

Dedicatory remarks and Dedication of the Bountiful Fourth Ward L. D. S. Chapel  
[102 E 1400 S], March 2, 1952, given by Bishop LeGrand Richards.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters, I think this is all wonderful except my being here. The only thing wonderful about that is the fact that I am not substituting for somebody else. I should so much rather come when invited than being sent in place of someone else. After listening to what has been said by these other speakers, I realize that I must be more careful what I say at the Presiding Bishopric's Office. The brethren have talked of how we pressed them for money to pay their share of the building costs. The First Presidency has charged us with the responsibility of seeing that the wards stay out of debt, and sometimes we have to pressure them a little for funds; but it is remarkable how well the saints do in raising money. It used to take as such as ten years to raise money for one unit of a building, while now it takes from one to three years to raise funds for a three-unit building.

President Grant used to say, "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." I thought of this statement when President Holbrook said they would be around for contributions for the Stake Recreation Hall and Seminary. I dedicated a chapel at Shelley, Idaho, a few years ago, and as we were going in for the Dedicatory Service, a young couple came walking up, and I said, "I'll bet you are mighty proud of this, aren't you"? She was the spokesman, which is unusual, and she said, "We surely are." I asked, "Did you find it hard to pay for it?" She replied, "Only the first payment, after that it was easy."

I don't know how closely you have examined the printed program. I looked through it and said to myself, "Brother Brown must have done a lot of work on this building for he has the biggest smile of anyone whose picture appears in the book." When I was in the South, one of our missionaries who was quite a philosopher and a little slow of speech in reporting his labors said, "Well, I am enjoying my work."

Then, he hesitated for a few minutes and added, "You know, that is all I can enjoy. I can't enjoy what I don't do." So, Brother Brown must have done a lot of work, he seems so happy.

The Relief Society has been given credit for having done much. I am always glad to recognize the fine efforts of the Relief Society. I once heard it said, "If you want anything

done, give it to the busy man," but after the years of experience I have had, I paraphrased that and say, "If you want anything done, give it to the Relief Society."

After inspecting their room in this building, I don't know whether they gave more than they got in return or not. If they had had to go out and purchase a piece of ground and build their own building on it, as the Relief Society used to do, it might not have been so elegant. I am glad that the Relief Society has now joined the Church, so we can all be together.

Now, I think the building is beautiful, and I am pleased with the arrangement and happy to note that the lights in the recreation hall are recessed in the ceiling so the boys can play basketball. If some of you feel that the hall is too good for that purpose, let me come back again and talk to you about it, and when I get through, I am sure you will not think so.

This chorus of young people pleases me very much. I love the young people. I congratulate you leaders who are directing them, getting the boys and girls to sing together, and the instrumental numbers we have heard were beautiful. The M. I. A. is doing a good job with music with the young people and with their basketball games; and now we can sit and watch them on our television sets. "When we think of all of the M. I. A. activities, the Sunday School and other auxiliaries, the Priesthood Quorums for the boys, it is just marvelous to think we can belong to such a Church as this. Our young people can hardly realize what an advantage it is to them to belong to such an organization and to have the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful manner.

As I visit the stakes of the Church, holding Stake Conferences, I always have the young people speak, pray and sing, and they are wonderful. Some of the young people do much better than we older people can do, I told my boys that if they didn't ring rings all around their dad, it would only be because they are not willing to work as hard as I have done. One of my boys was transferred from the British Mission to the Southern States Mission during the war— that is where I presided over the mission. I received a letter from Brother McBride, now president of the South Carolina Stake, whom I knew very well, in which he said, "LeGrand, you will have to get your boots on or this boy of yours will be a better preacher than you are." I replied, "Wallace, I can't think of anything I would rather do than to take a back

seat to one of my boys," and I am sure you parents feel the same way toward your children. I say, "God bless all you young people, and thank you for your wonderful music."

