there is significance in these words!

Certainly his sheep were not limited to the thousands about him and with whom he rubbed shoulders each day. A universal family! A universal command!

My brethren. I wonder if we are doing all we can. Are we complacent in our approach to teaching all the world? We have been proselyting now 144 years. Are we prepared to lengthen our stride? To enlarge our vision?

Remember, our ally is our God. He is our commander. He made the plans. He gave the commandment. Remember what we have quoted thousands of times as told by Nephi:

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Ne. 3:7.)

And as I read the scripture I think of the numerous nations that are still untouched. I know they have curtains, like iron curtains and bamboo curtains. I know how difficult it is because we have made some efforts. Surely the Lord knew what he was doing when he commanded. And like Nephi we can say:

"For the fulness of mine intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and be saved." (1 Ne. 6:4.)

And certainly the command to the original apostles of this dispensation followed the command of the others of earlier years, and the Twelve have that same command.

The 112th section of the Doctrine and Covenants was addressed to Thomas B. Marsh, the President of the Twelve in 1837, and concerns the Twelve Apostles. The keys of the kingdom were given to the Presidency of the Twelve. Apparently President Marsh had been praying for his brethren and the Lord listened:

"....Thine alms have come up as a memorial before me, in behalf of those, thy brethren, who were chosen to bear testimony of my name and to send it abroad among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people...." (D&C 112:1.)

Further:

"....Thou shalt bear record of my name, not only unto the Gentiles, but also unto the Jews; and thou shalt send forth my word unto the ends of the earth." (D&C 112:4.)

He was commanded:

"....Let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech.

"....Thy path lieth among the mountains, and among many nations." (D&C 112:5, 7.)

You, the Twelve, today inherited that command.

My brethren, why did the Lord continue to repeat and repeat these phrases if he did not have meaning for them? To President Thomas B. Marsh, and to you, the Twelve, the Lord said:

"....I have chosen (you) to hold the keys of my kingdom....abroad among all nations-

"That thou mayest be my servant to unlock the door of the kingdom in all places...." (D&C 112:16-17.)

I introduced to you Brother David Kennedy. I have a vision that probably Brother Kennedy and others may assist the Twelve in finding the keys that have apparently been lost to many nations wherein we can open those worlds.

As to Brother Marsh, the promise came to you and me regarding the opening of the doors:

"Wherefore, whithersoever they shall send you, go ye, and I will be with you; and in whatsoever place ye shall proclaim my name an effectual door shall be opened unto you...." (D&C 112:19.)

When I read Church history, I am amazed at the boldness of the early brethren as they went out into the world. They seemed to find a way. Even in persecution and hardship, they went and opened doors which evidently have been allowed to sag on their hinges and many of them to close. I remember that these fearless men were teaching the gospel in Indian lands before the Church was even fully organized. As early as 1837 the Twelve were in England fighting Satan, in Tahiti in 1844, Australia in 1851, Iceland 1853, Italy 1850, and also in Switzerland, Germany, Tonga, Turkey, Mexico, Japan, Czechoslovakia, China, Samoa, New Zealand, South America, France, and Hawaii in 1850. When you look at the progress we have made in some countries, with no progress in many of their nearby countries, it makes us wonder. Much of this early proselyting was done while the leaders were climbing the Rockies and planting the sod and starting their homes. It is faith and super faith.

These men of valor began to walk the earth with dignity and honor, with mantles on their shoulders and keys in their hands and love in their hearts.

To the Twelve the Lord said,

"You have a word to do that no other men can do....There will be times when nothing but the angels of God can deliver you out of their hands...."
(History of the Church, vol. 2, p. 178.)

Now let me speak of the expansion which I think is necessary and, may I add, which I think is possible. The Lord said again:

"....All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matt. 28:18.)

The Lord gave to Thomas B. Marsh and Joseph and Sidney and Hyrum power "to hold the keys" of the kingdom and that they would be the servants who could "unlock the door of the kingdom." (See D&C 112:16-17.)

To those intrepid leaders the command came:

"....And in whatsoever place ye shall proclaim my name an effectual door shall be opened unto you, that they may receive my word." (D&C 112:19.)

The Twelve have the keys and those they send have the command to open doors. Today we are blessed with many strong, trained men, in government, in foreign service, and with much prestige and "know-how." Perhaps we can bring to our call men like these who can make new contacts with emperors and kings and rulers and magistrates.

Somehow I believe the Lord meant what he said through the centuries.

Again to the apostles through their president, Thomas B. Marsh:

"Contend thou, therefore, morning by morning; and day after day let thy warning voice go forth; and when night cometh let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech." (D&C 112:5.)

"For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.

"And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days." (D&C 1:2,4.)

Somehow, brethren, I feel that when we have done all in our power that the Lord will find a way to open doors. That is my faith.

"Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" he asked, when Sarah laughed when she was told that she would have a son. When she heard this in the tent door, she knew that both Abraham at 100 years and she at 90 years were past the age of reproduction. She could not bear children. She knew that, as well as it has been known that we could not open doors to many nations.

And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh....

"Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." (Gen. 18:13-14.)

Brethren, Sarah did have a son, from Abraham, the father of nations.

"Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead (and that was Abraham, 100 years old), so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable." (Heb. 11:12.)

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Also to Jeremiah he had said:

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: Is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:27.)

If he commands, certainly he can fulfill.

We remember the exodus of the children of Israel crossing the uncrossable Red Sea.

We remember Cyrus diverting a river and taking the impregnable city of Babylon.

We remember the Lehites getting to the promised land.

We remember the Revolutionary War and the power of God that gave us triumph.

I believe the Lord can do anything he sets his mind to do.

But I can see no good reason why the Lord would open doors that we are not prepared to enter. Why should he break down the Iron Curtain or the Bamboo Curtain or any other curtain if we are still unprepared to enter?

I believe we have men who could help the apostles to open these doors - statesmen, able and trustworthy - but, when we are ready for them.

Today we have 18,600 missionaries. We can send more. Many more! Eight thousand, nine hundred went through the mission home in 1973.

I believe it was John Taylor who said, "God will hold us responsible to the people we might have saved, had we done our duty."

When I ask for more missionaries, I am not asking for more testimony-barren or unworthy missionaries. I am asking that we start earlier and train our missionaries better in every branch and every ward in the world. That is another challenge - that the young people will understand that it is a great privilege to go on a mission and that they must be physically well, mentally well, spiritually well, and that "the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance."

I am asking for missionaries who have been carefully indoctrinated and trained through the family and the organizations of the Church, and who come to the mission with a great desire. I am asking for better interviews, more searching interviews, more sympathetic and understanding interviews, but especially that we train prospective missionaries much better, much earlier, much longer, so that each anticipates his mission with great joy.

Not that I had much influence on it, but when I came into the Council of the Twelve in 1943 there were less than one million members; today there are 3,353,000. We then had 146 stakes and about 40 missions, and we now have 633 stakes and 107 missions. We have grown from 937,000 in 1943 to 1,116,000 in 1959, and 3,300,000 in 1973. That means approximately a 19 percent increase in the 16 years between 1943 and 1959 and approximately a 196 percent increase from 1959 to 1974. This is phenomenal growth.

It may be of interest to you brethren, some of you, to know that of the 17,564 missionaries, as of last week, 9,560 are teaching the gospel in English, which is about 55 percent of all the missionaries, and these are in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. About 8,000 missionaries are learning languages in the language training missions. These 45 percent are training in the three language schools - about 17 percent or 3,000 in Spanish, about 1,000 in German, about 1,000 in Japanese, about 400 in French, and about 600 in Portuguese, and substantial numbers in Danish, Finnish, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Chinese, Italian, Korean, Thai, Samoan, Afrikaans, and Navajo.

It is interesting to me that some statistician told us that in 33 A.D. when the Savior himself was stressing so strongly "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people" that there were on the earth possibly a quarter billion people (250,000,000).

Eighteen hundred years later, when the command came through Joseph Smith to proselyte the worlds, our experts estimated that there were one billion people (1,000,000,000), or about four times as many as in the meridian of time. And now as we renew the injunction to cover the earth with the gospel, it is estimated that there are probably almost three and a half billion (3,400,000,000).

The question is frequently asked: Should every young man fill a mission? And the answer has been given by the Lord. It is "Yes." Every young man should fill a mission. He said:

"Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off (He said elders - we have been talking about elders); unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands, call upon all nations, first upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews." (D&C 133:8.)

He did not limit it.

The answer is "yes." Every man should also pay his tithing. Every man should observe the Sabbath. Every man should attend his meetings. Every man should marry in the temple and properly train his children, and do many other mighty works. Of course he should. He does not always do it.

We realize that while men definitely should, all men are not prepared to teach the gospel abroad. Far too many young men arrive at the missionary age quite unprepared to go on a mission, and of course they should not be sent. But they should all be prepared. There are a few physically unfit to do missionary service, but Paul also had a thorn in his side. There are far too many unfit emotionally and mentally and morally, because they have not kept their lives clean and in harmony with the spirit of missionary work. They should have been prepared. Should! But since they have broken the laws, they may have to be deprived, and thereon hangs one of our greatest challenges: to keep these young boys worthy. Yes, we would say, every able worthy young man should shoulder the cross. What an army we should have teaching Christ and him crucified! Yes, they should be prepared, usually with saved funds for their missions, and always with a happy heart to serve.

The Lord says:

"And that every man" - (Did you catch the words, "every man"?) "should take righteousness in his hands and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth: and declare both by word and by flight that desolation shall come upon the wicked." (D&C 63:37.)

Note that he said every man; but we must find a way to have every man prepared.

Now, how can we do this? We see that there are these elements to be considered: the breaking down of resistance of the nations of the world to receive our missionaries; a greatly increased missionary force (greatly, I emphasize); a better trained missionary army; and better and additional methods and approaches.

Now here we will consider each one in its turn. We need to enlarge our field of operation. We will need to make a full, prayerful study of the nations of the world which do not have the gospel at this time, and then bring into play our strongest and most able men to assist the Twelve to move out into the world and to open the doors of every nation as far as it is ready. I believe we have many men in the Church who can be helpful to us, who are naturally gifted diplomats. I believe we should bring them to our aid and as stated before, I have faith that the Lord will open doors when we have done everything in our power.

Second, I have already discussed and will discuss a little further, an enlarged army of missionaries.

Third, I believe that the Lord is anxious to put into our hands inventions of which we laymen have hardly had a glimpse.

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared: "The truth of God will go forth boldly, till it has penetrated every continent, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished."

A significant revelation states: "For, verily, the sound must go forth from this place into all the world, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth - the gospel must be preached unto every creature...." (D&C 58:64.)

I am confident that the only way we can reach most of these millions of our Father's children is through the spoken word over the airwaves, since so many are illiterate. We have proved the ability of our young men to learn other languages.

President David O. McKay, speaking in the October 1966 conference of the Church, said of the scientific discoveries of recent years which will make possible the preaching of the gospel to every kindred, tongue, and people: "They stagger the imagination."

And further: "...discoveries latent with such potent power, either for the blessing or the destruction of human beings as to make men's responsibility in controlling them the most gigantic ever placed in human hands....This age is fraught with limitless perils, as well as untold possibilities."

King Benjamin, that humble but mighty servant of the Lord, called together all the people in the land of Zarahemla, and the multitude was so great that King Benjamin "...caused a tower to be erected, that thereby his people might hear the words which he should speak unto them." (Mosiah 2:7.)

Our Father in heaven has now provided us mighty towers - radio and television towers with possibilities beyond comprehension - to help fulfill the words of the Lord that "the sound must go forth from this place unto all the world."

Even though there are millions of people throughout the world who cannot read or write, there is a chance to reach them through radio and television. The modern transistor radio can be mass produced by the thousands in a size that is small and inexpensive. We can preach the gospel to eager ears and hearts. These should be carried by people in the marketplaces of South America, on the steppes of Russia, the vast mountains and plains of China, the subcontinent of India, and the desert sands of Arabia and Egypt. Some authorities claim that this tiny miracle will be recorded by future historians as an event even greater than the invention of the printing press. The transistor is an eloquent answer to the illiteracy and ignorance which reign supremely over the earth. The spoken voice will reach millions of hearers who can listen through a \$3 or \$4 transistor but could not read even an elementary treatise.

There are over 7,000 AM and FM radio stations in the United States, with thousands more in other parts of the world. There are innumerable opportunities for us to use these stations overseas, if we only prepare the message in the native languages.

Also, missionaries could be supplied with small portable cassette tape players and go into the homes with prepared messages to humble family groups all around the globe. Millions of people are anxious and willing to learn, if only they can hear the "sound" in their own language and in a manner that they can grasp and understand.

Just think what can be accomplished when we broadcast our message in many languages over numerous radio stations, large and small, around the world, and millions of good people listening on their transistors are being indoctrinated with the truth.

The Lord has blessed the world with many Early Bird satellites. They are stationed high in the heavens, relaying broadcast signals back to almost every corner of the earth's surface. Today there are 67 earth receiving stations operating in 50 countries of the world. Certainly these satellites are only the genesis of what is in store for the future of world-wide broadcasting.

With the Lord providing these miracles of communication, and with the increased efforts and devotion of our missionaries and all of us, and all others who are "sent," surely the divine injunction will come to pass: "For, verily, the sound must go forth from this place into all the world, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth - the gospel must be preached unto every creature...." (D&C 58.64) And we must find a way.

We are happy with the people of Hong Kong, but according to our records only 1,000, or less than 1 percent of the people, have accepted the gospel.

We have a stake in South Korea and a mission there, with about 7,500 members. What must be done to reach the other 37,000,000? There must be a way, for the Lord does not talk in riddles. He must have anticipated that something could be done so that his word might be fulfilled.

The millions of people in the Philippines would receive the gospel in large numbers if it were properly presented to them. We have two missions and a stake there. We should use their own young men as missionaries and then every facility that is available to bring them a knowledge of the true church.

There are 14,000,000 people in Taiwan, 2,000,000 in Singapore, 119,000,000 in Indonesia, 31,000,000 in Korea, 40,000,000 in Thailand, and 103,000,000 in Japan, and all these 300,000,000 people are sons and daughters of God and have a right to hear the gospel, and we have not only the right to give it to them but the obligation to do so.

We mention Australia with its over 13,000,000 people, and we have been doing missionary work there since 1851. Now, after 123 years, we still have only 29,000 members, for which we are grateful, with 13,000,000 yet to touch, and for 123 years we have been sending missionaries from this land to that land and today have more than 600 missionaries in Australia. Of this 600 plus missionaries, only a relatively small handful, about 5.5 percent, are Australians. Where have we failed to help these good people to see their duty in this pivotal matter?

In Mexico we have around 54,000,000 people with about 92,000 members. We have 489 full time missionaries now serving in that country, only 122 of which are native Mexicans. We have had some difficulty getting missionaries from the United States into Mexico or we would have far more. There has been a limitation of about 360 American missionaries that could get visas. We are unable to send a new elder from the United States until another elder is released and has surrendered his visa. In addition to this problem, the cost of placing missionaries in Mexico has greatly increased, and so for both these reasons there is ample argument that Mexico, with its nine states and five missions, should furnish its own missionaries, or the equivalent.

Suppose that South Korea with its 37,000,000 people and its 7,500 members were to take care of its own proselyting needs and thus release to go into North Korea and possibly to Russia the hundreds who now go from the states to Korea.

If Japan could furnish its own 1,000 missionaries and then eventually 10,000 more for Mongolia and China, if Taiwan could furnish its own needed missionaries plus 500 for China and Vietnam and Cambodia, then we would begin to fulfill the vision. Suppose that Hong Kong could furnish its needed

missionaries and another 1,000 to go to both of the Chinas; suppose the Philippines could fill its own needs and then provide an additional 1,000 for the limitless islands of southeast Asia; suppose the South Seas and the islands therein and the New Zealanders and Australians could furnish their own and another several thousand for the numerous islands of south Asia and for Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Bangladesh, and India.

With this movement of missionaries who would be traveling north and west, the lands of the world could begin to be covered with the gospel as the lowlands of the world are covered with the oceans.

Now in another part of the world, suppose that Mexico and Central America provided far more missionaries than they needed themselves and the people of South America had reached the point where they could export numerous fine missionaries and then suppose that the United States and Canada awakened to their real responsibility, sending thousands of missionaries to join them, going east and north so that Iceland, Scandinavia, southern Europe, Germany, and Europe could be covered.

Great Britain, with seven missions and 14 stakes now but numerous others later, should join that army and all together the army of the west would move across western Europe and central Europe and Arab lands, and in a great pincer movement join their efforts with the missionary army from the east to bring the gospel to millions in China and India and other populous countries of the world. You will note the size of the men on the map which is intended to represent the relative population size - our problem in those areas.

May we emphasize again that numbers are incidental and secondary to our main purpose, which is the same as that of our Heavenly Father - to bring to every soul the gospel which can open the doors to eternal life for man. Our objective is not for power or domain, but totally spiritual. And to every nation and people which opens its borders to the gospel will come unbelievable blessings.

It must be realized, too, that the directions of the assignments are, as indicated by the arrows, merely suggestive. The individual assignments could be merely an expansion of the present-day coverage. The missionaries would be sent where the most good could be accomplished - something like this:

"The sharing of the gospel often requires us to cross language and cultural barriers and the arrows you see on the screen are representative of what needs to happen and will not, in every case, represent a perfect match of which country could best supply the missionaries to preach the gospel in another country. The basic point is, where the land masses of the world are, there, also, are the population masses to whom we must bring the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This would be difficult. It would take some time. Sometimes it might seem impossible but again remember the little stone cut out of the mountain without hands which was destined to roll forth and fill the whole earth. It has gone a long way but it must go farther.

Using all the latest inventions and equipment and paraphernalia already developed and that which will follow, can you see that perhaps the day may come when the world will be converted and covered?

If we do all we can, and I accept my own part of that responsibility, I am sure the Lord will bring more discoveries to our use. He will bring a change of heart into kings and magistrates and emperors, or he will divert rivers or open seas or find ways to touch hearts. He will open the gates and make possible the proselyting. Of that, I have great faith.

Now, we have the promise from the Lord that the evil one will never be able to frustrate totally the work that He has commanded us to do.

"This kingdom will continue to increase and to grow, to spread and to prosper more and more. Every time its enemies undertake to overthrow it, it will become more extensive and powerful; instead of decreasing it will continue to increase; it will spread the more, become more wonderful and conspicuous to the nations, until it fills the whole earth."
(President Brigham Young, April conference, 1852.)

Further, Brigham Young wrote:

"We believe, as the time draws near, the Lord will hasten his work, and nations will soon be gathered into the fold for Christ.

"The work urges and is becoming very much enlarged and extended, and requires a commensurate accumulation of men and means, and expansion of mind and energy, ability and perseverance. The Lord, our God, is our strength, and under this accumulation and weight of care and business, has hitherto given in grace and strength, according to our day and generation, has sustained us in every time of need and preserved and delivered us from the hands of our enemies. Blessed forever be his holy name; great and wondrous are his ways. Let all nations give heed to his servants, for they are preparing the way for his coming; yea, when he shall come in power and great glory, to take unto himself a kingdom, prepared and made ready in the due time of the Lord; for this is the Lord's work; woe be unto him who putteth forth his hand, his influence, his energies, or any of his powers to oppose it." (From a letter written by President Brigham Young to Elder Samuel W. Richards, who was presiding over the European Mission. The date of the letter is October 29, 1852. It is found in the Millennial Star, vol. 15, pp. 106-07.)

You are acquainted with the statement of the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Wentworth Letters written March 1, 1842. (History of the Church, vol. 4, p. 536.) I am sure the Prophet Joseph looked ahead and saw many problems with national animosities and fears with war and commotions and jealousies, and I am sure that he saw all these things would happen and yet in spite of everything he said with great boldness and assurance:

"No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly and independent, till it has penetrated every continent; visited every clime, swept every country and sounded in every ear; till the purposes of God shall be accomplished and the great Jehovah shall say the work is done."

The immensity of the work before us is emphasized as we consider the population of the world as it approaches the four billion mark.

I am under no delusion, brethren, to think that this will be an easy matter without strain or that it can be done overnight, but I do have this faith that we can move forward and expand much faster than we now are.

As I see this almost impossible demand, I believe that you brethren, our representatives, can immediately accept the challenge and in your stakes and missions explain to the people how they must increase their missionaries, how they can finance their missionaries, how they can indoctrinate and train these additional missionaries, and how, through all the agencies of the Church, they can move ahead. Here is where you come in.

A year ago now I was in Japan and Korea, and as I saw the many handsome young men joining the Church and giving leadership to its organizations, I seemed to envision a great movement when there would be thousands of local men prepared

and anxious and strong to go abroad. As I have been in Mexico since that time, I seemed to envision again Mexican youth and Latins from Central and South America in great numbers qualifying themselves for missionary service within their own country and then finally in other lands until the army of the Lord's missionaries would cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep.

I have stated the problem. I believe there is a solution. I think that if we are all of one mind and one heart and one purpose that we can move forward and change the image which seems to be that "we are doing pretty well. Let's not 'rock the boat.'"

In all the countries I have ever visited I have found many intelligent and qualified people who give leadership in their countries, and I also remember numerous people from deprived countries enjoying benefits from the gospel.

In our stake missionary work at home we have hardly scratched the surface.

Brother T. Bowring Woodbury told us of 93 cooperating families in one Utah stake who were working with 93 non- or part-member families. Clifford Johnson told us of bringing five of 26 non-members into the Church in a few months.

It can be done.

We can change the image and approach the ideals set out by President McKay, "Every member a missionary." That was inspired!

I know this message is not new, and we have talked about it before, but I believe the time has come when we must shoulder arms. I think we must change our sights and raise our goals.

When we have increased the missionaries from the organized areas of the Church to a number close to their potential, that is, every able and worthy boy in the Church on a mission; when every stake and mission abroad is furnishing enough missionaries for that country; when we have used our qualified men to help the apostles to open these new fields of labor; when we have used the satellite and related discoveries to their greatest potential and all of the media - the papers, magazines, television, radio - all in their greatest power; when we have organized numerous other stakes which will be springboards; when we have recovered from inactivity the numerous young men who are now unordained and unmissioned and unmarried; then, and not until then, shall we approach the insistence of our Lord and Master to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Brethren, I am positive that the blessings of the Lord will attend every country which opens its gates to the gospel of Christ. Their blessings will flow in education, and culture, and faith, and love, like Enoch's city of Zion, which was translated, and also will become like the 200 years of peaceful habitation in this country in Nephite days. There will come prosperity to the nations, comfort and luxuries to the people, joy and peace to all recipients, and eternal life to those who accept and magnify it.

Someone gave us this:

"To walk with God, no strength is lost.

Walk on.

To talk with God no breath is lost.

Talk on.

To wait on God, no time is lost.

Wait on."

I pray the blessings of the Lord will be upon us as we approach our great responsibilities, in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

NO GREATER HONOR: THE WOMAN'S ROLE

PRESIDENT N. ELTON TANNER
FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

Those two beautiful songs, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and "Arise, Shine, Thy Light is Come," together with that comprehensive prayer, have made me feel this morning to bear testimony to the world that I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who came and gave his life for us. Though He gave us the plan of life and salvation, He was crucified. Through His resurrection it is possible for us to enjoy eternal life. Prophets of God have always been persecuted, and many of them killed when they taught the word of the Lord. What a serious situation to think of!

Also, I wish to bear my testimony to you today that His Church, with the gospel in its fulness, has been re-established through one of His chosen prophets; that the Church of Jesus Christ is here upon the earth today; and that Jesus is directing His Church through a living prophet, Harold B. Lee. I would appeal to men everywhere to listen to the word of the Lord as given unto us by the voice of His Prophet for the salvation of all mankind. Do not ignore, ridicule, or try to destroy.

Today I should like to speak about the role of womanhood in this Church, where we have such a great body of wonderful women - wives, mothers, and single women engaged in the work of the Lord and in the service of their fellow men. They are affiliated with the Relief Society, the principal women's organization; the Primary, where our children are instructed; the Sunday School, where the gospel is taught to all members; the MIA (Mutual Improvement Association), which is the activity and social organization for youth and adults; and our women serve with dedication and skill in various other capacities.

After I had discussed business matters with some men the other day, the conversation took on a more personal, informal note when one man said: "I have the most wonderful wife in the world." Another said: "That's what you think. I think I have the best." A third man said: "Isn't it a great blessing to have a wife you love, who loves you, one who is a good mother and homemaker, with high ideals, who believes in God and wants to help her family accept and live the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

What woman could want any greater glory or tribute than that which comes from an appreciative and loving husband? The applause and homage of the world fades into insignificance when compared with the approbation of God and expressions of love and appreciation which come from the hearts and lips of those who are nearest and dearest to her.

From the beginning God had made it clear that woman is very special, and he has also very clearly defined her position, her duties, and her destiny in the divine plan. Paul said that man is the image and glory of God, and that woman is the glory of the man: also that the man is not without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord. (See 1 Cor. 11:7, 11.) You will note that significantly God is mentioned in connection with this great partnership, and we must never forget that one of woman's greatest privileges, blessings, and opportunities is to be a co-partner with God in bringing his spirit children into the world.

It is of great concern to all who understand this glorious concept that Satan and his cohorts are using scientific arguments and nefarious propaganda to lure women away from their primary responsibilities as wives, mothers, and homemakers. We hear so much about emancipation, independence, sexual liberation, birth control, abortion, and other insidious propaganda belittling the role of motherhood, all of which is Satan's way of destroying woman. the home, and the family - the basic unit of society.

Some effective tools include the use of radio, television, and magazines where pornography abounds and where women are being debased and disgracefully used as sex symbols - sex-ploited, some call it. Immodest dress, drugs, and alcohol daily take a tremendous toll through the destruction of virtue and chastity and even lives. With modern electronic devices of communication and speedy transportation, much more is being heard throughout the world by many more people than would be possible otherwise, and it is having its degrading influence and effect.

Yes, pornography, drugs, and alcohol are available to young and old in alarming quantity, and are destroying the moral values, and further deteriorating the minds and thought processes of those who succumb to these devilish wiles.

President Dallin Oaks recently said to the student body at Brigham Young University: "We are surrounded by the promotional literature of illicit sexual relations on the printed page and on the screen. For your own good, avoid it. Pornographic or erotic stories and pictures are worse than filthy or polluted food. The body has defenses to rid itself of unwholesome food, but the brain won't vomit back filth. Once recorded it will always remain subject to recall, flashing its perverted images across your mind, and drawing you away from the wholesome things in life."

It is so important that our young girls keep themselves from this kind of pollution. The girls of today will be the women of tomorrow, and it is necessary that they prepare for that role. Can you imagine the kind of world we will have in the future if the girls of today are weakened morally to the extent that virtue will not be taught in their homes, and if their children, if any, are not nurtured within the walls of homes sanctified by the holy laws of matrimony?

Marriage is ordained of God, and we must do everything we can to strengthen the ties that bind, to strengthen our homes, and to prepare ourselves by exemplary living to teach our children the ways of God, which is the only way for them to find happiness here and eternal life hereafter.

As we enumerate the many important responsibilities a woman has in connection with her duties as a wife, a mother, a homemaker, a sister, a sweetheart, or a good neighbor, it should be evident that these challenging responsibilities can satisfy her need to express her talents, her interests, her creativity, dedication, energy, and skill which so many seek to satisfy outside the home. It is impossible to estimate the lasting influence for good a woman can have in any of these roles. Let me remind us all of her primary responsibilities.

First of all, as I mentioned before, she is a co-partner with God in bringing His spirit children into the world. What a glorious concept! No greater honor could be given. With this honor comes the tremendous responsibility of loving and caring for those children so they might

learn their duty as citizens and what they must do to return to their Heavenly Father. They must be taught to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ and to accept and live His teachings. As they understand the purpose of life, why they are here and where they are going, they will have a reason for choosing the right and avoiding the temptations and buffetings of Satan, who is so very real and determined to destroy them.

A mother has far greater influence on her children than anyone else, and she must realize that every word she speaks, every act, every response, her attitude, even her appearance and manner of dress affect the lives of her children and the whole family. It is while the child is in the home that he gains from his mother the attitudes, hopes, and beliefs that will determine the kind of life he will live, and the contribution he will make to society.

President Brigham Young expressed the thought that mothers are the moving instruments in the hands of Providence and are the machinery that give zest to the whole man, and guide the destinies and lives of men and nations upon the earth. He further said, "Let mothers of any nation teach their children not to make war, and the children would not grow up and enter into it." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 199.)

When the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet....", he meant just that, and so presented Eve to Adam. (Gen. 2:18.) We are taught that a man should leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife, and that they should be one flesh, and thus is described the relationship that should exist between husband and wife. (Gen. 2:24.) It is said that behind every good man there is a good woman, and it is my experience and observation that this is generally true.

It is interesting to note that when executives of companies look for new employees, or are planning promotions for their experienced ones, they always want to know what kind of wife a man has. This seems to be very important. In the Church when men are being considered for new priesthood offices, the question is always raised about the worthiness of the wife and whether or not she can give him full support.

Women, you are of great strength and support to the men in your lives, and they sometimes need your help most when they are least deserving. A man can have no greater incentive, no greater hope, no greater strength than to know his mother, his sweetheart, or his wife has confidence in him and loves him. And men should strive every day to live worthy of that love and confidence.

President Hugh B. Brown once said at a Relief Society conference: "There are people fond of saying that women are the weaker instruments, but I don't believe it. Physically they may be, but spiritually, morally, religiously, and in faith, what man can match a woman who is really converted to the gospel! Women are more willing to make sacrifices than are men, more patient in suffering, more earnest in prayer. They are the peers and often superior to men in resilience, in goodness, in morality, and in faith." (Relief Society Conference, Sept. 29, 1965.)

And girls, don't underestimate your influence on your brothers and your sweethearts. As you live worthy of their love and respect you can help greatly to determine that they will be clean and virtuous, successful and happy. Always remember that you can go much further on respect than on popularity. I was reading the other day of a report

of a conversation between two young prisoners of war in Vietnam. One said: "I am sick of war, bombers, destruction, prison camps, and everything and everybody."

"I feel much like that myself," said the other. But there is a girl back home who is praying that I will come back. She cares, and it really helps me endure all these atrocities."

To mothers, daughters, and women everywhere, let me stress the fact that because of your great potential and influence for good in the lives of all of us, Satan is determined to destroy you. You cannot compromise with him. You must have the courage, the strength, the desire, and the determination to live as the Lord would have you live - good clean lives. Girls, keep yourselves virtuous and worthy of a fine young man who has likewise kept himself clean, so that together you can go to the House of the Lord to be sealed in the holy bonds of matrimony for time and all eternity, and prepare a home where God will be pleased to send his spirit children. Then you will be able to face your children secure in the knowledge that your own example is the way to happiness and eternal progression. They are entitled to this heritage. I humbly pray that you will so live as to give it to them.

The whole purpose of the creation of the earth was to provide a dwelling place where the spirit children of God might come and be clothed in mortal bodies and, by keeping their second estate, prepare themselves for salvation and exaltation. The whole purpose of the mission of Jesus Christ was to make possible the immortality and eternal life of man. The whole purpose of mothers and fathers should be to live worthy of this blessing and to assist God the Father and his son Jesus Christ in their work. No greater honor could be given to woman than to assist in this divine plan, and I wish to say without equivocation that a woman will find greater satisfaction and make a greater contribution to mankind by being a wise and worthy mother raising good children than she could make in any other vocation.

The Lord has promised us great blessings if we will do our part in this divine plan. President Herbert Hoover gave this incentive: "If we could have but one generation of properly born, trained, educated and healthy children, a thousand other problems of government would vanish. We would assure ourselves of healthier minds, more vigorous bodies, to direct the energies of our nation to greater heights of achievement." (Quoted by President David O. McKay, Conference Report, April 1931, pp. 79-80.)

How fortunate we are to have the Church of Jesus Christ established in these latter days, with a prophet of God upon the earth to receive divine revelation and direction for the children of men! We are blessed to know the personality of God, his attributes, and his characteristics. We have been given the plan of life and salvation. We are continually directed as to how we should live so we may have happiness here and eternal life hereafter. We have organizations set up to instruct and educate us in all matters pertaining to our temporal and spiritual welfare.

One of the finest programs the Church has instituted is what we call Family Home Evening, where all members of the family are called together once a week. It is quite thrilling to me when I contemplate that each Monday evening all over the Church throughout the world our families are gathered together in their homes, and the father, where possible, as head of the house, is directing his family in a discussion of all problems pertaining to their spiritual and temporal welfare, using a manual which has been prepared carefully, and distributed to each family in the Church. Where these gatherings are held regularly and properly, they are

testimonies we receive. I wish to urge every family to follow this program, and I can promise you that as you do so you will be greatly blessed in unity, love, and devotion, and will be delighted with the outcome. Of course, family prayer should be a significant part of this evening, as well as regular family and individual prayer every day.

I can think of nothing sweeter than a home where a man is living his religion, magnifying his priesthood, with his wife supporting him in every way, where love and harmony exists, and where together they are trying to raise a family of righteous sons and daughters whom they can take back into the presence of their Heavenly Father. This may sound like an impossible dream, but I can assure you that there are thousands of such families within the Church, and it is something that can be a reality for every one of us as we accept and live the teachings of Jesus Christ. How fortunate a child is to live in such a home, and how great will be the joy of the parents in their posterity!

I repeat: Satan is trying to keep us from the full enjoyment which comes from keeping the commandments of God. We must never forget, and we must teach our children to know, that Satan is real and determined to destroy us. He knows the importance and significance of the family unit. He knows that entire civilizations have survived or disappeared depending on whether the family life was strong or weak. We can keep him out of our homes by living and teaching our children to live the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, thereby resisting temptation when it comes, as it surely will.

Girls, prepare yourselves to assume the roles of mothers by gaining knowledge and wisdom through a good education. We teach that the glory of God is intelligence, and so we must all be aware of what is going on around us and be prepared to thwart Satan in his attempts to divert us from our divine destiny. With knowledge, wisdom, determination, and the Spirit of the Lord to help us we can succeed.

We also believe that women should involve themselves in community affairs and in the auxiliary organizations of the Church, but always remember that home and children come first and must not be neglected. Children must be made to feel that mother loves them and is keenly interested in their welfare and everything they do. This cannot be turned over to someone else. Many experiments have been made and studies carried out which prove beyond doubt that a child who enjoys mother's love and care progresses in every way much more rapidly than one who is left in institutions or with others where mother's love is not available or expressed.

Fathers, too, must assume their proper role and responsibility. Children need both parents. While they are at home fathers should assume with mothers the duties attendant upon the young children, the discipline and training of the older ones, and be a listening ear for those who need to discuss their problems or want guidance and counseling. Through love establish a good relationship and line of communication with your children.

I would urge all husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers, to show our great respect and love and try to be worthy of the women who are our wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts. There is no surer way for a man to show his lack of character, of good breeding, and of quality than for him to show lack of respect for woman or to do anything that would discredit or degrade her. It is unchristianlike, unfair, and displeasing to God for any husband or father to assume the role of dictatorship and adopt the attitude that he is superior

in any way to his wife.

At the Area Conference in Munich, Germany, President Lee said: "If you husbands remember that the most important of the Lord's work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own home, you can maintain close family ties....If you will strengthen your family ties and be mindful of your children, be sure that home is made a strong place in which children can come for the anchor they need in this day of trouble and turmoil, then love will abound and your joy will be increased."

As women realize the importance of the home and family, and with their husbands keep the commandments of God to multiply and replenish the earth, to love the Lord and their neighbors as themselves, to teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before him, then will their joy be increased and their blessings multiplied to the extent that they will hardly be able to contain them.

These blessings will be joy and rejoicing in our posterity of healthy, happy children, which blessings those who reject this way of life will never know. There will be peace and satisfaction in the accomplishments of children who succeed, and in turn make their own contribution to making this a better world for generations yet unborn. What a joyous privilege and blessing it will be for those families, who, through obedience and love, have prepared themselves to go back into the presence of our Heavenly Father and have it said of each of them; "Well done, thou good and faithful servant....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."
(Matt. 25:21.)

May this be our privilege and blessing I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Beware of) "Adult Only" magazines, movies and humor. You must put these things out of your minds or they will destroy you.

--Harold B. Lee.

Small Things and Great

He that lets the small things
bind him
leaves the great undone behind
him.

Living Is

Living is
a thing you do
now or never-
which do you?

He that saves time is one who spends it well.

We all make footprints in the sands of life. Some leave the mark of a great goal. Some leave the mark of a heel.

WHY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Brothers and sisters and friends, wherever you are:

As you have been advised, this service is a part of the 142nd Semi-annual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Since there were at the time it was organized, as there are today, many other so-called Christian churches, the question "What was the need of another Church?" is often asked. To this question I shall respond.

To begin with, it is obvious from the inquiry itself that the existence of so many churches was perplexing. The honest in heart were disturbed and confused as to which, if any, of them was the true church of Christ.

Among the disturbed was one Joseph Smith, Jr., a 14-year old youth. In the spring of 1820, stirred by a religious revival in the vicinity of Palmyra, New York, where he lived; perplexed by the conflicting claims of the churches; motivated by the admonition and promise of James. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God....and it shall be given him" (James 1:5), Joseph, in childlike faith, inquired of the Lord "Which of all the sects was right," that he "might know which to join."

"....I kneeled down (he said) and began to offer up the desire of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me....

"But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me....and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction -I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.

"It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other - This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joseph Smith 2:15-18).

This vision was the opening scene in an awesome drama that some ten years later culminated in the organization of the Church.

By the Son, with whom he conversed in the heavenly vision, Joseph was told to join none of the existing churches because they "were all wrong." (Joseph Smith 2:19.) They lacked both necessary components of the church of Jesus Christ, namely, his gospel and his name.

Indispensable elements of the gospel, which they lacked, included:

1. The truth concerning the personality of God and man's relationship to Him.
2. A knowledge of its saving principles and ordinances.

3. The priesthood of God, and
4. Continuing revelation.

As to the first element, the personality of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, Joseph learned the truth in the vision above referred to. Later he said of them, "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's: the Son also...." (D&C 130:22.)

As to man's relationship to God Joseph learned from a subsequent revelation that the inhabitants of "the worlds" (including those of us on this earth) "are begotten sons and daughters unto God." (D&C 76:24.)

These fundamental truths concerning God and man's relationship to him were not being taught by the churches of Joseph Smith's day, for the obvious reason that they were neither known nor believed. It is true that they were known and taught and believed by members of the church of Christ in the days of Jesus and his apostles. But in 1830 an understanding of them had long since been lost. It was ignorance of a true knowledge of God and man's relationship to him that spawned the many churches.