President Holbrook has mentioned the sacrifices it took to build this building. Technically, sacrifices made in the Church, when properly understood, are really no more of a sacrifice than the farmer makes when he sows his seed in the ground. This is sometimes hard to believe because one cannot always see the results in as short a period of time as the farmer does after sowing his seed, and yet the result will be just as sure. I wonder what the Savior had in mind when he said, "We should not gather for ourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break through and steal, but we should gather unto ourselves treasures in Heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal, for said he, 'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'" How can we lay away treasures in Heaven without sacrificing our time and our talents and our means in order to do so? How long do you think eternity is? I doubt if any of us expect to live longer than 90 or 100 years. If we are not laying away treasures in Heaven, it will be a sorry day for us when we get there. You remember the story of the rich man who had everything in this world that money could buy, and when he died the guide showed him all the wonderful buildings and homes and then took him out to the outskirts of the city and showed him a little hut and told him that that was his place, The man was indignant and said, "How dare you put me in a place like that?" The guide shook his head and said, "My friend, I am sorry, but we used all the material you sent us, and this is all we could build with it". You recall also the Savior's parable of the rich man and Lazarus, how Lazarus ate the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, and then they both died, and Lazarus was received into Abraham's bosom, but the rich man went into torment; and being in torment, he called to Father Abraham and asked him to permit Lazarus to come and dip his fingers in the water and touch his parched lips for he thirsted in that torment, but when Father Abraham explained that this was not possible, that there was a gulf fixed between him and Lazarus so that neither could visit the other, the rich man's thoughts turned to his five brothers who were still upon the earth and he said, "I pray Thee then, Father Abraham, that Thou wouldst permit Lazarus to return to the earth, and warn my brothers lest they come in this torment," and Father Abraham indicated that they had Moses and the Prophets, and if they would not heed the Prophets, they would not heed even

though one were to come unto them from the dead, When we give our talents and our means for the building up of God's Kingdom, we aren't giving anything to anybody but to ourselves. When I went on my first mission, my father told me that there was no corporation or organization or institution in the world that would pay me as great dividends on the investment of my time, talents and means as the Church and Kingdom of God; and after these many years, I believe that. I believe that those of us who try to serve the Lord and keep His commandments and see our children growing up and walking in His ways and keeping His commandments are the happiest people in the world. It has been my privilege to know a great many friends who have owned and lived in elegant homes. I don't recall ever having seen tears of joy shed by them because of anything they could purchase with their money, but I have seen tears of joy shed by humble members of this Church under the influence and power of the Spirit of the Lord. Happiness cannot be purchased with money alone. I admit it helps a little, but the greatest happiness in life comes through service to the Lord\*

It was my privilege of serving as the bishop of a ward when we erected a new building in times when it was not as easy to raise money as it is at present. Our ward members were poor, and the well-to-do members had sold their homes and moved off into the new sections of the city. A High Councilman living in our ward said, "Bishop, you can never build a building here and pay for it—the people are too poor." I replied, "We will either build it or die in the attempt." We started our building the same week that one of the rich wards in Salt Lake commenced their building. When we had ours built and paid for, they were still owing \$30,000. I know because I moved into that ward at that time and helped pay the \$30,000. "Not failure but low aim is often our greatest sin." It is not always that we have tried and failed but that we haven't tried. In our case in our ward, we tried, and the people got back of us; and we succeeded.

When Moroni appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and told him of the wonderful things that were about to come forth, he quoted the words of Isaiah in which he made a statement something like this, "He shall gather scattered Israel and bring in the dispersed of Judah and set up an ensign for the nations," then Moroni informed the Prophet Joseph that he was to be the instrument in the hands of the Lord in accomplishing this. He didn't say that it was impossible, that it could not be done, although at that time, there was no Church

organization, there was no Priesthood upon the earth, but he realized that the Lord could do anything He set His hand to do. So, Joseph did not stop. Why? Because he realized that it was the work of God, the Sternal Father, and look what we have in our Church today. Since the close of the war, we have built over 700 chapels, including those now under course of construction. In my judgment, this is one of the greatest achievements of the Church of all time. In traveling through the Church as I see these beautiful new buildings, it just thrills me through and through.

I imagine your bishop could stand up here tonight and name each one of you and indicate what you have done to help erect this building, and his heart would burst with gratitude for the way you have stood back of him. I have said that of all the experiences I have had in the Church, none has probably brought me greater joy than when we were building our ward chapel. The way the members responded and stood back of us just did something to us. In the Eternal Worlds, some of the first ones I will want to see, if I am privileged to go where they are, will be some of true widows and faithful saints who helped build that building; but we had one man in our ward who was better able to give than any of us, and he never gave a cent. If I meet him there, I hope the Lord will enable me to feel well toward him.

A few nights ago, I was sitting in the hospital, and there was a man sitting there smoking, and I thought he shouldn't do it in the hospital so I decided I would get acquainted with him. I found that he lived in Southern Utah, and when he mentioned the town, I told him that I had had the privilege of dedicating a Mormon chapel there a few days before Christmas. He replied, "Oh, yes, I was there," and then in further visiting with him, I learned that he was the largest contributor toward that chapel. You cannot always tell the size of a man's heart.