During the 1820's a knowledge of the fundamental principles and ordinances of the gospel was revealed anew from heaven to the boy prophet, Joseph Smith. Many of these principles and ordinances he learned from the Book of Mormon, which came to him in the following manner.

In September 1827, Moroni, an ancient American historian and prophet, at that time resurrected, delivered to Joseph a record inscribed on thin sheets of gold, which, by the gift and power of God, Joseph translated. This record contained an explanation of the principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as it was taught and implemented among the ancient people of America.

In 1829 Joseph published his translation under the title The Book of Mormon. This book contains a record of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among the inhabitants of America immediately following his post-resurrection ministry in the land of Jerusalem. To them he taught his gospel even as he had taught it in Palestine. Among them he organized his church. Upon their leaders he conferred the holy priesthood. He instructed them concerning, and showed them how to administer, the saving ordinances of his gospel.

By the time he published the Book of Mormon Joseph had also received the third indispensable element of the gospel, namely, the holy priesthood, which empowered him to act for and in the name of God.

The Aaronic Priesthood he received in May of 1829. While translating the Savior's teachings concerning baptism as they are recorded in the Book of Mormon, he and his scribe, Oliver Cowdery, besought the Lord for further light upon the subject. As they knelt in prayer they were visited by a heavenly messenger who said that his name was "John, the same that is called John the Baptist in the New Testament." This messenger laid his hands upon their heads and said:

"Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins...." (D&C 13.)

A few weeks later Peter, James, and John conferred upon Joseph and Oliver the Melchizedek Priesthood and ordained them apostles. (See

The fourth indispensable element of the gospel, continuing revelation, came with the restoration of the priesthood. It is obvious, from the manner in which Joseph Smith received a knowledge of God and of the principles and ordinances of the gospel, that he himself was receiving direct revelation from heaven. But this is not all that was necessary.

Every member of Christ's church in the meridian of time received the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is a revelator. To receive him is to be spiritually reborn. Remember, Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.)

To receive the gift of the Holy Ghost is to be born of the Spirit. The Lord instructed the priesthood officers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints "to confirm those who are baptized into the church by the laying on of hands for the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, according to the scriptures." (D&C 20:41.)

The priesthood and the power of the Holy Ghost is what gives life to the church and its members:

"....the special office of the Holy Ghost is to enlighten and ennoble the mind, to purify and sanctify the soul, to incite to good works, and to reveal the things of God." (James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith, p. 167.)

Without this gift, the Church would be as dead and impotent as an electric powerhouse without electricity.

Having thus received a new dispensation of the gospel, Joseph Smith was qualified to reestablish the church of Christ upon the earth, as he was directed by the Lord to do. Such direction came in various revelations, in which the manner and the date of organization were specified.

Obedient to these commandments, Joseph Smith, Jr., did, on April 6, 1830, organize the Church of Jesus Christ at Fayette, Seneca County, New York, strictly in harmony with the commandments of God and the laws of the land.

Thus the answer to the question - Why was the Church organized when there were already so many churches? - is obviously because the Lord Jesus Christ himself directed Joseph Smith to organize it.

Now, the Lord not only directed Joseph to organize his church: he told him what to name it.

It is a fact worth noting that of all the churches then claiming to represent Christ, not one of them bore his name. Joseph learned from the teachings of Jesus to the Nephites that no church could be Christ's church unless it did bear his name. When the Nephites raised the question about what to name his church, Jesus, as he ministered among them, said:

:....how be it my church save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my Gospel." (3 Ne. 27:8.)

This statement gives us the twofold test: Christ's church (1) must bear his name, and (2) must be built upon his gospel.

That there should be no uncertainty about the name in this last dispensation, the Lord said to Joseph Smith: "...thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." (D&C115:4.)

The phrase "Mormon Church" is a nickname.

The restored church thus meets the Savior's twofold test: it bears his name and it is built upon his gospel. About this there can be no doubt, because both the name and the gospel were by the Lord Jesus Christ himself revealed to Joseph Smith.

And now in conclusion, I would like to say a few words about, and bear my testimony concerning, the restored gospel and church of Jesus Christ.

There have been no occurrences on this earth since the ministry of Jesus in the meridian of time of such importance to you and to me as the events we have just reviewed. They occurred for the benefit of Joseph Smith and his associates not only, but for the sake of the whole world.

Introducing the revelations given to the Prophet, the Lord said:

"....Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

"For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.

"And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth: I the Lord am willing to make these things known unto all flesh:

"For I am no respecter of persons, and will that all men shall know that the day speedily cometh; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand (this was in 1831), when peace shall be taken from the earth, and the devil shall have power over his own dominion.

"And also the Lord shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in their midst, and shall come down in judgment upon....the world." (D&C 1:1-2, 34-36.)

Today, more than 140 years since the foregoing words were spoken, peace has been taken from the earth, The devil now has power over his dominion, and the Lord has power over his saints. The day approaches when he will "come down in judgment upon....the world" and reign in the midst of his people.

Between now and then, however, if men and nations continue on their present course, great tribulation will come upon us. There shall be more "wars and rumors of wars,....there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many (other) desolations....the whole earth shall be in commotion...." (D&C 45:26, 33.) Those are the words of the Lord himself.

The Lord foresaw the coming of these calamities and gave warning of them. He restored his gospel and re-established his church as a means of escape therefrom.

About a year and a half after the Church was organized, he thus explained the cause of our present predicament:

"....they (speaking of the inhabitants of the earth) have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant:

"They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own God, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

"Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments:

"And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world...." (D&C 1:15-18.)

The commandments to be proclaimed to the world are the principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ. By restoring his gospel and reestablishing his church in the earth, the Lord has provided the means for our temporal as well as for our spiritual salvation.

The restoration fulfills the prediction of Daniel that in the days of the disunited kingdoms "the God of heaven (would) set up a kingdom, which (would) never be destroyed...." (Dan. 2:44.)

It fulfills Micah's prophecy that "in the last days....the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." (Mic. 4:1.)

It is the fulfillment of John's vision in which he saw an "angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

"Saying with a loud voice. Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of his judgment is come....(Rev. 14:6-7.)

Yes, verily, it is the "restitution of all things" which Peter said would come in preparation for the second advent of the Lord. (See Acts 3:21.)

And now, as a special witness of Jesus Christ, I add my personal testimony that all these things are true. And I bear further witness to all of you who hear or read what I am saying that if you will inform yourselves of the historical facts and revealed truths of the restoration and then humbly and sincerely call upon the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, he will give you like assurance by the power of the Holy Ghost. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

WHO ARE YOU?

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY
ELDER MARK E. PETERSEN IN THE SACRED
GROVE FOR PAGEANT 1974.

It surely is a great privilege to be here, my brothers and sisters. And one of the great privileges of this day is to hear these tributes to this great man who has been our director, and I would like you to know that we join with you in our praises and appreciation of Dr. Hansen who is likewise one of the greatest of the characters I have met in my experience. I don't know anybody more devoted to the work than he. I don't know anyone who loves the Lord more than he. And to have him as our director here, giving you the inspiration to do what you do and then through you and through this great Pageant to give inspiration to over a hundred thousand people every year is a marvelous thing. How many people can touch the hearts of hundreds of thousands a year, yet Dr. Hansen does that. But you know as he himself said, he could not possibly do what he does without three women in his life and I would like to ask them to come to the stand. The two daughters, who I'm sure are here, and Sister Hansen. Please stand by me. Dr. Hansen come and join us. Come on girls. Thank you.

Here is one of the great families of the Church. We're proud of them and as a man I would like you to know that Dr. Hansen, being a man, could not possibly do what he does without these wonderful ladies. Just like in my own family, I could not possibly do--in the work to which I'm assigned--what I do without the women in my family. I have no son. I have a grandson whom I love very much, but, I have two daughters and two beautiful granddaughters and I'm grateful for them just as I know Dr. Hansen is grateful for his family. And I just would like to say to all of you in the presence of this marvelous quartet--we love them, we honor them, we have our constant prayers going to our Father in their behalf, and I thank you for coming here to the pulpit joining us. We're proud of all of you. And although we today extend this great honor to your father and your husband, he couldn't possibly have it without you, so we honor you, too. Thank you very much.

To be devoted to the Church is the most important thing in our lives. There is nothing we could possibly do that would be as important to our own welfare as to be faithful in the Church. If we were to be the most selfish people in all the world and we understood all the facts, we would put first in our lives devotion to the Church just out of selfishness, if nothing else. But, of course, true Christians shouldn't be selfish at all. And they shouldn't think just of themselves. They ought to think of other people. And they ought to love their neighbors as themselves. But, basically, if we were to be very selfish, the most selfish thing we could do would be to be faithful in this Church.

Do you know why you're Latter-Day Saints? Why is each one of you a Mormon? It isn't because you were born in the Church. It isn't because not as members of the Church you had missionaries call at your home, and your family was converted. It isn't that you may have married a Mormon. It isn't that you may have had good Mormon neighbors who loved their neighbors as themselves and they brought you in. Do you know why you're a Mormon? I just hope Almighty God will give me expressions. I would like you to know why you are a Mormon and why you are here and why you need to put the Lord first in your lives. I wish I could do that and I'm going to try. And I hope and pray that the Lord will give me assistance for a few moments here.

As you have sung, you are the children of God. That is one of the great facts of our existence--that we can know that God is literally our eternal Father. Now all of this talk about evolution--all of this talk about the world's being brought into being by accident and that life just developed spontaneously and that first we were amoeba's or some similar microscopic form--all of that sort of talk is contrary to the revelations of God, because the revelation of God does not say that you were once an amoeba, or a monkey, or a chimpanzee. The revelation of God says that you were born--literally born--of God in the spirit in your pre-existent life and that you're actually his off-spring. That is one of the greatest facts we've ever learned through revelation.

There is a God. He came down and stood right in this Grove. He and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, they were literally here--physically here--just like you're physically here. It was a physical fact that the Father and the Son came down into this Grove. As well as a religious and spiritual fact, it was a physical fact. These physical trees or the ones that were here a hundred and fifty or so years ago (and these being the successors--there are a few of the original trees still here, I'm glad to say. I hope you'll look at them while you're here) but, these physical trees are no more physical than the Father and the Son in their appearance here in this very Grove. It was a physical thing, and I would like you to know that your Heavenly Father is a being of physical proportions. He is a physical person. He has flesh and bones. He has the power of procreation. And we are the result of his powers of procreation.

"And in the Heavens, are parents single? No, the thought makes reason stare. Truth is reason, truth eternal tells me I've a mother there." You know why we talk in terms of temple marriage, don't you? Because someday we can become like God and parents are not single. They must be married for eternity so that they will have the same powers and blessings that the Father has. Doesn't the scripture say that "all that my Father hath shall be given unto you"? And that means all these powers and blessings that we can grow into and enjoy as He enjoys. We're His literal off-spring. we have an eternal Father. We have an eternal Mother.

And what is our destiny"? To become like them. You remember how the Savior spoke in the Sermon on the Mount, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." Our Father in Heaven has a physical body of flesh and bone. If we were to become like him, we would have to have a physical body of flesh and bone. And under the plan of God, the way we receive it is that we were to pass through a mortal existence and receive our mortal bodies through our mortal fathers and mothers here on the earth.

But they provided only the bodies. God provided the spirit. What does your spirit look like--have you ever thought? It looks exactly like your body if your body is in good condition. Your bodies were tailored to fit your spirits. When God made man in the image of Himself, it was Man's spirit that He made in the image of Himself.

And why was that? In the creation, the Lord decreed that everything should reproduce itself. But everything was to reproduce itself after its own kind. This is a favorite theme with me because I resent so much the idea that I ever had an ancestor that looked like a monkey or chimpanzee. I love my ancestors. I do temple work for them and I don't think there's a chimpanzee in the whole crowd. I wouldn't think of it. My ancestors were all children of God, like you--just like you. He doesn't have any other kind of children.

When you read the 76th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants you discover that there are other worlds that are inhabited, and they are inhabited by the begotten sons and daughters of God, so that if there were to be a person from another world come here, do you know what he'd look like? Not like the cartoons that these newspapers publish about the man from Mars. There isn't any man on Mars. But, if somebody came from another world, really came, he'd look just like we do because we're all the children of God. And the Doctrine and Covenants says that these other worlds are inhabited by the sons and daughters of God--the begotten sons and daughters of God.

And how are we begotten of Him? We are born of Him as spirits and our spirits are the image and likeness of God. And when we were given physical bodies, these physical bodies were tailored to fit the spirits and that's the reason even our physical bodies are in the image and likeness of God. So that when the Father and the Son came into this Grove and Joseph looked at them, he was looking at two beings in possession of physical bodies of flesh and bone. But Joseph could see that they were in the form of human beings. And why could they possibly be in the form of human beings? Because we are the children of our Father--our God, and in order to be born of Him, He would not violate His own laws, would He? And one of his great laws was that everything should reproduce after its own kind, and so when we were born, we were reproduced in the same kind as our Father in Heaven. We are of the race of God. We're the family of God. And so are all the other people on this earth.

But why are you and I Mormons? In our pre-existent life we lived with our Father, as we were spirits, we went to school and we worked and we played and we laughed. But a third of the family rebelled and were cast out. We had our free agency there. Some of us were more faithful and more devoted in the pre-existent life than others.

Those up there who were faithful--really faithful--in the pre-existent life were given a calling, a setting apart, a designation, a commission, to do something special when they came here to the earth.

Now isn't it only natural that God would do that? If you had a family, a large family, and you wanted a certain job done that would require responsibility, wouldn't you give that responsibility to the most responsible persons in the group? Of course!. It's the only natural thing, isn't it?

Father in Heaven did the natural thing. He knew that in the latter-days His gospel would be restored on the earth in a time of apostacy. And He would have to have responsible persons to come down here to represent Him and to preach this gospel because it was the hope of our Father that we could all come back into His presence. But we can only come back into His presence by obedience, by following the recipe, by following the formula that He has given us for perfection. And so He gave the plan so that all men could hear it.

But He had to have specially selected responsible people who would be true and faithful no matter what came. He gave them the responsibility to come down here and be His special representatives, to preach this gospel to other people, so that eventually the other people could come back into His presence.

The Prophet, Joseph Smith, said that everyone of us who is in the Church or who will join the Church and is given callings in the Church, was foreordained in the pre-existence for that work. And because of your faith-

fulness in that pre-existence, you were foreordained to come here and do this work.

And He gave you the spark of divinity which is in you because you're His children. He placed faith in your hearts. He gave you believing hearts even some of you who may feel that you're rebellious. That will wear off. It may have to be bumped off, but down deep in your heart is that spark of faith because God put it there, and that's going to grow and grow unless you overpower it if you happen to be of a rebellious nature.

But it doesn't pay to be rebellious. You just "cut your own nose off to spite your face," as the kids used to say. You only hurt yourself when you're rebellious.

If you are going to drive your car back to Salt Lake City and you refuse to follow a road map and say "Oh, I'm not going to bother with a road map", and you just take off in any direction, would that be wise? Again, you'd just be hurting yourself. Well, life needs a road map and the road map is the Gospel.

But, you have been sent down here to be the ones to help direct other people so that they may have the blessings of the Gospel. You are Latter-day Saints because you were fore-ordained in the world before this, to come here and be Latter-day Saints and be leaders among your fellows so that you could bring others into the Church. You are commissioned of God.

You are God's special responsible representatives and that's why you must not fail. You must be true. You must be faithful, and if you are, great will be your joy not only in this life but in the life to come, because you will be fulfilling the great ministry that has been given to you.

Reference was made here today of the time on the shore of the sea when the Savior spoke to Peter and said, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" and, of course, Peter said, "Yes" and He asked a second time and a third time, and Peter began to be a little impatient and said, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." And what was the command in each case? "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep."

Peter's commission is no different from ours. We're all commissioned to save the souls of mankind. Peter's commission was to save souls. Your commission is to save souls. And if you vary from that great objective, then you're not fulfilling the covenant that you made in the pre-existent life when you received this divine commission to come here and be a representative of our Father in Heaven in preaching the gospel and becoming the saviours on Mount Zion to a great many people.

Will you, young Latter-day Saints, realize who you are? President Eldon Tanner is one of the great teachers of the Church--a marvelous man. He served so well with President McKay, and he served so well with President Smith, and he served so well with President Harold B. Lee (one of the truly great prophets of the Church) and now he serves equally well with President Kimball. President Tanner has a marvelous memory. He remembers so well the teachings of these various Presidents of the Church. One of the great teachings of President McKay that he continually reminds us of is this (quoting President McKay), "Remember who you are, and then act accordingly."

Who are you? You're a child of God. Who are you? You're a special representative of God, divinely commissioned to come into this world. That's who you are. You're divinely commissioned to labor for the building of the kingdom and bring others into the kingdom. This is your divine commission.

This is who you are. So, to accept the counsel of President David O. McKay, kept fresh in minds by President Tanner, "Remember who you are and act accordingly."

And that you may do so and be faithful always, I humbly and earnestly pray for you, bearing my testimony too that this is God's work. I know it with all my soul, as well as I know that you're here and I look at you, I know that God lives. I testify to you as His humble servant that I have experienced God, and because of the experience I've had with Him I know that He lives and I know that this is His work and I know that if we are faithful He will say unto each one of us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." And to this I testify, in the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Personality is what people think we are. Character is what we know we are.

Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable.

--Goethe

Mothers are the first professors in the school of character.

--Hugh B. Brown

"Character is the aim of true education; and science, history, and literature are but means used to accomplish this desired end. Character is not the result of chance, but of continuous right thinking and right acting."

--David O. McKay

Remember: Everyone who got where he is had to begin from where he was.

--Jim Carlson

If you would lift me you must be on higher ground.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The only time we fail in the home is when we give up on each other.

--Marvin J. Ashton

The greatest opportunity of life is life itself.

HOW TO BE BETTER THAN EVER

MARK E. PETERSEN, "THE ERA OF YOUTH",
THE IMPROVEMENT ERA, JULY, 1962,
VOL. 65.

The Lord gave us the great secret, the thrilling promise of eternal joy when he commanded that we become like him.

"Be ye therefore perfect," is the challenge we should accept to know real joy now and in eternity.

But can we achieve such as this in mortal life?

Not only can we approach it, but we must do so if we are to have real happiness. We do not need to suppose that this is something that must await the eternities. There are many things in which we can be perfect here and now.

A certain degree of perfection is attainable in mortality. I believe that we can be 100 per cent perfect, for instance, in abstaining from the use of tea and coffee. We can become 100 per cent perfect in abstaining from liquor and tobacco. We can become 100 per cent perfect in paying a full and honest tithing. We can be 100 percent perfect in abstaining from eating two meals on a fast day and giving to the bishop as fast offering, the value of those two meals from which we abstain.

We can be 100 per cent perfect in keeping the commandment which says that we shall not profane the name of God.

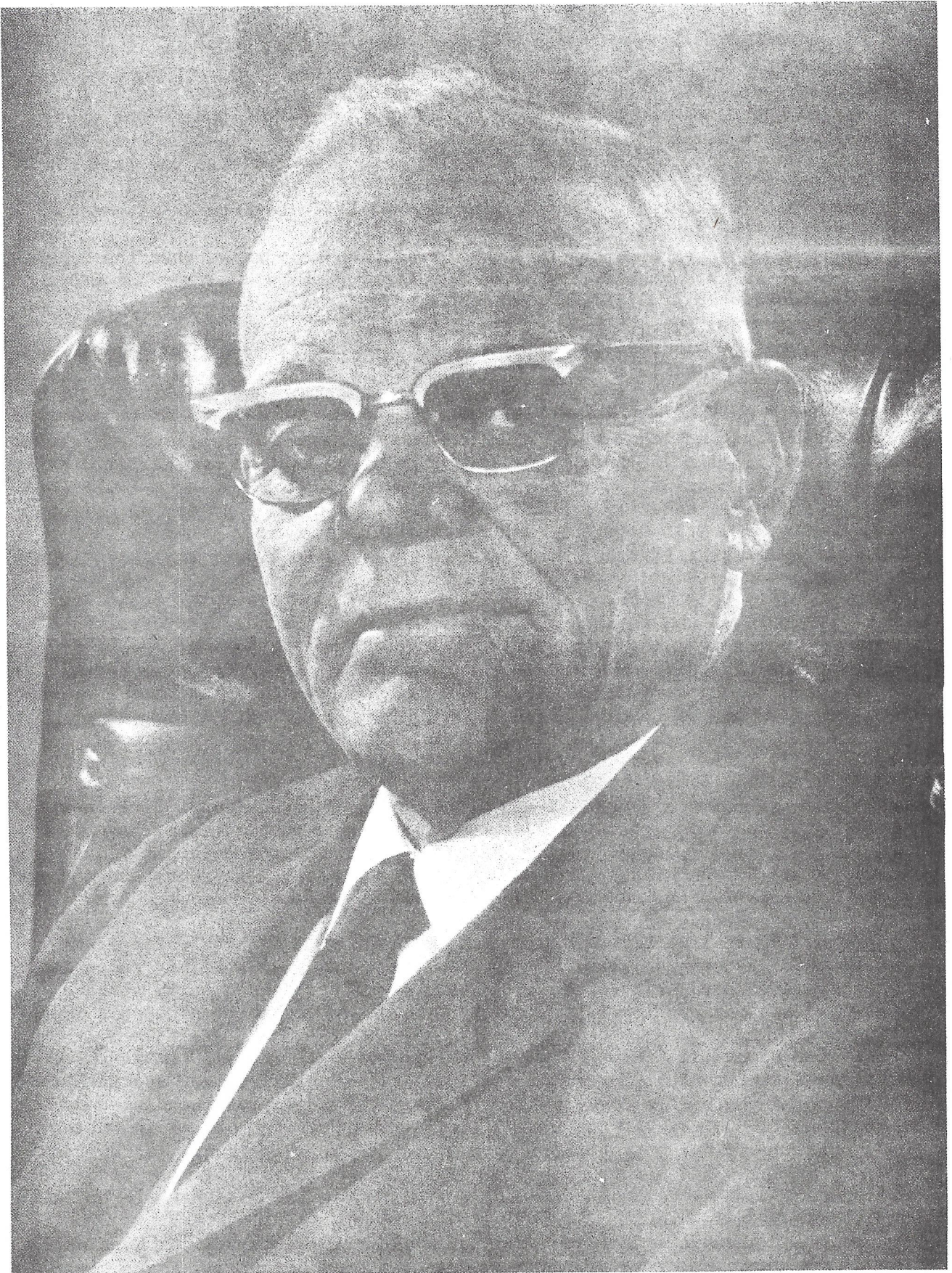
We can be perfect in keeping the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

We can be perfect in keeping the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not steal."

We can be 100 per cent perfect in keeping the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not kill."

We can become perfect in keeping various other of the commandments that the Lord has given us.

As we do so, we shall build in ourselves Christ-like traits of character which will help us to become like him in this life. Think of the joy and the peace that can come to any individual who is thus keeping the commandments of God.



Marion G. Romney

Reprinted from The Improvement Era, November 1966

MARION G. ROMNEY

OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

"I was reading the Book of Mormon with one of my lads," said Marion G. Romney as he addressed the Saints. "I lay in the lower bunk, he in the upper. I heard his voice breaking as if he had a cold, but we continued to the chapter's end. As we finished he said, 'Daddy, do you ever cry when you read the Book of Mormon?'"

"Yes, son," I answered. "Sometimes the Spirit of the Lord so witnesses to my soul that the Book of Mormon is true that I do cry."

Anyone who has heard Marion G. Romney bear testimony knows that the Spirit of the Lord works through him. Not only may Elder Romney be moved, but many within the sound of his voice are also moved. The Lord uses in a most sweet and inspiring manner the pure, honest spirit of Marion G. Romney.

Those who know him say, as Jesus said of Nathanael, "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile!"

"Perhaps few, if any, are more soundly principled in the teachings of the gospel truths," says a fellow member of the Twelve.

This schooling in sound principles has been acquired over a long and rather unusual career. Obstacles both played their delaying tactics and prepared Marion G. Romney for his destiny.

He was born September 19, 1897, in the Latter-day Saint colony of Colonia Juarez, Mexico, a son of George S. and Artemesia Redd Romney. Then in 1912 the Mexican Revolution flared. Rebel armies were on the loose, and the colonists were forced to leave Mexico. Marion's father left him in charge of getting the family safely to El Paso, but as Marion steered the horses and wagon down the road, members of the rebel army stopped them and took their total savings of 20 pesos.

"Then they turned around, drew their guns, and I looked down the barrels of rifles that seemed very large to me. I expected them to shoot, but for some reason they did not, and I have lived to tell the story," said Elder Romney.

The family, deprived of all their belongings, moved from Texas to California and then to Idaho, where Marion's father, a widely respected school teacher, was named president of Rocks Junior College.

Obtaining a college education was a slow process for Marion. Nevertheless, between a mission to Australia, marriage to Ida Jensen in 1924 (they have two sons), and periods of work to support his family, he determinedly pursued education. At 23 he was graduated from Rocks Normal College (where he was a football and basketball star) and at 28 from the University of Utah. At 34 he received his law degree.

Within a short time he was a bishop and then Bonneville Stake President; in his vocation he was assistant county, district, and city attorney and state legislator. A former public official said of him: "Political party workers soon admired his intense loyalty to conscience. He never compromised his ideals for expediency."

Men were seeing in him what the Lord already knew. In 1941 he was called to be an Assistant to the Council of the Twelve and in 1951 to the apostleship.

In 1972 he was called to serve in the First Presidency of the Church by President Harold B. Lee. At the time of this call, President Lee said during a press conference in regard to his two new counselors, Presidents Tanner and Romney, "I have had the witness as to the men who should be called to be my counselors . . . They've been called by the direction and guidance of the Spirit of the Lord."

Upon President Lee's death in December, 1973, President Spencer W. Kimball retained President Romney as his second counselor.

MAN-A CHILD OF GOD

BY PRESIDENT MARION G. ROMNEY

My beloved brothers, and sisters and friends, members and nonmembers, wherever you are:

I have a very important message for you today, but what I say will be but words unless we enjoy the Spirit of the Lord. I therefore invite you to join with me in a prayer that the Lord will bless us all while I speak.

The truth I desire to emphasize today is that we mortals are in very deed the literal offspring of God. If men understood, believed, and accepted this truth and lived by it, our sick and dying society would be reformed and redeemed, and men would have peace here and now and eternal joy in the hereafter.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accept this concept as a basic doctrine of their theology. The lives of those who have given it thought enough to realize its implications are controlled by it; it gives meaning and direction to all their thoughts and deeds. This is so because they know that it is the universal law of nature in the plant, animal, and human worlds for reproducing offspring to reach in final maturity the likeness of their parents.

They reason that the same law is in force with respect to the offspring of God. Their objective is, therefore, to someday to be like their heavenly parents.

They not only so reason; they know they may so become because God has revealed the fact that it is His work and glory to bring to pass their eternal life (Moses 1:39), which is the life God lives.

Adam, the first man, knew that he was a son of God. He walked and talked with him in the Garden of Eden before the fall. After the fall, "Adam and Eve, his wife, called upon the name of the Lord, and they heard the voice of the Lord from the way toward the Garden of Eden, speaking unto them...." (Moses 5:4.)

Later, the Lord sent an angel who taught them the gospel plan, whereupon, "Adam and Eve blessed the name of God, and they made all things known unto their sons and their daughters." Then "Satan came among them saying:....Believe it not; and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth be carnal, sensual, and devilish." (Moses 5:12-13.)

From then until now, most men, like the first generation of Adam's posterity, have "believed it not," although God has repeatedly revealed it to all the prophets from Adam to Noah. He likewise revealed it to Abraham and thereafter to Moses "at a time when Moses was caught up unto an exceedingly high mountain.

"And he saw God face to face, and he talked with him....

"And God spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I am the Lord God almighty;....

"....behold, thou art my son;....

"And I have a work for thee, Moses, my son; and thou art in the similitude of mine Only Begotten; and mine Only Begotten is and shall be the Savior, for he is full of grace and truth....

"And now, behold, this one thing I show unto thee, Moses, my son; for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee." (Moses 1:1-4, 6-7.)

In this short scripture, the Lord three times addressed Moses as "my son."

Paul, in his great speech on Mars' hill, speaking of God, said:

"....in Him we live, and move, and have our being;....for we are.... His offspring." (Acts 17:28.)

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery declared "that He lives!

"For we saw Him,....and we heard the voice bearing record....

"That by Him, and through Him, and of Him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God." (D&C 76:22-24.)

"Begotten sons and daughters unto God." Can this be true in light of the fact that we all know that we are begotten sons and daughters of our earthly fathers? Yes, it is true because human souls are dual beings--spirits tabernacled in bodies of flesh and bone. The revelation says, "....the spirit and the body are the soul of man." (D&C 88:15.) God is the father of man's spirit, even as his earthly father is the father of his mortal body.

The nature of a spirit is plainly revealed in the scriptures. A clear word picture of a spirit is recorded in the third chapter of Ether in the Book of Mormon, which gives an account of the appearance of Jesus Christ, as a spirit, some 2200 years before he was born to Mary in the flesh. The record says that Jesus stood before the brother of Jared in the form and likeness of a man and said:

"....Behold, I am Jesus Christ....

"....Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.

"Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh." (Ether 3:14-16.)

Corroborating this truth, Jesus declared to Joseph Smith as late as 1833:

"....I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the Firstborn (meaning, of course, the firstborn spirit),

"Ye were also in the beginning with the Father; that which is Spirit...." (D&C 93:21, 23.)

We learn something more about our spirits in their premortal state from a record made by Abraham of a vision in which he was shown a multi-

tude of spirits assembled in a great heavenly council. Consideration was there being given to the creation of this earth as a place upon which they, the spirits, could come and receive bodies of flesh and bone, thus becoming human souls. The plan provided that after a probationary period in mortality they should die--that is to say, their eternal spirit bodies and their corruptible mortal bodies would be separated. Later on, in resurrection, they would be reunited as immortal souls.

Abraham also learned that if during their sojourn on this earth they proved faithful, they would, as resurrected beings be permitted to come back into the presence of their Heavenly Father--the Father of their spirits--and enjoy eternal progression. These are the words of Abraham:

"Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was:....

"And God saw these souls that they were good,....and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits.... and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.

"And there stood one among them that was like unto God (and this was Jesus Christ, the firstborn spirit), and he said unto those who were with him; we will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

"And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

"And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon (this refers to us; we kept our first estate and were added upon by receiving mortal bodies);....and they who keep their second estate (that is, this life) shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever."
(Abraham 3:22-26.)

Such is the revealed truth concerning man's lofty estate.

By way of contrast, consider Alexander Pope's portrayal of the predicament into which man has fallen, as a result of his having rejected the revealed word of God as to his identity. Pope pictures him as being--

"Placed on this isthmus of a middle state,
A being darkley wise and rudely great:
With too much knowledge for the Sceptic side,
With too much weakness for the Stoic's pride,
He hangs between, in doubt to act or rest;
In doubt to deem himself a God or Beast;
In doubt his mind or body to prefer;
Born but to die, and reas'ning but to err;
Alike in ignorance, his reason such,
Whether he thinks too little or too much;
Chaos of thought and passions, all confused;
Still by himself abused or disabused;
Created half to rise, and half to fall;
Great Lord of all things, yet a prey to all;
Sole judge of truth, in endless error hurl'd;
The glory, jest, and riddle of the world;....

"Fix'd like a plant on his peculiar spot,
To draw nutrition, propagate, and rot....

"On life's vast ocean diversely we sail,
Reason the card, but Passion is the gale....

"And hence one Master-passion in the breast,
Like Aaron's serpent, swallows up the rest."

--"An Essay on Man,"
Epistle II

The theory that man is other than the offspring of God has been, and, so long as it is accepted and acted upon, will continue to be, a major factor in blocking man's spiritual growth and in corrupting his morals.

That it would be so was clearly predictable. In the mind of its devotee, any such theory as Pope's doubt as to whether "to deem himself a God or Beast" is resolved in favor of being a beast; and his doubt as to whether to prefer "his mind or body," in favor of his body.

The concept that man is a beast relieves him of a sense of accountability and encourages him to adopt the fatalistic attitude of "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." He becomes, in truth, as Pope says:

"Fix'd like a plan on his peculiar spot,
To draw nutrition, propagate, and rot....

"On life's vast ocean diversely we sail,
Reason the card, but Passion is the gale....

"And hence one Master-passion in the breast,
Like Aaron's serpent, swallows up the rest."

The truth is, my beloved brethren and sisters, man is a child of God--a God in embryo. Every righteous soul responds with empathy to the children singing:

"I am a child of God,
And he has sent me here....
If I but learn to do his will
I'll live with him once more.

"Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Help me find the way.
Teach me all that I must do
To live with him some day."

--Naomi W. Randall

That man is a child of God is the most important knowledge available to mortals. Such knowledge is beyond the ken of the uninspired mind. Neither logic, science, philosophy, nor any other field or worldly learning has ever been, or ever will be, able to find it out. Those who limit their search to such learning techniques will continue to be as they have always been. "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (2 Tim. 3:7.)

The only means by which such knowledge can be had is divine revelation. Fortunately for us, as has already been shown, it has been so revealed repeatedly from Adam until today.

The aspirations, desires, and motivations of one who accepts, believes, and by the power of the Holy Spirit obtains a witness to the truth that he is a begotten son or daughter unto God differs from the aspirations of him who believes otherwise, as the growing vine differs from the severed branch.

Knowing that he is a child of God, one does not doubt whether to "deem himself a God or Beast." He is not of "chaos....thought," driven by "passion" and "all confused." He is not "fix'd like a plant on his peculiar spot, to draw nutrition, propagate, and rot." He thinks of himself as the scriptures teach, possessed of the innate ability, as are all other reproducing offspring, to reach in final maturity the status of his heavenly parents and have "glory added upon (his) head for ever and ever." (Abr. 3:26.) This is his goal.

He accepts the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, the Word of Wisdom, and every other direction and commandment given of God to be statements of laws, the observance of which is indispensable to the attainment of his goal, to reach which he has dedicated his life.

He strives to respond to the Master's invitation:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28.)

And to his challenge:

"....be (ye) perfect even as I, or your Father who is in Heaven is perfect." (3 Nephi 12:48.)

He knows that the wise and proper response is to heed the Lord's command to "beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life. For you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God." (D&C 84:43-44.)

He believes implicitly the Lord's promise that "It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth of my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am." (D&C 93:1.)

He joins with Job in declaring. "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." (Job 19:25-26.)

He joins with Alma in his wish: "Oh that I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people!

"Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance, and the plan of redemption, that they should repent and come unto our God, that there might not be more sorrow upon all the face of the earth." (Alma 29:1-2.)

And finally, with Nephi he resolves:

"I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Nephi 3:7.)

I add my personal testimony that I know that I am a son of God, and that you, my beloved listeners, are individually a son or a daughter of God, and that this knowledge implemented in our lives will lift us back into His presence through the atoning sacrifice of our Saviour, Jesus Christ; and in His name I leave you this witness, even so. Amen.
(Ensign 3:11-14 (July 1973).)

OUR LORD THE CHRIST

BY ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

The Man Supreme!

In whom dwelt manhood in completeness and the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Under the Father's empowerment the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Jehova, the eternally existing One, who is from everlasting to everlasting, the I AM of eternity past, of time, and of eternity to come.

Whom the Father called his Chosen, his Begotten Son, his First-born of spirits, his Only Begotten in the flesh.

The Word who was in the beginning, who was with God, who was God, who was made flesh and dwelt among men.

Foremost of all who have trodden the earth with mortal feet.

The Babe of Bethlehem, the Boy of Nazareth, the Man of Sorrows acquainted with grief.

My Elder Brother and yours.

The Teacher preeminent.

He who was condemned as a malefactor, died as a mortal, rose as a God triumphant.

Redeemer of the race from death, Savior from the effects of sin, source of life eternal.

The first to come forth from the tomb a resurrected soul.

The conquerer of death and hell.

He who shall come in like manner as he went and shall reign personally upon the earth with his saints.

He who shall deliver to the Father the cleansed and purified earth, with its hosts of the redeemed, saying, "I have overcome and have trodden the wine-press alone....Then shall he be crowned with the crown of his glory, to sit on the throne of his power to reign forever and ever." (D&C 76:107-08.)

He has been repeatedly proclaimed by the Father's voice as the Son divine, and from boyhood to sacrificial death solemnly avowed his own exalted status as that Son of Man. Prophets and apostles in both olden and modern days, and the "common people" who heard him gladly, have reverently

affirmed his divinity. Angels have sung and demons shrieked his name as that of power and Godship.

We acclaim Jesus Christ as the veritable Son of the Eternal Father in both spirit and body. He lived as a man among men yet was wholly unique in that He combined within himself the attributes of mortality as the heritage from a mortal mother and the powers of Godhood received as a birthright from his immortal Father.

Thus He was capable of death and died, yet had power over death, and so held death in abeyance until he willed to die. This he affirmed while yet he was mortal: "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...." (John 10:17-18.)

He was unique in having been accepted and foreordained to be the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind, and yet again in the fact of his absolute sinlessness.

He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Christ of the New. No man can return to the Father except through the Son, for the name of Jesus Christ is the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men. (See Acts 4:12.)

He has manifested himself in person to his prophets in the present dispensation, and has spoken with them as one man speaks with another.

He is known to be in the likeness of the Eternal Father - the express image of the Father's person - for both have been seen and heard in this the dispensation of consummation and fullness.

Through the instrumentality of men commissioned to officiate for him, He has reestablished His church upon the earth, for the last time, and has bestowed upon it His name - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

He has officered His church as of old, with apostles, patriarchs, high priests, seventies, elders, bishops, priests, teachers, and deacons.

Again as aforetime He has called and is calling mankind to faith and repentance, then to baptism by water, and to the baptism of the Spirit through the bestowal of the Holy Ghost by the authorized imposition of hands.

He manifests His powers through the graces of the Spirit, as seen in gifts of revelation, prophecy, tongues, and their interpretation, by inspired dreams and visions, by healings, and by a diversity of gifts called by man miracles.

Through Him redemption is assured and salvation made possible to every soul. Salvation includes and exceeds redemption. It is the plan conceived in the mind of God the Eternal Father and given to man through Jesus Christ, whereby the degenerating and disastrous results of individual transgression may be atoned for; it is the means by which the loathsome malady of sin may be cured. Redemption, or rescue from death, is of universal assurance; salvation is of individual attainment, made possible through compliance with the laws and ordinances of the gospel based on the atonement accomplished by him alone.

A Redeemer and Savior is essential to the accomplishment of the Father's work and glory - "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Sometime, somewhere, the knowledge of the Lord shall come to every soul with saving or convicting effect; then every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

That which we learn pleasantly we retain.