In Bishop Ashton's book, he relates an experience that Henry Taggart, an F. B. I. Agent, had when he went to Nevada. He and the sheriff cornered a man in a building, and Henry said, "This is my job— I will go in and arrest him." The man was armed, but the sheriff replied, "Oh no, Henry, you have a wife and children. I have no wife and children— I'll take him." You see, here was a man willing to give his life for a cause and to save the life of a brother.

Speaking of the joy I had in building our ward chapel, I always recall one widow who came to me and said, "Bishop, I haven't received my allotment for the chapel." I said, "You are not going to receive an allotment. If you will take care of those children your husband left you with, we will build the meeting house," to which she replied, "No, Bishop, I must be able to point, to that building and tell

my children that we have done our part. Remembering the experience of Mary Yielding Smith, widow of the Patriarch Hyrum, I said, "Well, you will have to indicate then what your part is." You will remember how Sister Smith crossed the plains, her son, Joseph, between the years of eight and nine driving the ox team. Upon one occasion, one of the oxen became ill, and she anointed him with oil and prayed to the Lord to heal him so they could continue their journey, and He did. After they settled in East Mill Creek, she brought a load of produce from the farm to the old Bishops' Storehouse, and the brother in charge said, "Widow Smith, take it home—you need it more than anyone else in the world I know of." She rebuked the brother, stating that her son must know that she paid her tithing, and she lived to see him become president of the Church.

When we make a contribution to help build up the Kingdom, we never know what the result is going to be. As I travel around the Church attending conferences, I meet the children of this widow from our ward. I met one in Los Angeles recently, and I always have the kindest feeling. I always remember the mother and the contribution she made to our meeting house. I recently interviewed another daughter of this widow who, herself, was a widow, and I interviewed her for a mission.

We had an Assyrian brother living in our ward, and he gave us \$200. He lived in a frame house of one room. It had never been plastered inside or outside except with magazine pictures, When he tried to give me the \$200, I said, "Brother, I cannot take it. You take it home and spend it for your family." He looked at me with indignation and said, "Bishop, is there a law in this Church that a man cannot give what he wants to help build up the Kingdom." Well, I said, "If you put it that way, I will have to take your contribution." I think that sacrifice has paid him good dividends. I meet his children as I travel about the Church. I met one son in San Diego as fine a specimen of young manhood as you ever saw. I met another college man, a son of his, in the East recently—both doing

fine work in the Church, and as I meet these boys, I think of the \$200 the father invested in our building.

I recall the words of the ancient Prophet who said, "Cast your bread upon the water, and after many days, it shall return." So, I say to you brothers and sisters who are contributing to help build the Kingdom that you make no greater sacrifice in doing so than the farmer does when he sows his seed in the ground. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "Be ye not deceived, oh vain man, for whatsoever ye sow that shall ye also reap."

Let me tell you another story about casting your bread upon the water. My great grandfather was the first bishop in Farmington. I was born in Farmington, so I am one of you Davis County people. At one time, Jedediah Grant, father of President Heber J. Grant, was called to go on a mission, and he wanted my great grandfather's horse, but couldn't afford to purchase it. Great grandfather heard about it, and went to Brother Grant and said, "Jeddy, I want to sell you my horse." He said, "What will you take for it"? "\$100." He said, "God bless you. I will give you \$75.00 today and my brother will give you \$25.00 next week." My great grandfather met President Brigham Young and told him he had sold his horse to Jeddy. President Young said, "What did you ask him for it"? He said, "\$100," and President Young said, "God bless you Brother Robinson." There was another member in the ward who wanted to go on a mission, but he had to sell his horse first. My grandfather heard of it. He was asking \$75.00 for the horse, so grandfather went to him, and said, "I want to buy your horse." "What will you give me for him?" "\$100." The brother said, "God bless you Brother Robinson—you may have him." So, he said, "I got a \$75.00 horse for a \$200 horse, but I got three "God bless you, and God did bless me," he said. Within a few weeks, the brethren returned from the gold fields of California, and brought their horses with them, and he purchased three and paid the price asked for them, and within a few months, he could have sold them and made \$1,000 profit. What did the Prophet say? "Cast thy bread upon the water, and after many days, it shall return. When we learn to understand the real meaning of sacrifice for the building of the Kingdom, we will understand what Jesus meant when he said, "If you give even a glass of cold water to one of My servants in My mane, you shall in no wise lose your reward."

The Psalmist was permitted to see our day, and the fiftieth Psalm commences in

words like this, "The mighty God, even the Lord, has spoken and called to the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." This is the message of every Latter-day Saint missionary, and then the Psalmist continues, "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." May God bless each one of you for the sacrifices you have made to make the erection of this beautiful chapel possible. I, therefore, congratulate you all in what you have accomplished and invite you to join with me in a prayer of dedication to the Lord of this beautiful building.