When we are obedient to the counsel of our Priesthood Leaders the Lord opens the way when there appears to be no way.

We are so much what others make of us it is hard to take the credit for ourselves.

How true it is that pleasure may be had for a coin but the price of joy is pain.

If we expect less than we should we will get less than we expect.
If we expect more than we should we will get more than we expect.

Some people make it happen, some people watch it happen, and some people say what happened.

That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task has changed but our ability to perform it has increased.

The Lord calls men when they are busy and the devil when they are not.

Adversity will lift us higher if we remain strong.

Something special happens when you pay the price.

Work is only work when you'd rather do something else.

Don't lose the man of the work in the work of the man.

THE SACRAMENTAL COVENANT

BY ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

M.I.A. SLOGAN: "WE STAND FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH ATTENDANCE AT SACRAMENT MEETINGS."

The sacred covenant, with its attendant blessings, which we repeat as we consecrate the emblems of the broken body and the spilt blood of the Lord, has been especially revealed to the Latter-day Saints by the Lord himself, so that we have the very words of the covenant as they were formulated by our Redeemer, with its promised blessings. I appreciate, I believe, my brethren and sisters, to some extent, the sacredness of the covenant which we, as members of the Church, enter into when we partake of the sacred emblems. I realize that each time we partake of these emblems, we manifest before the Father that we do remember His Son, and by the act of partaking of the bread and the cup, we make a solemn covenant that we do take upon us the name of our Redeemer, and that we do, further, make a pledge and an agreement by that act that we will keep His commandments.

THE SACRAMENT, A MEANS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Taking the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, we make a pledge and an agreement that we honor, uphold, and sustain the laws of the land and will be faithful in defending the rights of our country. We expect to receive blessings in return for keeping that covenant, blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We make our pledge or agreement to the United States government when we are admitted as citizens and when we take office in the government, local or national. We do have, therefore, occasions when each citizen, whether he enters the service of his country as a soldier or engages in any other official duty, renews the covenant and pledge that he made when he became a citizen of that country. So our Father in heaven has provided that, not only once but frequently, we shall meet together to renew our pledge, our covenant, and our agreement to keep His commandments, and to take upon us His name again. I have always looked upon this blessed privilege as the means of spiritual growth, and there is none other quite so fruitful in the achievement of that end as the partaking, worthily, of the sacrament of the Lord's supper. We eat food to stimulate our physical bodies. Without the partaking of food we would become weak and sickly, and fail physically. It is just as necessary, for our spiritual body that we should partake of this sacrament, and by it obtain spiritual food for our souls. If we were given our physical food only on stated occasions and at specified places we would all be there. We heard how, during the war, many communities had to feed their people by distributing bread tickets, or rations of various kinds which were given only by application at a certain place. We have seen in our own country that the people stood in line to get their sugar rations and other provisions, such as were always present, at the appointed time and place, and so if we really realized and felt the need of spiritual food for growth, we would be present at the appointed place where this may be, and is, administered.

We must come, however, to the sacrament table hungry. If we should repair to a banquet where the finest of earth's providing may be had, without hunger, without appetite, the food would not be tempting, nor do us any good. If we repair to the sacrament table, we must come hungering

and thirsting for righteousness, for spiritual growth.

HOW CAN WE HAVE SPIRITUAL HUNGER?

How can we have spiritual hunger? Who is there among us that does not wound his spirit by word, thought, or deed, from Sabbath to Sabbath? We do things for which we are sorry, and desire to be forgiven or we have erred against someone and given injury. If there is a feeling in our hearts that we are sorry for what we have done; if there is a feeling in our souls that we would like to be forgiven, then the method to obtain forgiveness is not through rebaptism, it is not to make confession to man, but it is to repent of our sins, to go to those against whom we have sinned or transgressed and obtain their forgiveness, and then repair to the sacrament table where, if we have sincerely repented and put ourselves in proper condition, we shall be forgiven, and spiritual healing will come to our souls. It will really enter into our being. You have felt it. I am a witness that there is a spirit attending the administration of the sacrament that warms the soul from head to foot; you feel the wounds of the spirit being healed, and the load is lifted. Comfort and happiness come to the soul that is worthy and truly desirous of partaking of this spiritual good. Why do we not all come? Why do we not come regularly to the sacrament service and partake of these emblems and perform this highest worship we can give to our Father in the name of His beloved Son? It is because we do not appreciate it. It is because we do not feel the necessity for this blessing. Or it is because, perhaps, we feel ourselves unworthy to partake of these emblems.

There is a feature of this pledge to which I should like to call your attention. Let me quote some scripture, because we not only desire our boys and girls, our brothers and sisters, to come to the sacrament table and eat of these emblems, but we want them to eat worthily, for you have already heard quoted the scripture that if we eat and drink unworthily, we eat and drink damnation to our own souls. Here is what the Lord said (Doctrine and Covenants 20:68, 69):

"Previous to their partaking of the sacrament....the members shall manifest before the Church, and also before the elders, by a Godly walk and conversation, that they are worthy of it, that there may be works and faith agreeable to the Holy Scriptures, walking in holiness before the Lord."

Again, I read from Paul's teachings (1 Cor. 10:21)

"Ye can not drink of the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye can not be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

And still, from another sacred scripture, 3 Nephi 18:28, 29:

"Ye shall not suffer any one knowingly, to partake of my flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it; for whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul; therefore if ye know that a man is unworthy to eat and drink of my blesh and blood, ye shall forbid him."

And still another, to the prophet of these latter days (Doctrine and Covenants, 46:4):

"If any have trespassed, let him not partake until he makes reconciliation."

I suggested that perhaps some of us are ashamed to come to the sacrament table because we feel unworthy, and are afraid lest we eat and drink of these sacred emblems to our own condemnation. And so we want every Latter-day Saint to come to the sacrament table because it is the place for self-investigation, for self-inspection, where we may learn to rectify our course and to make right our own lives, bringing them into harmony with the teachings of the Church and with our brethren and sisters. It is the place where we become our own judges.

There may be some instances where the elders of the Church could say, properly, to one who, in transgression, stretches forth his hands to partake of the emblems: You should not do this until you have made restitution; but ordinarily we will be our own judges. If we are properly instructed, we know that it is not our privilege to partake of the emblems of the flesh and blood of the Lord in sin, in transgression, or having injured and holding feelings against our brethren and sisters. No man goes away from this Church and becomes an apostate in a week, nor in a month. It is a slow process. The one thing that would make for the safety of every man and woman would be to appear at the sacrament table every Sabbath day. We would not get very far away in one week--not so far away that, by the process of self-investigation, we could not rectify the wrongs we may have done. If we should refrain from partaking of the sacrament, condemned by ourselves as unworthy to receive these emblems, we could not endure that long, and we would soon, I am sure, have the spirit of repentance. The road to the sacrament table is the path of safety for Latter-day Saints.

I have said that I think we stay away, perhaps, because we do not appreciate what a blessing the sacrament is. I wonder if we ever will, in this mortal life, understand the value of the sacred and blessed things the Lord has instituted in this Church for its spiritual growth and welfare, and particularly this one ordinance which is attended by certain promised blessings that no man can give, and that the Lord alone can manifest to His children!

It is written in the scriptures that God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son to die for the world, that whosoever believeth on Him, yes, and keepeth His commandments, shall be saved. But this sacrament did not cost us very much--freely given are all these glorious privileges, and I am reminded of a statement by one of our great writers, running something like this: "At the devil's booth are all things sold; each ounce of dross costs its ounce of gold."

It is heaven alone that is given away. It is only God that may be had for the asking. While we give nothing, perhaps, for this atonement and this sacrifice, nevertheless, it has cost someone something, and I love to contemplate what it cost our Father in heaven to give us the gift of His beloved Son, that worthy Son of our Father, who so loved the world that He laid his life down to redeem the world, to save us and to feed us spiritually while we walk in this life, and prepare us to go and dwell with Him in the eternal worlds.

ILLUSTRATIONS

I think as I read the story of Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac, that our Father is trying to tell us what it cost him to give his Son as a gift to the world. You remember the story of how Abraham's son came after long years of waiting, and was looked upon by his worthy sire, Abraham, as more precious than all his other possessions; yet, in the midst of his rejoicing, Abraham was told to take this only son and offer him as a sacrifice to the Lord. He responded. Can you feel what was

in the heart of Abraham on that occasion? You love your son just as Abraham did; perhaps not quite so much, because of the peculiar circumstances, but what do you think was in his heart when he started away from Mother Sarah and they bade her goodbye? What do you think was in his heart when he saw Isaac bidding farewell to his mother to take that three days' journey to the appointed place where the sacrifice was to be made? I imagine it was about all Father Abraham could do to keep from showing his real grief and sorrow at that parting, but he and his son trudged along three days toward the appointed place, Isaac carrying the fagots that were to consume the sacrifice. The two travelers rested, finally, at the mountain side, and the men who had accompanied them were told to remain, while Abraham and his son started up the hill.

The boy then said to his father: "Why, father, we have the fagots, we have the fire to burn the sacrifice, but where is the sacrifice?"

It must have pierced the heart of Father Abraham to hear the trusting and confiding son say: "You have forgotten the sacrifice." Looking at the youth, his son of promise, the poor father could only say: "The Lord will provide."

They ascended the mountain, gathered the stones together, and placed the fagots upon them. Then Isaac was bound, hand and foot, kneeling upon the alter. I presume Abraham, like a true father, must have given his son his farewell kiss, his blessing, his love, and his soul must have been drawn out in that hour of agony toward this son who was to die by the hand of his own father. Every step proceeded until the cold steel was drawn, and the hand raised that was to strike the blow to let out the life's blood. Then the Angel of the Lord said: "It is enough."

THE AGONY OF CHRIST

Our Father in heaven went through all that and more, for in His case the hand was not stayed. He loved His Son Jesus Christ, better than Abraham ever loved Isaac, for our Father had with Him His Son, our Redeemer, in the eternal worlds, faithful and true for ages, standing in a place of trust and honor, and the Father loved Him dearly, and yet He allowed this well-beloved Son to descend from His place of glory and honor, where millions did Him homage, down to the earth, a condescension that is not within the power of man to conceive of. He came to receive the insult, the abuse, and the crown of thorns. God hear the cry of His Son in that moment of grief and agony, in the garden when, it is said, the pores of His body opened and drops of blood stood upon Him and He cried out: "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me."

I ask you, what father and mother could stand by and listen to the cry of their children in distress, in this world, and not render aid and assistance. I have heard of mothers throwing themselves into raging streams when they could not swim a stroke to save their drowning child, rushing into burning buildings, to rescue those whom they loved.

We can not stand by and listen to those cries without it touching our hearts. The Lord has not given us the power to save our own. He has given us faith and we submit to the inevitable, but He had the power to save, and He loved His Son and He could have saved Him. He might have rescued Him from the insult of the crowds. He might have rescued Him when the crown of thorns was placed upon His head. He might have rescued Him when the Son, hanging between the two thieves was mocked with, "Save thyself, and come down from the cross....He saved others; Himself he cannot

save." He listened to all of this. He saw that Son of Jerusalem and faint under its load. He saw that Son finally upon Calvary, He saw his body stretched out upon the wooden cross, He saw the cruel nails driven through hands and feet, and the blows that broke the skin, tore the flesh and let out the life's blood of His son. He looked upon that.

In the case of our Father, the knife was not stayed, but it fell, and the life's blood of His beloved Son went out. His father looked on with great grief and agony over His beloved Son, until there seems to have come a moment when even our Savior cried out in despair: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

GOD'S LOVE FOR US

In that hour I think I can see our dear Father behind the veil looking upon these dying struggles until even He could not endure it any longer; and, like the mother who bids farewell to her dying child, has to be taken out of the room, so as not to look upon the last struggles, so He bowed his head, and hid in some part of His universe, His great heart almost breaking for the love that He had for His Son. Oh, in that moment when He might have saved His Son, I thank him and praise Him that He did not fail us, for He had not only the love of His Son in mind, but he had love for us, and I rejoice that He did not interfere, and that His love for us made it possible for Him to endure to look upon the sufferings of His Son and give Him finally to us, our Savior and our Redeemer. For without Him, without His sacrifice, we would have been buried in the earth, and there our bodies would have remained and we would never have come glorified into His presence. And so this is what it cost, in part, for our Father in heaven to give the gift of His Son unto men.

APPRECIATION OF HIS GIFT AND LOVE

How do I appreciate the gift? My brethren and sisters, I say again if I only knew what it cost our Father to give his Son, if I only knew how essential it was that I should have that Son and that I should receive the spiritual life that comes from that Son, I am sure I would always be present at the sacrament table to do honor to the gift that has come unto us, for I realize that the Father has said that He, the Lord, our God, is a jealous God--jealous lest we should ignore and forget and slight His greatest gift unto us.

NEED OF THE SACRAMENT FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I know, my brethren and sisters, that no man or woman shall ever come to stand in the presence of our Father in heaven, nor be associated with the Lord Jesus Christ, who does not spiritually grow. Without spiritual growth we shall not be prepared to enter into the divine presence. I need the sacrament. I need to renew my covenant every week. I need the blessing that comes with and through it. I know that what I am talking about is true. I bear witness to that I know that the Lord lives. I know that he has made this sacrifice and this atonement. He has given me a foretaste of these things.

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AND TESTIMONY

I recall an experience which I had two years ago, bearing witness to my soul of the reality of His death, of His crucifixion, and His resurrection, that I shall never forget. I bear it to you tonight, to you, young boys and girls; not with a spirit to glory over it, but with a grateful heart and with thanksgiving in my soul, that I know that He lives, and I know that through Him men must find their salvation, and

that we can not ignore this blessed offering that He had given us as the means of our spiritual growth to prepare us to come to Him and be justified. Away on the Fort Peck Reservation where I was doing missionary work with some of our brethren, laboring among the Indians, seeking the Lord for light to decide certain matters pertaining to our work there, and receiving a witness from Him that we were doing things according to His will, I found myself one evening in the dreams of the night in that sacred building, the temple. After a season of prayer and rejoicing I was informed that I should have the privilege of entering into one of those rooms, to meet a glorious Personage, and as I entered the door I saw, seated on a raised platform, the most glorious Being my eyes have ever beheld, or that I ever conceived existed in all the eternal worlds. As I approached to be introduced, he arose and stepped towards me with extended arms, and He smiled as He softly spoke my name. If I shall live to be a million years old, I shall never forget that smile. He took me into His arms and kissed me, pressed me to His bosom, and blessed me, until the marrow of my bones seemed to melt! When He had finished, I fell at his feet, and, as I bathed them with my tears and kisses, I saw the prints of the nails in the feet of the Redeemer of the world. The feeling that I had in the presence of Him who hath all things in His hands, to have His love, His affection, and His blessing was such that if I ever can receive that of which I had but a foretaste, I would give all that I am, all that I ever hope to be, to feel what I then felt!

ADMONITION AND CONCLUSION

Go to the sacrament table. Ah, that is a blessed privilege that I now rejoice in, and I would be ashamed, I know, as I felt then, to stand in His presence and try to offer any apology or any excuse for not having kept His commandments and honored Him by bearing witness, before the Father and before men, that I believe in Him, and that I take upon me His blessed Name, and that I live by and through Him spiritually.

My brethren and sisters, let us go unto Him in His appointed (way). Let us take our children with us, and through our faithfulness find all the blessings attendant upon this sacred observance of this holy ordinance--ours in time and in eternity. This I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Melvin J. Ballard, "The Sacramental Covenant," Improvement Era 22:1025-31 'Oct. 1919'.)

That which we persist in doing becomes easy to do. Not that the nature of the thing has changed, but our power to do has increased.

--Heber J. Grant

The Gospel is a fountain of truth, and truth is what we are after. We have embraced the truth--namely, the gospel of the Son of God.

--Brigham Young

No man, in time or in eternity, will ever be saved in the celestial kingdom of God without the gospel of Jesus Christ.

--Wilford Woodruff

We are living in the dispensation of the fullness of times, when all things are to be restored, and every gift and blessing of the gospel of our Master should be enjoyed by the Saints.

--Heber J. Grant

A TIME OF COMMUNION

PRESIDENT MCKAY DEDICATES FEDERAL
HEIGHTS CHAPEL, JUNE 30, 1963

The greatest comfort in this life is the assurance of having close relationship with God. "Consciousness of God is the highest achievement in human experience, and is the supreme goal of human life. This is true religion. It is a mental spiritual experience of the highest order." Many of you to whom I am speaking this afternoon know what that experience is.

A house of worship such as this, furnishes us with an opportunity to commune with one's self and to commune with the Lord, especially during the Sacrament period. This day we turn it over to Him. You may rest assured that He will be here to inspire us if we come in proper attune to meet Him. We are not prepared to meet Him if we bring into this room our thoughts regarding our business affairs, and especially if we bring into the house of worship feelings of hatred towards our neighbor, or enmity and jealousy towards the Authorities of the Church. Most certainly no individual can hope to come into communion with the Father if that individual entertains any such feelings. They are so foreign to worship and so foreign, particularly, to the partaking of the sacrament.

I think we pay too little attention to the value of meditation, a principle of devotion. In our worship there are two elements: One is spiritual communion arising from our own dedication; the other, instruction from others, particularly from those who have authority to guide and instruct us. Of the two, the more profitable introspectively is the meditation. Meditation is the language of the soul. It is defined as a "form of private devotion, or spiritual exercise, consisting in deep, continued reflection on some religious theme." Meditation is a form of prayer. We can say prayers without having any spiritual response. We can say prayers as the unrighteous king in Hamlet who said: "My words fly up my thoughts remain below: Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

The poet, contrasting the outward form of worship and the prayer of the soul, said:

"The Power, incensed, the deseret,
The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole;
But haply in some cottage far apart,
May hear, well-pleased, the language of the soul.
And in His Book of Life the inmates poor enroll."
(Burns, "The Cotter's Saturday Night.")

Meditation is one of the most secret, most sacred doors through which we pass into the presence of the Lord. Jesus set the example for us. As soon as He was baptized and received the Father's approval, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," Jesus repaired to what is now known as the Mount of Temptation, where, during the forty days of fasting, He communed with Himself and His Father and contemplated upon the responsibility of His great mission. One result of this spiritual communion was such strength as enabled Him to say to the tempter:

"Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10)

Before He gave to the Twelve the beautiful sermon on the mount, He was in solitude, in communion. He did the same thing after that busy Sabbath day, when He arose early in the morning, after having been the guest of Peter. Peter undoubtedly found the guest chamber empty, and when they sought Him they found Him alone. It was on that morning that Peter said: "All men seek for thee." (Mark 1:37)

Again, after Jesus had fed the five thousand He told the Twelve to dismiss the multitude, but Jesus went to the mountain for solitude, the historian says, "when the evening was come, He was there alone." (Matt. 14:23) Meditation! Prayer!

I once read a book written by a very wise man, whose name I cannot now recall, which contained a significant chapter on prayer. The author was not a member of the Church, but evidently had a desire to keep in close communion with God, and he wanted to find the truth. Among other things he said in substance:

"In secret prayer go into the room, close the door, pull down the shades, and kneel in the center of the room. For a period of five minutes or so, say nothing. Just think of what God has done for you, of what are your greatest spiritual and temporal needs. When you sense that, and sense His presence, then pour out your soul to Him in thanksgiving."

I believe the short period of administering the sacrament is one of the best opportunities we have for such meditation, and there should be nothing during that sacred period to distract our attention from the purpose of that ordinance.