#### DEDICATORY PRAYER

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Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Thou seest, Holy Father, that we are gathered here this night, according to appointment, with the good people of this, the Bountiful Fourth Ward of the South Davis Stake of Zion, to offer unto Thee, the Lord, this beautiful building, the workmanship of their hands. Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for these, Thy people, for their integrity, for their devotion unto Thee and their labors of sacrifice. Thou knowest, Heavenly Father, better than any of us, how much of an effort it has been to each one who has done his part. Thou knowest the things they have deprived themselves of in order to carry their portion of the load. Father in Heaven, sanctify unto them and unto their children and their children's children unto the latest generation, their sacrifices made in Thy name to make possible the accomplishment of this beautiful building, that they and their loved ones and neighbors might come here to worship Thee, the Lord. May the influence of Thy Holy Spirit ever be here. Thou hast indicated that where two or three are met together in Thy name, there wilt Thou be also. Wilt Thou ever be present, through Thy Holy Spirit, with all who come to this Holy House to worship Thee, the Lord. May they realize, Holy Father, that there is no place they can go with their children and grandchildren that will bring them greater eternal blessings than to come to this house to worship Thee, the Lord.

We are reminded of the counsel of the President of Thy great Church, Brigham



Young, when he said that those who neglect their Sacrament Meetings and their prayers that a spirit of darkness will come over them, and the Spirit of the Lord will withdraw Himself. May that never be the case with any of Thy children residing in this ward, but may they gather here and be fed the bread of life eternal. For Jesus hath said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God." May this people, therefore. Heavenly Father, ever have a desire to gather to this, Thy house, that they may be fed the bread of life eternal.

To this end, Holy Father, wilt Thou bless those who occupy this pulpit. May they not speak according to the wisdom and the philosophies of men, but speak as they shall be moved upon by the power of the Holy Ghost, even words of truth and righteousness, that those who listen may be strengthened and built up in their holy faith, that their teachings may bring them nearer unto Thee, the Lord, that they may indeed be fed the bread of life eternal.

Bless those who sing in this building that their voices may be rich in melody and praise unto Thee, the Lord, for Thou hast indicated that the song of the faithful is a prayer unto Thee.

Father, bless those who pray that their prayers may ascend unto Thy throne and be the means of calling down Thy blessings upon the heads of Thy children who reside in this ward, that they may be magnified of Thee, the Lord, that they may be prospered in their labors and that they may enjoy health and strength and that their youth shall be preserved from the pitfalls and the evils of the world.

Now, Father, wilt Thou bless those who teach in the classrooms that they likewise may teach eternal truths that Thou hast revealed from the Heavens in these latter-days, that they may be able to plant into the hearts of the youth of Zion a testimony of Thy great truths and thus prepare them to be emissaries of righteousness as they go into the mission fields and as they travel and associate with their fellowmen. May the inspiration they receive in this building guide and direct them in all that they do in life.

Father in Heaven, bless the youth and the older members of this ward as they gather here to rejoice together in this beautiful recreation hall. May they come with clean

hands and pure hearts, and before they begin their activities, may they call upon Thee for the sweet influence of Thy Holy Spirit to ever be present in their gatherings. May they commence with prayer and close with prayer, that Thy presence may be invited and realized to their uplifting and ennobling that Thy spirit may ever be present upon all occasions.

Now, Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this building. We thank Thee that Thou hast blessed and prospered this, Thy people, and thus made it possible for them to erect this building to Thy holy name. We thank Thee, Holy Father, for the faith that Thou hast planted in their hearts so that they have been willing to give to make the erection of this building possible. May each and everyone realize that all of this is but a contribution to the building up of Thy Kingdom in the earth and a preparing of the way for the coming of Thy son. Now, Father, protect this building from the destroying elements, from every unholy and untoward thing in every part thereof. Bless those who come and go, that the youth may have respect and reverence for this building, and help to preserve it unmarred and keep it sweet and clean and a worthy place for Thy presence and the presence of Thy Holy Spirit.

To this end, Holy Father, in the authority of the Holy Priesthood which I bear as Thy humble servant, joined with the brethren and acting under assignment from the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve of Thy Church, joined by those here present holding Thy Holy Priesthood, I dedicate this building unto Thee, the Lord, with all its appointments and furnishings. I pray, Holy Father, that Thou wilt accept of it as the gift and offering of Thy people, representing their deep love and affection for Thee, the Lord. Let Thy presence ever be here as they meet from time to time to bless them, and unto this end, Heavenly Father, we offer unto Thee, the Lord, this prayer of dedication, and thank Thee for all Thy blessings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,

Amen.

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