One of the most impressive services I have ever attended was in a group of over eight hundred people to whom the sacrament was administered, and during that administration not a sound could be heard, excepting the ticking of the clock--eight hundred souls, each of whom at least had the opportunity of communion with the Lord. There was no distraction, no orchestra, no singing, no speaking. Each one had an opportunity to search himself introspectively and to consider his worthiness to partake of the sacrament. His was the privilege of getting closer to His Father in Heaven. That is ideal!

We recommend that we surround this sacred ordinance with more reverence, with perfect order; that each one who comes to the house of God may meditate upon his goodness, and silently and prayerfully express appreciation for God's goodness. Let the sacrament hour be one experience of the day in which the worshiper tries at least to realize within himself that it is possible for him to commune with his God.

Great events have happened in this Church because of such communion, because of the responsiveness of the soul to the inspiration of the Almighty. I know it is real. You will find that when these most inspirational moments come to you, you are alone with yourself and your God. They come to you probably when you are facing a great trial, when a wall is across your pathway, and it seems that you are facing an insurmountable obstacle, or when your heart is heavy because of some tragedy in your life. I repeat, the greatest comfort that can come to us in this life is to sense the realization of communion with God.

Great testimonies have come in those moments. It is just such an experience as that which came to my father in the north of Scotland when, as I have told some of you before, he prayed to God to remove from him a

spirit of gloom and despondency that overwhelmed him. After a night of worry and restlessness, he arose at daylight and repaired to a cave on the shore of the North Sea. He had been there before in prayer. There, just as the rays of the morning light began to come over the sea, he poured out his soul to God as a son would appeal to his father. The answer came: "Testify that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God!" The cause of his discouragement flashing upon his mind, he said aloud: "Lord, it is enough!"

Those who knew my father could testify as to his integrity and his honesty. A testimony of that kind has one hundred per cent value.

These secret prayers, these conscientious moments in meditation, these yearnings of the soul to reach out to feel the presence of God--such is your privilege.

Now I know that some of you are saying to yourselves, "Music helps to intensify that feeling of communion." When you stop to consider the matter, you realize that there is nothing during the administration of the sacrament of an extraneous nature so important as remembering our Lord and Savior, nothing so worthy of attention as considering the value of the promise we are making. Why should anything distract us? Is there anything more sublime? We are witnessing there, in the presence of one another, and before Him, our Father, that we are willing to take upon ourselves the name of Christ, that we will always remember Him, always, that we will keep His commandments that He has given us. Can you, can anybody living, who thinks for a moment, place before us any thing which is more sacred or more far-reaching in our lives? If we partake of it mechanically, we are not honest, or let us say, we are permitting our thoughts to be distracted from a very sacred ordinance.

I was speaking recently to one man about this. He said: "Oh, but the beautiful music of the choir helps us to concentrate." Concentrate on what? The more beautiful the music, the more your attention is attracted to it; to the player, or to the composer. If it is beautiful music poorly played, then the discord distracts your attention. Have that music in preparation up to the moment, yes, but when the prayer is said, and that young priest speaks for us, as he does, then remember that we are placing ourselves under covenant. It will be ideal if, during the fifteen minutes, every man, woman, and child will think as best as he or she can of the significance of that sacred ordinance.

But the lesson I wish to leave today is: Let us make that sacrament hour one of the most impressive means of coming in contact with God's spirit. Let the Holy Ghost, to which we are entitled, lead us into His presence, and may we sense that nearness, and have a prayer offered in our hearts which He will hear.

My thought is partially expressed by Edwin Markham in the following lines:

"The builder who first bridged Niagara's gorge,
Before he swung his cable, shore to shore,
Sent out across the gulf his venturing kite
Bearing a slender cord for unseen hands
To grasp upon the further cliff and draw
A greater cord, and then a greater yet;
Till at last across the chasm swung
The cable--then the mighty bridge in air!

So we may send our little timid thought
Across the void, out of God's reaching hands--
Send out our love and faith to thread the deep--
Thought after thought until the little cord
Has greatedened to a chain no chance can break
And we are anchored to the Infinite!"

God help us, brethren and sisters, so to live that we may sense the reality of being able to have this close relationship, as I bear you my testimony today it is real; that we can commune with our Father in Heaven, and if we so live to be worthy of the companionship of the Holy Spirit, he will guide us into all truth; He will show us things to come; He will bring all things to our remembrance; He will testify of the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, as I do today, and of the restoration of the Gospel, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.
(Church News, 6 July 1963, pp. 3, 14.)

This is the only dispensation which God has ever established that was foreordained, before the world was made, not to be overcome by wicked men and devils.

- Wilford Woodruff

If you and I ever get into the celestial kingdom, we have got to keep the law of that kingdom. Show me the law that a man keeps and I will tell you where he is going.

- Wilford Woodruff

The mind can only absorb what the tail can endure.

Pick your rut in life carefully.

Don't leave your high notes in the practice room.

Facts don't cease to exist because we choose to ignore them.

Do what is right and let the consequences follow.

We must purge ourselves of the pursuit of ease-J. Rueben Clark.

Hell is truth seen too late.

THE ATONING SACRIFICE: MODERN PROPHETS TESTIFY

ENSIGN, APRIL 1974

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...." (1 Pet. 3:18.) The great fact of the atonement lies at the very heart of the gospel, preached from Adam to the present day. Here we present some of the teachings of this dispensation's prophets--from Joseph Smith to Spencer W. Kimball--on the centrality of the Savior's sacrifice.

JOSEPH SMITH--Notwithstanding the transgression, by which man had cut himself off from an immediate intercourse with his Maker without a mediator, it appears that the great and glorious plan of his redemption was previously provided; the sacrifice prepared; the atonement wrought out in the mind and purpose of God even in the person of the Son, through whom man was now to look for acceptance and through whose merits he was now taught that he alone could find redemption, since the word had been pronounced, Unto dust thou shalt return....Repentance is a thing that cannot be trifled with every day. Daily transgression and daily repentance is not that which is pleasing in the sight of God....There is no salvation between the two lids of the Bible without a legal administrator. Jesus was then the legal Administrator....
(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 57-58, 148, 319.)

BRIGHAM YOUNG--Our first parents transgressed the law that was given them in the garden; their eyes were opened. This created the debt. What is the nature of this debt? What will pay it? I ask, Is there anything short of a divine sacrifice that can pay this debt? No; there is not....

A divine debt has been contracted by the children, and the Father demands recompense. He says to his children on the earth, who are in sin and transgression, it is impossible for you to pay this debt; I have prepared a sacrifice; I will send my Only Begotten Son to pay this divine debt. Do we understand why He should sacrifice his life?.....unless God provides a Savior to pay this debt it can never be paid. Can all the wisdom of the world devise means by which we can be redeemed, and returned to the presence of our Father and elder brother, and dwell with holy angels and celestial beings? No; it is beyond the power and wisdom of the inhabitants of the earth that now live, or that ever did or ever will live, to prepare or create a sacrifice that will pay this divine debt. But God provided it, and his Son paid it, and we, each and every one, can now receive the truth and be saved in the kingdom of God. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 14, pp. 71-72).

JOHN TAYLOR--We are told (in 2 Nephi 9) that the atonement needs to be infinite. Why did it need an infinite atonement? For the simple reason that a stream can never rise higher than its fountain; and man having assumed a fleshly body and become of the earth earthy, and through the violation of a law having cut himself off from his association with his Father, and becoming subject to death; in this condition, as the mortal life of man was short, and in and of himself he could have no hope of benefitting himself, or redeeming himself from his fallen condition, or of bringing himself back to the presence of his Father, some superior agency was needed to elevate him above his low and degraded position. This superior agency was the Son of God, who had not, as man had, violated a law of His Father, but was yet one with his Father, possessing His glory, His power, His authority, His dominion. (The Mediation and Atonement, pp. 142-43.)

WILFORD WOODRUFF--When men are called upon to repent of their sins, the call has reference to their own individual sins, not to Adam's transgressions. What is called the original sin was atoned for through the death of Christ irrespective of any action on the part of man; also man's individual sin was atoned for by the same sacrifice, but on condition of his obedience to the Gospel plan of salvation when proclaimed in his hearing. (Millennial Star, vol. 51, p. 659.)

LORENZO SNOW--While thus living we may look forward far away into the spirit land, with full assurance that when reaching that happy clime, we shall be crowned with the sons and daughters of God, and possess the wealth and glory of a Celestial kingdom.

Apostle Paul in his time, taught the Saints to have the same mind in them as was in Christ Jesus, who, finding Himself in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Apostle John, on the same subject says, "When Jesus appears we shall be like Him." "Every one that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as God is pure."

As man is, God once was--even the babe of Bethlehem, advancing to childhood--thence to boyhood, manhood, then to the Godhood, this, then, is the "mark of the prize of man's high calling in Christ Jesus."

We are the offspring of God, begotten by Him in the spirit world, where we partook of His nature as children here partake of the likeness of their parents. Our trials and sufferings give us experience, and establish within us principles of godliness. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 26, p. 368.)

JOSEPH F. SMITH--From the natural death, that is the death of the body, and also from the first death, "which is spiritual" there is redemption through belief on the name of the "only Begotten Son", in connection with repentance and obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel, declared by holy angels, for if one "believe," he must also obey.

If men will not repent and come unto Christ, through the ordinances of His Gospel, they cannot be redeemed from their spiritual fall, but must remain forever subject to the will of Satan and the consequent spiritual death or darkness into which our first parents fell, subjecting all their posterity thereto, and from which none can be redeemed but by belief or faith on the name of the "only Begotten Son" and obedience to the laws of God. Christ is the great example for all mankind, and I believe that mankind were as much foreordained to become like Him, as that he was foreordained to be the Redeemer of the man. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 23, pp. 169-70, 172.)

HEBER J. GRANT--We do not believe that the mere confession of faith, when a man is dying, is going to save him. I remember as a youngster, working in a bank, seeing some cartoons that illustrated the absurdity of that belief. This was in "Puck" magazine. A very villainous looking man came into a room, stabbed a man, and stole some money that he was counting. In the next picture he was in jail and a priest said: "Believe in Jesus Christ and you will be saved." The criminal thought "A mighty easy bargain. I believe." In the next picture he was tried and convicted; in the next, he was on the way to the gallows, with sentimental ladies throwing flowers in his path, "a soul going to Jesus." The next showed him hanging at the end of a rope by his neck; and in the next he was soaring up to heaven, escorted by angels. The final picture showed the good and benevolent man whose money had been stolen and who had been stabbed, down in hell being pitched from one fire to another. He said he did not have time to say he believed. He had been stabbed.

"We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: First, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ--" And when I say "Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," we want it distinctly understood that we believe absolutely in Jesus Christ, that He was the Son of God, and that He did come to earth with a divinely--appointed mission to die as the Redeemer of Mankind on the cross. We do not believe that He was just a "great moral teacher," but that He is our Redeemer. (Church News Sept. 3, 1938, p. 7.)

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH-- We are informed that we will not be held responsible for the sin of Adam, but that we will be held responsible for our own sins. The atonement of Jesus Christ removed from us the responsibility of atoning for the sin of father Adam, and He made it possible for us to live here upon the earth, and in due time, if we take advantage of our opportunities, we will be prepared to be resurrected from the dead when that time shall come. (Conference Report October 1926, p. 102.)

DAVID O. MCKAY-- In the Meridian of Time came the Savior of Man, toward whose coming man in the morning of life had looked forward, and upon whose life man in the evening of life should look in retrospect. In the meridian of the earth's history came the Son of Man declaring the eternal truth so opposed to the promises of the earth, that he that would save his life must lose it.

And in His brief stay upon earth, how perfectly He exemplified this truth. He owned no land. He owned no house; for He had nowhere to lay His head....(See Matt. 8:20.)

His was a life of unselfish service--always helping those who were living incompletely to live completely--whether the incomplete living was caused by a physical defect such as blindness or deafness, or whether through a moral defect such as the woman taken in sin--His mission was to give them life.

Now,....can you not carry this thought a little further and apply it even to the sacrificing of His life, to the shedding of His blood? Man's life is not dependent upon what this earth can give--his body, yes, but that is only the house in which man lives--but the spirit, the real man is above the selfish and sensual, and seeks for its life and happiness the things which are eternal--faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, Godliness, brotherliness, charity.

In His life and death, therefore, Christ not only fulfilled the law of sacrifice, but He fulfilled every conceivable condition necessary for man to know in order to rise or progress from earthly life, to eternal life. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32.)

In this I think I glimpse, though ever so dimly, a reason for Christ's shedding His blood--in addition to the one generally offered for the redemption of man from the fall. I confess that the latter has moved me less than the realization that in His life He lived for His fellow men, and in His death, He triumphed over all earthly elements, over the power of death, hell, and the evil one, and arose from the grave, an eternal being--our Guide, our Savior, our God. (Treasures of Life, pp. 277-78.)

JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH--The plan of salvation, or code of laws, which is known as the gospel of Jesus Christ, was adopted in the heavens, before the foundation of the world was laid....It was a part of this great plan, that (Adam) should partake of the forbidden fruit and fall, thus bringing suffering and death into the world, even for the ultimate good of his children.....

The fall brought death. This is not a desirable condition. We do not want to be banished from the presence of God. We do not want to be subject forever to mortal conditions. We do not want to die and have our bodies turn to dust, and the spirits that possess these bodies by right, turned over to the realm of Satan and become subject to him....

The atonement of Jesus Christ is of a two-fold nature. Because of it, all men are redeemed from mortal death and the grave, and will rise in the resurrection to immortality of the soul. Then again, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel, man will receive remission of individual sins, through the blood of Christ, and will inherit exaltation in the kingdom of God, which is eternal life.

We often hear the word atonement defined as being "at-one-ment" with God. That is a very small part of it. In fact, the great majority of mankind never becomes one with God, although they receive the atonement. "Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14.) We do not all become "at one" with God if we mean that we are brought back again and given the fulness of life which is promised to those who keep the commandments of God and become sons and daughters of God. (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 121-23, 125.)

HAROLD B. LEE-- Beyond the comprehension of mortal man, God has placed a supreme value upon a human soul when he says: "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto Him. And He hath risen again from the dead, that He might bring all men unto Him, on conditons of repentance. And how great is His joy in the soul that repenteth." (D&C 18:10-13.)

"For God so loved the world" of men and women, young and old, "that He gave his only begotten son" (John 3:4-6) to open the way by which all might return to His heavenly realm. The plan for man's redemption was laid in heaven even before the earth was formed, and known even was the identity of Him who was to make the atonement, who was to be as a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world...." (Rev. 13:8.)

The only thing the Savior expects from us in return for His suffering is that we repent of our sins and keep His commandments. Although His sufferings were so intense that He, the Son of God, was caused "to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit, and would that (He) might not drink the bitter cup (D&C 19:18)yet He,....counts it all worthwhile if, at the end of the earth, mankind, for whom He dies, might gain eternal life and become His sons and daughters eternally through the acceptance of His gospel, which is God's plan for man's salvation. (Youth and the Church (1954), pp. 120-21.)

SPENCER W. KIMBALL-- Christ's death on the cross offers us exemption from the eternal punishment for most sins. He took upon himself the punishment for the sins of the world, with the understanding that those who repent and come unto him will be forgiven of their sins and freed from the punishment....When we think of the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sufferings He endured for us, we would be ingrates if we did not appreciate it so far as our power made it possible. He suffered and died for us, yet if we do not repent, all his anguish and pain on our account are futile....Forgiveness of sins is one of the most glorious principles God ever gave to man. Just as repentance is a divine principle so also is forgiveness. Were it not for this principle, there would be no point in crying repentance. But because of this principle the divine invitation is held out to all--Come, repent of your sins and be forgiven! (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pp. 132, 145, 338.)

THE PRIESTHOOD OF GOD

It is a great privilege, blessing, and responsibility to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where the priesthood and authority of God directs and administers the affairs of the Church. By and under his authority all ordinances of the Church are administered, and received. It is even a greater privilege, blessing, and responsibility to hold this priesthood and authority, and it about this divine power that I should like to write.

It would seem that this can best be done by answering questions that have been asked of me, such as:

1. What is the Priesthood?
2. What is the basis for your claim that your church is the only one having the priesthood or authority from God?
3. Why do you claim that the priesthood is necessary in administering the affairs of the Church?
4. Who holds the priesthood?
5. What are the responsibilities of one who holds the priesthood?
6. What are the blessings of the priesthood?

Though I wish to deal with the priesthood as it pertains to the latter-days, we must realize, as Brigham Young explained, that the priesthood is the law by which the worlds are, were, and will be brought into existence and peopled. It gives them their revolutions, their days, weeks, months, years and seasons.

He further declared the priesthood to be "a perfect system of government, of laws and ordinances, by which we can be prepared to pass from one gate to another, and from one sentinel to another, until we go into the presence of our Father and God." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2. p. 139.)

The priesthood of God was delegated to Adam and passed on down to Abraham, who received it from the great high priest, Melchizedek. "Which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years.

"And the Lord confirmed a priesthood also upon Aaron and his seed, throughout all their generations, which priesthood also continueth and abideth forever with the priesthood which is after the holiest order of God.

"And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God.

"Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.

"And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh." (D&C 84:17-21.)

Now let us refer to the priesthood and its restoration in the latter days and answer the question of why we claim that our church is the only one having the priesthood or authority from God.

Our fifth Article of Faith states clearly: "We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof."

This statement is in full agreement with that of Paul to the Hebrews. He said, in referring to priesthood ordinations: "And no man taketh this

honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." (Heb. 5:4.)

One of the distinguishing and important features of the Church is its priesthood, defined so beautifully by President Joseph F. Smith.

"(The Priesthood) is nothing more nor less than the power of God delegated to man by which man can act in the earth for the salvation of the human family, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, and act legitimately; not assuming that authority, nor borrowing it from generations that are dead and gone, but authority that has been given in this day in which we live by ministering angels and spirits from above, direct from the presence of Almighty God...." (Gospel Doctrine (Deseret Book Co., 1939 ed.), pp. 139-40.)

At the time Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were translating the Book of Mormon, John the Baptist appeared to them; and, announcing that he was acting under the direction of Peter, James, and John, the ancient apostles, who held the keys of the higher priesthood, he conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon Joseph and Oliver in these words:

"Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness." (D&C 13.)

Joseph Smith records that later Peter, James and John ordained him and Oliver Cowdery to be apostles and special witnesses of Jesus Christ to bear the keys of the ministry of his kingdom, and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times and for the fullness of times. (See D&C 27:12-13.)

At the time of the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Lord gave the following revelation to Joseph Smith;

"Behold, there shall be a record kept among you; and in it thou shalt be called a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ,

"Being inspired of the Holy Ghost to lay the foundation thereof, and to build it up unto the most holy faith." (D&C 21:1-2.)

The authority of the priesthood cannot be assumed or arrogated to oneself, but must be delegated by God through one having authority. One of the reasons for confusion in the churches today is that man has assumed this authority without proper delegation from the Lord. A man would have no more right to arrogate this priesthood authority unto himself than would one citizen or another decide to be a representative of the king or the parliament or the president of the United States. In fact, if one began to sign papers as their representative, without having been properly appointed, he would be accused of forgery and handled by the law.

If the world could realize and accept this self-evident truth, it would not be difficult to agree that authority has been given or delegated by the Lord, as it was to Joseph Smith, to organize His church. But we must remember that whenever God places the true priesthood on the earth, there is always present a false priesthood, pretending the powers of the true priesthood. By faith and prayer and the witness of the Holy Spirit, we can distinguish the truth.

We come now to the third question about the necessity of the priesthood in administering Church affairs. Only by the authority of the priesthood can the ordinances of the gospel be received or administered. Without it one cannot baptize, confirm, ordain, officiate, or hold any presiding office in the Church. In the women's organizations those holding positions as officers or teachers are called and set apart by priesthood authority.

In every dispensation of time there has been a leader who has held the priesthood of God. In this, the dispensation of the fulness of times, the priesthood has been restored and is now in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is thus fully authorized to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances. It is evident that the source of the priesthood is the Godhead, and the priesthood held by man is delegated authority, without which delegation our labors would have no efficacy.

A further reason for the necessity of the priesthood is found in another Article of Faith, number nine, which states: "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."

We know that God reveals his mind and will to his servants the prophets, and it is necessary for the Lord to have a priesthood representative through whom he can make known his mind and will and who can in turn serve as his mouthpiece to the members of the Church. Thus, it is necessary to have the priesthood in order to interpret and carry out the purposes of God.

Our fourth question asks: Who holds the priesthood? We reply that any male who qualified and is ordained may hold the priesthood and officiate in the office which he holds. However, there seems to be a tendency in the Church today to think that when a boy reaches the age of 12 he automatically is to be given the Aaronic Priesthood and be ordained a deacon, and that he should move forward according to his age in each of the offices in the priesthood, and then again when he is 18 years of age that he should be ordained an elder automatically.

This is contrary to the teachings of the Church and to the order of the priesthood. Any man, young or old, in order to receive or be advanced in the priesthood should live according to the covenants he makes when he enters the waters of baptism and should be worthy in every way.

The priesthood is one of the greatest gifts and blessings a man can receive. Every parent, every teacher, every bishop, and every stake president should teach the applicant what the priesthood is, and the presiding authority should then satisfy himself by searching interview before the ordination that the young man is worthy in every way and that he appreciates what the priesthood means to him and what his obligations are. He must also be approved by the body of the priesthood.

Surely when God authorizes any man to speak or act in his name, whether he be a deacon, teacher, priest, elder, seventy, or high priest, he expects that man to be a worthy representative.

Imagine a young man 18 years of age being given the authority to teach and baptize and ordain other young men as deacons, teachers, priests, and elders, with the same efficacy as those holding higher positions in the Church. Imagine what a great responsibility, privilege, and honor comes to him. Again we cannot overemphasize the importance of being worthy of this great blessing and of being an example to the world.

Questions five and six deal with the responsibilities and blessings of the priesthood. One who holds the priesthood is to accept any office to which he may be called, or any assignment given by his presiding officer, to magnify his priesthood and to serve his fellowmen. Remember that the Lord said:

"For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining of these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies."

And he follows with this great promise: "...therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him." (D&C 84:33, 38.) All is conditioned upon the magnifying of the priesthood.

We should all read, study, and understand the 84th and 107th sections of the Doctrine and Covenants, which deal with the priesthood.

I shall never forget the importancy my father placed on the responsibilities of one holding the priesthood. Though we lived on a farm and were fully occupied, he emphasized that my priesthood duties came first. I was raised with the slogan and the belief that "if you seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things for your good will be added unto you," which my experience and observation have proven to be right. My father also gave me opportunity in our home to function in my priesthood office and calling in blessing the sick, or other appropriate service.

One never knows what influence he may have on those with whom he is associated or how he will affect their lives. As priesthood holders, we must set an example of uprightness; be honest in all our dealings; avoid vulgarity and profanity; demonstrate to our neighbors and all whom we meet that we live clean, honorable lives. Keep the commandments.

We should strive for peace and harmony in our homes and let this influence spread throughout the world. It is the responsibility of priesthood holders to maintain the standards of the Church fully and at all times encourage others to do the same. We must love our neighbors as ourselves and extend a helping hand to those in need.

The priesthood is for the blessing of all - men, women, and children. Through the priesthood we receive and administer the ordinances of the gospel, which include baptism, confirmation, the sacrament, all temple ordinances, including sealings for time and all eternity, and work for the dead: By the power of the priesthood the sick are healed, the lame made to walk, the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, according to their faith and the will of our Father in heaven. Blessings of the priesthood comfort those who mourn, and give aid to the stricken.

Indeed, if we were to understand the full force of what all this means, probably we would feel as Oliver Cowdery expressed himself in describing the appearance of John the Baptist to restore the Aaronic Priesthood and thus commence the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth:

"On a sudden, as from the midst of eternity, the voice of the Redeemer spake peace to us, while the veil was parted and the angel of God came clothed with glory and delivered the anxiously looked for message, and the keys of the Gospel of repentance. What joy! what wonder! what amazement! While the world was racked and distracted - while millions were groping as the blind for the wall, and while all men were resting upon uncertainty, as a general mass, our eyes beheld - our ears heard. As in the 'blaze of day;' yes, more - above the glitter of the May sunbeam, which then shed

its brilliancy over the face of nature! Then his voice, though mild, pierced to the center, and his words, 'I am thy fellow servant.' dispelled every fear. We listened, we gazed, we admired! 'Twas the voice of an angel from glory - 'twas a message from the Most High, and as we heard we rejoiced, while His love enkindled upon our souls, and we were rays in the vision of the Almighty! Where was room for doubt? Nowhere; uncertainty had fled. doubt had sunk, no more to rise, while fiction and deception had fled forever!" (Documentary History of the Church, vol. 1, p. 43.)

In a discussion of the priesthood, President J. Reuben Clark made this observation: If civil government of any of our communities were to be suddenly wiped out, the Church organization could govern the community if it were given the necessary civil sanction. He stated that the teachers, who are to keep the Church in order, could act as a police force. Bishops would be authorized to hold courts; high councils and presidents of stakes would hold other courts, both appellate and original jurisdiction, with an appeal to the presidency of the Church from a decision. Then he says that the authority resides in the President of the Church to make all necessary rules and regulations for the government of the people.

It is clear that the organization of the priesthood is complete and perfect and is available and ready as and when the Lord comes to rule upon the earth.

An outstanding example of the perfect organization and power of the priesthood is the one explained by President Harold B. Lee regarding his experience when he was called in 1935 to organize the Church welfare program to turn the tide from government relief and put the Church in a position where it could care for its own needy people. He said that as he prayed fervently to the Lord for guidance as to the kind of organization that should be set up, he received the clear answer: "There is no new organization necessary to take care of the needs of this people. All that is necessary is to put the priesthood of God to work. There is nothing else you need as a substitute." This was done, and the welfare program has gone forward and is a monument to the power of the priesthood and is a model for the world.

Let us today each pledge our loyalty and devotion to the priesthood of God and follow the leader who is the mouthpiece of the Lord here upon the earth. As we do so we will not only contribute to the peace and happiness of ourselves and our families, but through service to our fellowmen we will be serving the Lord and preparing ourselves to dwell in his house forever.

When you don't understand the Lord, trust him.

My life is my message.

--Mahandus Gandhi

Walk with kings and lose not the common touch.

Today is your Savior and is often crucified between two thieves, yesterday and tomorrow.

VI-56

"THE LORD JESUS CHRIST APPEARED"

BY LEROY C. SNOW

For some time President Woodruff's health had been failing. Nearly every evening President Lorenzo Snow visited him at his home. This particular evening the doctors said that President Woodruff could not live much longer, that he was becoming weaker every day. President Snow was greatly worried.

My father went to his room in the Salt Lake Temple, dressed in his robes of the Priesthood, knelt at the sacred altar in the Holy of Holies in the House of the Lord, and there pleaded with the Lord to spare President Woodruff's life, that President Woodruff might outlive him, and that the great responsibility of Church leadership would not fall upon his shoulders. Yet he promised the Lord that he would devotedly perform any duty required at his hands. At this time he was in his eighty-sixty year.

Soon after this President Woodruff was taken to California, where he died Friday morning at 6:40 o'clock, September 2, 1898. President George Q. Cannon at once wired the information to the President's office in Salt Lake City. The telegram was delivered to him on the street in Brigham. He read it to President Rudger Clawson, then president of the Box Elder Stake, who was with him, went to the telegraph office, and replied that he would leave on the train about 5:30 that evening. He reached Salt Lake City about 7:15, proceeded to the President's office, gave some instructions, and then went to his private room in the Salt Lake Temple.

President Snow put on his holy temple robes, retired again to the same sacred altar, offered up the signs of the Priesthood, and poured out his heart to the Lord. He reminded the Lord how he had pleaded for President Woodruff's life to be spared, that President Woodruff's days would be lengthened beyond his own, that he might never be called upon to bear the heavy burdens and responsibilities of the Church. "Nevertheless," he said, "Thy will be done. I have not sought this responsibility, but if it be Thy will, I now present myself before Thee for Thy guidance and instruction. I ask that Thou show me what Thou wouldst have me do."

After finishing his prayer he expected a reply, some special manifestation from the Lord. So he waited-and waited-and waited. There was no reply, no voice, no visitation, no manifestation. He left the altar and the room in great disappointment. Passing through the Celestial room and out into the large corridor, a glorious manifestation was given President Snow which I relate in the words of his granddaughter, Allie Young Pond:

One evening while I was visiting Grandpa Snow in his room in the Salt Lake Temple, I remained until the door keepers had gone and the night-watchmen had not yet come in, so grandpa said he would take me to the main front entrance and let me out that way. He got his bunch of keys from his dresser. After we left his room, and while we were still in the large corridor leading into the celestial room, I was walking several steps ahead of grandpa when he stopped and said: "Wait a moment, Allie, I want to tell you something. It was right here that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me at the time of the death of President Woodruff. He instructed me to go right ahead and reorganize the First Presidency of the Church at once and not wait as had been done after the death of the previous presidents, and that I was to succeed President Woodruff."

Then grandpa came a step nearer and held out his left hand and said;
"He stood right here, about three feet above the floor. It looked as
though he stood on a plate of solid gold."

Grandpa told me what a glorious personage the Savior is and described
his hands, feet, countenance and beautiful white robes, all of which were
of such a glory of whiteness and brightness that he could hardly gaze upon
him.

Then he came another step nearer and put his right hand on my head and
said: "Now granddaughter, I want you to remember that this is the testimony
of your grandfather, that he told you with his own lips that he actually
saw the Savior, here in the temple, and talked with him face to face."

What you are is God's gift to you, and what you become is your gift to God.

Act well thy part, there all the honor lies.

What we don't use we lose.

Every man is my superior in that I can learn from him.

The Lord can't get water out of an empty well.

Thy mind oh man to lead a soul to salvation must stretch as high as the
heavens.

Time heals all things.

Life is best when your chin is up and your knees are down.

When it comes to doing something some people will stop at nothing.

To think comes from the mind, to feel comes from the heart, judge from the
mind after consulting with the heart.

Work expands to fill the time allotted.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT WORKSHEET

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PRINCIPLES:

"I teach them correct principles and they govern themselves." (Joseph Smith)

1. Problems Have Multiple Causes

When there are difficulties or failure to achieve, it is never just one person, one event, or one situation that is the cause.

2. Solutions Come From Participation

The more widely the problem solving is shared with all those involved, the more effective the outcome will be.

3. Specific Steps Lead To Progress

Progress is best achieved by deciding on small, specific steps to be completed at a specific time.

4. Improvement Implies Change

Two or more people, events, or situations will change when improvement occurs.

STEPS TO PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

STEP	PROCEDURE/ACTION
1. Specify Goals	
2. Identify Problem	
3. Locate Causes	
4. Formulate Action	
5. Act	
6. Evaluate Action	

THE MAGIC WORK: ATTITUDE

William James said that the greatest discovery of his generation was that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.

ATTITUDE IS ALL A MATTER OF ATTITUDE:

1. The success we achieve in life will depend largely on how well we relate to others.
2. Act toward the world - everything and everyone, with an attitude calculated to produce the results you want.
3. When you want something worthwhile, take the attitude that there are a lot more reasons why you can have it than why you can't. Set out to earn it, and nine times out of ten, you'll get it!
4. It would be impossible to even estimate the number of jobs which have been lost, promotions or good grades missed, sales not made, marriages ruined by poor attitudes. But you can number in the millions the jobs which are held though hated, the marriages which are tolerated but unhappy, the parents and children who fail to understand one another - all because of people who are waiting for the world and others to change toward them, before they'll change.

FOUR TRUTHS OF ATTITUDE:

1. It's our attitude at the beginning of a task that will more than anything else bring about its successful outcome.
2. Our attitude towards others determines their attitude toward us.
3. Before you can achieve the kind of life you want, you must think, act, talk, and conduct yourself in all of your affairs as would the person you wish to become; attitude is not the result of success; success is the result of good attitudes.
4. The deepest craving of human beings is self esteem, to be needed, to feel important, to be appreciated. When you treat every person you meet as the most important person in the world, both of you will benefit.

REMEMBER:

- Make your thoughts constructive and positive.
- Look for the best in people and in ideas.
- Look for new ideas you can put to use in your life.
- Don't waste time talking about your problems.
- Radiate the attitude of well-being and confidence.

ACTION APPLICATIONS

Read the statements below and write the appropriate responses. Setting your action plans down in writing will strengthen your commitments to yourself.

1. Plan now to review this message as many times as you conveniently can each day for the next seven days. Decide now the best time for your first review each day: _____ (AM) (PM).
2. Start each day holding positive thoughts about your goals. Write those goals briefly below:

Personal Goals: _____

Study Goals: _____

Area Goals: _____

3. List three people whom you will treat as you'd like to be treated...as the MOST IMPORTANT PERSON ON EARTH. This will be a start toward treating every one that way. Add three new people a week.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Plan three attitude improvement goals for this week. Plan three new ones each week. This week I will develop a more positive attitude toward the following:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5. This week I will act the role of a more successful person. My success model is the following person, or type of person.

LOST ON THE MOON

THE NASA GAME

THE TEST

Your spaceship has just crash-landed on the moon. You were scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship 200 miles away on the lighted surface of the moon, but the rough landing has ruined your ship and destroyed all the equipment on board, except for the 15 items listed below.

Your crew's survival depends on reaching the mother ship, so you must choose the most critical items available for the 200 mile trip. Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for survival. Place number one by the most important item, number two by the second most important, and so on through number 15, the least important.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ Box of matches | ___ Stellar map (of the moon's constellation) |
| ___ Food concentrate | ___ Self-inflating life raft |
| ___ Fifty feet of nylon rope | ___ Magnetic compass |
| ___ Parachute silk | ___ Five gallons of water |
| ___ Solar-powered portable heating unit | ___ Signal flares |
| ___ Two 45-caliber pistols | ___ First-aid kit containing injection needles |
| ___ One case of dehydrated milk | ___ Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter |
| ___ Two 100-pound tanks of oxygen | |

You and four to seven other persons, should take this test individually, without knowing each other's answers; then take the test as a group. Share your individual solutions and reach a consensus of the ranking for each of the 15 items that best satisfies all group members. You should read the group-decision instructions before taking the test as a group.

NASA experts have determined the best solution to this task. Their answers and reasoning will be given separately.

GROUP DECISION INSTRUCTIONS

Consensus is a decision process for making full use of available resources and for resolving conflicts creatively. Consensus is difficult to reach, so not every ranking will meet with everyone's complete approval. Complete unanimity is not the goal--it is rarely achieved. But each individual should be able to accept the group rankings on the basis of logic and feasibility. When all group members feel this way, you have reached consensus as defined here, and the judgment may be entered as a group decision. This means, in effect, that a single person can block the group if he thinks it necessary; at the same time, he should use this option in the best sense of reciprocity. Here are some guidelines to use in achieving consensus:

1. Avoid arguing for your own rankings. Present your position as lucidly and logically as possible, but listen to the other members' reactions and consider them carefully before you press your point.
2. Do not assume that someone must win and someone must lose,--when discussion reaches a stalemate. Instead, look for the next-most-acceptable alternative for all parties.
3. Do not change your mind simply to avoid conflict and to reach agreement and harmony. When agreement seems to come too quickly and easily, be suspicious. Explore the reasons and be sure everyone accepts the solution for basically similar or complimentary reasons. Yield only to positions that have objective and logically solid foundations.
4. Avoid conflict-reducing techniques such as majority vote, averages, coin-flips and bargaining. When a dissenting member finally agrees, don't feel that he must be rewarded by having his own way on some latter point.
5. Differences of opinion are natural and expected. Seek them out and try to involve everyone in the decision process. Disagreements can help the group's decision because of the wide range of information and opinions, there is a greater chance that the group will hit upon more adequate solutions.

* * *

No one has lived a well-spent day who at night tosses his head on a sleepless pillow because of a stricken conscience. Daniel Webster once said that the greatest thought that had ever occupied his mind was the realization of the fact that, and I quote, "there is no evil we cannot face or flee from but the consequence of duty disregarded. A sense of obligation pursues us ever. It is omnipresent like the Diety. If we take to ourselves the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, duty performed, or duty violated is still with us, for our happiness or our misery. If we say that night shall cover us, in the darkness as in the light, our obligations are yet with us. We cannot escape their power nor fly from their presence. They are with us in this life, will be with us at its close, and in that scene of inconceivable solemnity which lies yet farther on, we shall find ourselves followed by the consciousness of duty---to pain us forever if it has been violated, and to console us so far as God has given us grace to perform it. Weighed against conscience the world itself is but a bubble. For God himself is in conscience lending it authority."

David O. McKay
Conference Talk
April 4, 1958

LOST ON THE MOON --- Answers to the Test

Items	NASA's Ranks	Your Ranks	Error Points	Group Ranks	Error Points
Box of matches					
Food concentrate					
Fifty feet of nylon rope					
Parachute silk					
Solar-powered portable heating unit					
Two .45 caliber pistols					
One case of dehydrated milk					
Two 100-pound tanks of oxygen					
Stellar map (of the moon's constellation)					
Self-inflating life raft					
Magnetic compass					
Five gallons of water					
Signal flares					
First-aid kit containing injection needles					
Solar-powered FM receiver transmitter					

TOTALS

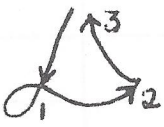

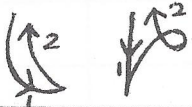
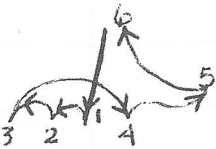

0 - 25	Excellent	46 - 55	Fair
26 - 32	Good	56 - 70	Poor
33 - 45	Average	71 - 112	Very Poor

CONDUCTING CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Keep in mind:

1. Time signature [$\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, etc.] tells how many beats per measure (between bars).
2. Tempo [= 45] tells how many beats per minute
3. Upbeat or downbeat Always a down beat immediately after the bar.

Some hymns for practice:

Time Signature	Directing Pattern	Hymn No. <u>Downbeat</u>	Hymn No. <u>Upbeat</u>
$\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{3}{2}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{9}{8}$		115 My Country Tis... 88 Jesus Once Of 27 Do What Is Right	79 I Need Thee Every Hour 179 The Day Dawn Is Breaking 139 Oh, My Father
$\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, $\frac{4}{2}$, $\frac{12}{8}$ or C		110 Choose the Right 31 Ere You Left	66 How Firm A Foundation 213 The Spirit of God
$\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{2}{2}$, or ϕ		89 Joy to the World 171 Now to Heaven	73 Improve the Shining 344 Ye Elders of Israel
$\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{6}{4}$		106 Master the Tempest (ignore fermata) 117 Nearer Dear Savior 26 Dear to the Heart (ignore fermata)	175 Who's on the Lord's 224 An Angel From On
		(Usually use $\frac{2}{4}$ pattern or $\frac{3}{4}$ twice per measure)	
<u>Special Situations</u>			
Fermata (Birdseye  hold)		47 God Be With You 169 There Is Beauty	95 I Know That My 3 A Mighty Fortress
<u>Change in Time:</u> $\frac{4}{4} \rightarrow \frac{3}{4} \rightarrow \frac{4}{4}$		13 Come, Come Ye Saints	
Downbeat/Upbeat Combination		42 Firm As The Mountains	

MY SPIRITUAL I.Q.

		Not Yet	I'll do it Someday	I'll do it Now	I am Trying	I am doing fine
1. FAITH (James 2:26)	I am actively putting into practice the teachings of the prophets of the Church such as home teaching and family home evenings, etc.	—	—	—	—	—
2. VIRTUE D&C 121:45)	I am striving continually to control any undesirable thoughts that would have produced unrighteous action.	—	—	—	—	—
3. KNOWLEDGE (D&C 88:118)	During this past week, I have read out of the Standard Works to my family.	—	—	—	—	—
4. TEMPERANCE (D&C 49:16-20)	I am able to control my eating habits and exercise restraint in things not fit for my body.	—	—	—	—	—
5. PATIENCE (Matt. 5:38:42)	When provoked in a family situation, I am able to forbear against retaliating by words or actions.	—	—	—	—	—
6. GODLINESS (D&C 84:20)	In the exercise of my Priesthood, I worthily partake of the ordinances, and worthily use this privilege.	—	—	—	—	—
7. BROTHERLY KINDNESS (D&C 38:24)	I treat the members of my family as I myself desire to be treated.	—	—	—	—	—
8. CHARITY (Moroni 7:47)	Love for Jesus Christ prevails in our home through our prayers and manner of speaking to one another.	—	—	—	—	—

1 39 15 28 16 54
53 5 26 40
51 41 27 6
27 3 52
13 17 14 50
29 2 38 4 30
37 49 18 42
25 58
23 7 31 22 46 36
19 55 12
35 57 44 8 34
47 43 24 58
45 20 56
11 33 9 59 48 10 32 60
21 56

EXPERIENCING POSITIVE FEELINGS

The frozen snow of winters
Drenched in the warm sun turns gold,
And melts into reviving spring.

1. Are you more committed; do you work harder; are you more giving--if you are appreciated rather than criticized?
2. When do you learn better--when your strengths are stressed or when your weaknesses are stressed?
3. Do you find that other people frequently emphasize weaknesses, faults, and inadequacies while taking the good for granted?
4. Do you frequently overlook the good points of your friends and associates?
5. Are you sometimes afraid that if you expressed your positive feelings about a person, your expressions would be misinterpreted?
6. Do you enjoy being complimented or do you feel uneasy about being complimented?
7. Have you ever wondered if a compliment was sincere and genuine?
8. Would you like to be more direct, more open in expressing your positive feelings?

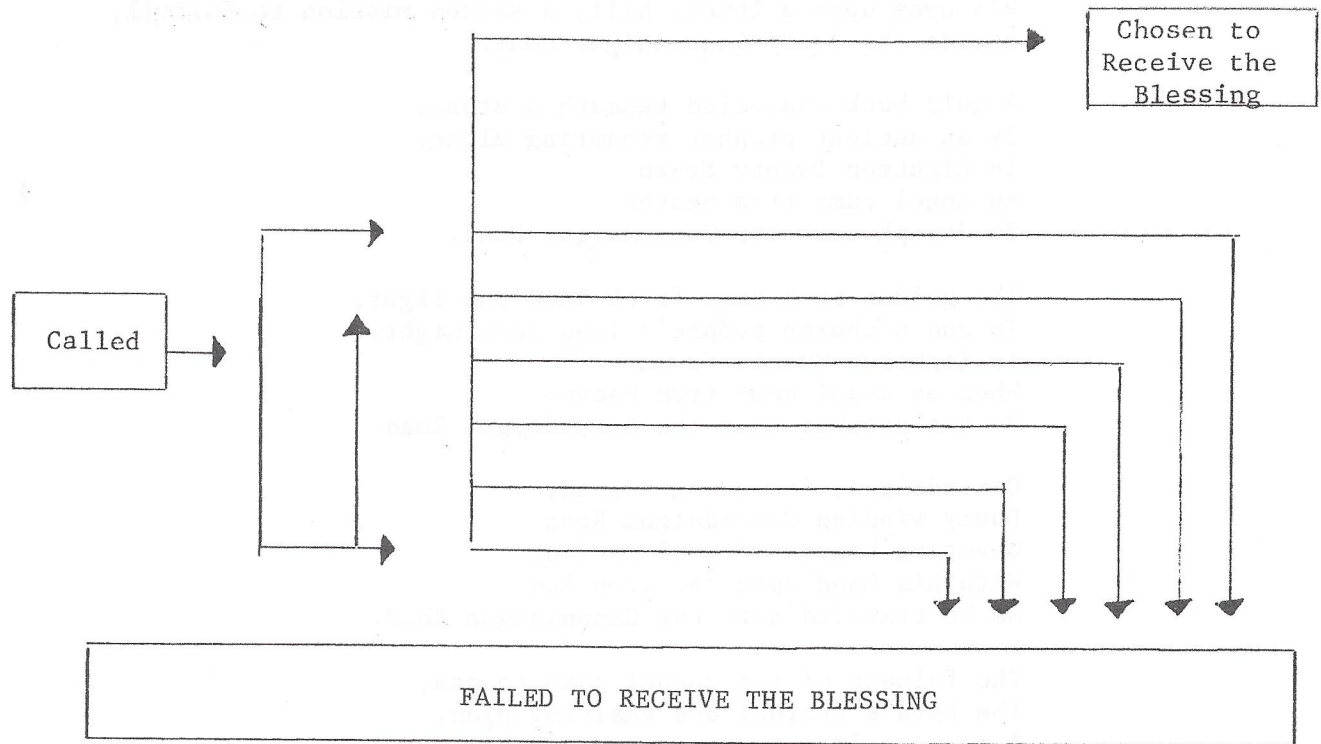
Prior to his marriage, Elder Marion D. Hanks served for several years as a guide on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. On one occasion, as he was completing a tour, a man lingered behind after the other members of the tour group had dispersed to ask a few questions. Pressed for time and having to excuse himself for another appointment, Brother Hanks handed the man a copy of the Book of Mormon and said, "Here! read this! And you'll never be the same."

Two years later Brother Hanks was standing in a reception line at his own wedding reception in Hawaii. He spent most of the evening greeting people who were total strangers to him (his wife's friends). Thus he was thrilled when someone came through the line who recognized him. The person said, "Brother Hanks, how are you? I guess you don't remember me, but I sure remember you. A couple of years ago on Temple Square you handed me a copy of the Book of Mormon and said, 'Here! read this! And you'll never be the same.' Well, two weeks ago I was ordained an elder and today, as you went through the temple to be sealed to your bride, I went through for my own endowments." (Book of Mormon Outline for LDS Seminaries, [1963].)

FIVE-MINUTE TIME TEST

1. Read everything before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of this paper.
3. Circle the word name in sentence two.
4. Draw five small squares in the upper left-hand corner of this paper.
5. Put an "X" in each square.
6. Put a circle around each square.
7. Sign your name under the title of this paper.
8. After this title write _____ yes, yes, yes, yes.
9. Put a circle around sentence seven.
10. Put an "X" in the lower left-hand corner of this paper.
11. Draw a triangle around the "X" you just made.
12. On the back of this paper, multiply 702 by 9.
13. Loudly call out your first name when you get to this point.
14. Draw a rectangle around the word paper in sentence seven.
15. If you think you have followed directions carefully to this point in the test, call out loudly, "I have."
16. On the reverse side of this paper, add 395 and 27.
17. Put a circle around your answer, then put a square around the circle.
18. Count out in a normal speaking voice from one to ten backwards.
19. Punch three small holes in the top of this paper with your pencil point.
20. If you are the first person to get this far, call out loudly, "I am the first person to get this far, and I am the leader in following directions."
21. Underline all the even numbers on this side of the paper.
22. Say out loudly, "I am nearly finished and I have followed directions."
23. Now that you have finished reading carefully, do only sentences one and two. Go back and pretend that you are still working on the test so that you will not give away the clue of this test to anyone.

"... MANY ARE CALLED,
BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN."



The rights of the Priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven. The powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

CANANDAIGUA ROAD

Down the dusty Canandaigua Road,
Young Joseph Smith, the prophet quickly rode,
His eyes upon a lonely hill, a sacred mission to fulfill,
Beside the dusty Canandaigua Road.

A gold book concealed beneath a stone,
By an ancient prophet wandering along,
In Eighteen Twenty Seven
An angel came from heaven
To Joseph near the Canandaigua Road.

The golden book came forth into the light,
To end a chosen people's long dark night.
In Eighteen Twenty Seven
When an angel came from heaven
To the prophet near the Canandaigua Road.

Canandaigua, Canandaigua Road,
Dusty winding Canandaigua Road.
Devoting heart and soul to God,
With his hand upon the Iron Rod
As he traveled down the Canandaigua Road.

The fulness of the gospel came to man,
The Lord's eternal and exalting plan,
A message from the living God.,
Came forth from old New England sod
Beside the winding Canandaigua Road.

The road led Joseph on to Carthage town,
Where a mob with blazing rifles shot him down,
He died a martyr brave and true,
His work is left for me and you
As we walk along our Canandaigua Road.

Like Joseph, walk you Canandaigua Road.
Like Joseph, with courage bear your load.
Devote your heart and soul to God,
With your hand upon the Iron Rod,
As you walk along your Canandaigua Road.

Canandaigua, Canandaigua Road,
Dusty winding Canandaigua Road.
Devote your heart and soul to God
With your hand upon the Iron Rod
As you walk along your Canandaigua Road.

(Repeat last five lines and fade)

STICK-PULLING

NEWLY REVIVED GAME OF THE 1840's

Games of the 1830's and 1840's were primarily individual contests of skill, physical strength, and endurance. Daylight hours were needed to outsmart the elements and wrestle the wilderness. This left little time for team practice and scheduled games as we know them today. Yet men and boys have always loved to compete, especially when opportunities arise to display their speed or strength to the fairer sex. Things were no different in Joseph Smith's day. Races were popular, as were jumping contests, and the best wrestler was the one who could throw his opponent to the ground. Stick-pulling, a contest of sheer strength and endurance, was also a very popular sport.

In the summer of 1843, the champion stick-puller of Hancock County, Illinois, was Joseph Smith, Jr., our latter-day Prophet. On June 30 of that year, Joseph met with several thousand citizens of Nauvoo at a large outdoor gathering to tell them of his recent escape from those who were trying to return him to Missouri to face false charges. During his opening remarks, the Prophet described how he passed the time while held captive. He was feeling elated. He had beaten his enemies both legally and physically. He said, "I meet you with a heart full of gratitude to Almighty God...I am well--I am hearty. I hardly know how to express my feelings. I feel as strong as a giant. I pulled sticks with the men coming along, and I pulled up with one hand the strongest man that could be found. Then two men tried, but they could not pull me up..." (Documentary History of the Church, vol. 5 p. 446) Joseph Smith, a little over six feet tall and weighing about 200 pounds, was thirty-eight years old at the time.

A few frontier games can be found represented in popular sports of today, such as track events and wrestling. It appeared, though, that stick-pulling had faded with the prairie grass, faded, that is, until recently.

A revival of stick-pulling started in the St. Louis Second Ward, St. Louis Stake, when a member of the bishopric who was also a Church history buff began to bring sticks to the ward picnics and socials to keep the younger children entertained. The "children" turned out to be most of the male members of the ward. The game caught on, and before long, groups in many wards throughout the Midwest were pulling sticks.

Subsequently, the Joseph Smith Jr., International Stick-Pulling Championship Coordinating Committee came into being, and on April 24, 1971, as part of the St. Louis Stake YMMIA sports program, the first World Championship Stick-Pulling Contest was held.

During an interview on stick-pulling with a leading TV sports announcer of St. Louis, the interviewer and his associates became so interested in the challenge of the sport that before the demonstration was over, the entire broadcast staff was on the floor--pulling sticks. Even some of the St. Louis Stake high councilors gave it a try (after the meeting, of course, and with the door closed.)

Modern stick-pullers are divided into two divisions, one for the juniors and one for the seniors. Juniors must be under twenty years of age on July 4 of the year in which they are competing. Seniors are all those over twenty years of age. Second, each division is divided into classes according to weight as follows:

Vermont	to 100 pounds
Palmyra	101 to 125 pounds
Kirtland	126 to 150 pounds
Independence	151 to 175 pounds
Far West	176 to 200 pounds
Nauvoo	201 to 225 pounds
Carthage	226 pounds and over

The weight class is determined by a weigh-in just prior to the start of the contest. A contestant must wear minimal clothing consisting of pants, shirt and shoes. His dressed weight determines the class in which he pulls. The flip of a coin determines who will have first choice of hand grips (inside or outside). The loser has the choice on all subsequent pulls.

After your division and class have been established, you might ask, "Exactly how does one pull sticks?" The answer, of course, is, just as Joseph Smith did it in Nauvoo. Contestants sit on the ground facing one another with their feet braced sole to sole. The Far West, Nauvoo, and Carthage divisions grasp a round stick, a 1 1/4 inch hardwood dowel, between them, parallel to the ground and lengthwise over their braced feet. The Vermont, Palmyra, Kirtland, and Independence divisions must use 1 1/8 inch stick. On a given signal they begin to pull against each other until one is lifted off the ground enough to see daylight beneath him. It's that easy, or at least it looks that easy. The best out of three pulls determines the winner of the contest and a simple elimination contest determines the champion in each class within the division.

By the way, stick-pulling is an isometric exercise. You can pull with a lot of muscle and effort ye go nowhere. So contestants in St. Louis struggled for nearly thirty seconds with both participants expanding all their energy and neither one moving an inch. Stick-pulling is a strain, so concentration and prime physical condition are essential. The order in which muscles are used is also important. When starting to pull, keep the legs flexible, testing the opponent's strength by pushing with the legs while keeping enough tension on the stick to hold it in the starting position. Then, as the legs reach maximum effort, start pulling with the back and, finally, the arms. All this must be one smooth, coordinated effort. Sustain it just long enough for your opponent to weaken. Then watch him come up.

For further detailed rules and information, you are invited to write to R. Don Oscarson, Chairman, Joseph Smith, Jr. International Stick-Pulling Championship Coordinating Committee, 1645 Jodphur Drive, Florissant, Missouri 63033.

Whether or not you ever decide to hold a contest, you and your friends will surely enjoy this warmhearted, competitive game even as the Prophet Joseph Smith did.

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

JOSEPH SMITH JR. INTERNATIONAL STICK-PULLING CONTEST

Anyone may enter as a participant, in any contest, by registering in person at the weigh-in prior to the contest.

DIVISIONS

Participants are divided into two Divisions--Jr. and Sr. Age on July 4 of year of contest determines Division.

- a. Jr. Division - all those 12 to 20 years.
- b. Sr. Division - all those 21 and older.

CLASSES

Each Division is divided, by weight, into seven classes.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| a. Vermonst Class | to 100 lbs. |
| b. Palmyra Class | 101 to 125 lbs. |
| c. Kirtland Class | 125 to 150 lbs. |
| d. Independence Class | 151 to 175 lbs. |
| e. Far West Class | 176 to 200 lbs. |
| f. Nauvoo Class | 201 to 225 lbs. |
| g. Carthage Class | 226 and over |

WEIGH-IN

Weight will be determined at time of contest by weighing-in each contestant in a minimum of clothing consisting of shirt, pants, (no baggy ones) and shoes or boots. The total clothed weight will determine in which class he competes.

STICKS

Any sound 1 1/4 inch hardwood dowel, approximately 24 inches long may be used. Official sticks may be ordered as indicated.

PAIRING

Participants in each Division and each Class are paired in the first round in the order in which they weigh-in. Winners then pull against winners until a single champion is determined for each Class.

GRIP

Only bare hands are to be used. The flip of a coin determines who gets the first choice of grip (inside or outside). On the second pull the loser, of the first, gets the choice. The loser of the second pull gets the choice on the third pull. Resin may be used.

PULLING PROCEDURE

Two participants sit on the ground facing each other. The soles of their shoes are braced against each other. With arms extended, a stick is gripped between them so the stick is parallel to the ground and over the soles of the shoes. On a "one-two-three" signal from the Chief Judge, the participants begin slowly and evenly pulling against each other.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to pull the opponent forward, off the ground, just high enough for the Assistant Judge to see light beneath him. The best two out of three pulls determines the winner.

- a. If one participant looses his grip, it is counted as a loss.
- b. A jerk pull counts as a loss.
- c. If the stick breaks, it is a draw and the pull is repeated.
- d. On a fall sideways, the first to hit the ground loses.
- e. A foot slip is a loss.

JUDGES

Three Judges are required. The Chief Judge officiates in the Weigh-In, Pairing, and the Grip choice. He also signals beginning of each Pull, watches for grip loss, jerking, etc. He declares the winner. Each of the two Assistant Judges watch for light beneath each participant.

* * * * *

EVER GET DEPRESSED? Most of us do at one time or another. President Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve tells us the Lord has provided at least 12 ways to lift our spirits:

1. Avoid sin which creates disharmony with God and is depressing to the spirit.
2. Pray to receive comfort and council.
3. Serve others.
4. Work.
5. Stay as healthy as you can--observe the Word of Wisdom.
6. Read scriptures.
7. Receive and ponder your Patriarchal Blessing.
8. Fast.
9. Get blessing of the priesthood.
10. Fellowship with true friends.
11. Listen to inspiring music.
12. Set up and press forward to accomplish worthy goals.

Church News October 12, 1974

THE MASTER AS A TEACHER

If any teacher would grow in skill to interpret, to teach, to apply the principles of the gospel, he must follow in the footsteps of the Master. To know His methods thoroughly is to understand clearly the fundamental principles of soundly progressive educations...

Much of the success of the Savior as a teacher was due to His divine personality. As the Son of God, He possessed the attributes of divinity, which gave His words an inherent impressiveness and made men listen to them with respect. He taught "as one that had had authority and not as the Scribes."

But this was not all. Even Divinity itself observes fundamental laws. The teaching of the Savior is no exception to the rule. It exemplifies the basic principles on which all teaching must be founded to be successful.

In studying the elements that made the work of the Master so remarkably effective, these ten fundamentals stand out clearly:

QUALITIES POSSESSED BY THE MASTER

1. He had true love for God and God's children. 1.

2. He had a burning belief in His mission to serve and to save mankind. 2.

3. He had a clear and sympathetic understanding of human beings and their vital needs. 3.

4. He was a constant, earnest student. He knew the "Law and the Prophets." He knew history and the social conditions of His times. 4.

5. He could discern truth. He was uncompromising in upholding it. 5.

6. His mastery of language enabled Him to reach and hold hearers of every class and condition. 6.

7. His creative skill in portraying lessons made them live for all time. 7.

8. He led people to "hunger and thirst after righteousness." 8.

9. His teachings inspire an active goodness--a desire to apply the gospel in uplifting service. 9.

10. He demonstrated His faith by living it consistently and courageously. 10.

QUALITIES WHICH I SHOULD POSSESS AS A TEACHER

