

Remarks at the Dedicatory Service of the Land of Indonesia

Note: The dedicatory service was conducted by Elder McConkie and the Dedication was by Elder Ezra Taft Benson.

October 26, 1969

We are all privileged to be in this small group this morning where we are going to have performed one of the very sacred, solemn ordinances and rights of the Gospel in the dedicating of the Indonesia Land to the preaching of the Gospel and the spread of truth and the rolling forth of the Lord's work. This is one of those occasions where out of small beginnings great things come. So we will be pleased this morning to beseech the Lord for his guidance and his Spirit and all of us together unite in worship and in thanksgiving. Sister Cornilious will lead us in singing the hymn, "An Angel From On High," which is on page 13 of the hymn book.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer by Brother Butler

Song

Our purpose this morning is to comply with the direction of the First Presidency, and dedicate the Indonesian Land and nations, the islands, and the people, and all things that appertain to this, to the preaching of the Gospel. And I think I might say that when we perform a dedication in the Church, what we actually do is dedicate the people and the resources of the Church. And when you dedicate a building for worship, in effect what you do is dedicate the people to the cause of righteousness so that when they say "Amen" to the dedicatory prayer, they are covenanting to use the house of worship that has been given to the Lord to further His interests and HIS program. And so for all practical purposes, when we dedicate the Indonesian Lands to the preaching of the Gospel we are both opening the door to the spread of truth in the nation involved, and we are dedicating the resources of the Church and the talents and abilities of the members of the Church to spread the Gospel in that nation. We have a commission from the Lord, that has come by latter-day revelation, a direct command, that we are to take the Gospel that was restored through the instrumentality primarily of Joseph Smith, to every nation and kindred and tongue and people. And He has decreed that the name of Joseph Smith will be known for good and evil among all people, and that in every nation and among every kindred the voice of truth and the voice of testimony will be heard before the second coming of the Son of Man. And He has also decreed that before that day comes, out of every nation will be assembled people who will come into the Church and kingdom and be inheritors of the fullness of its blessings. One of the revelations says that when the Lord comes there will be those out of every nation and kindred and tongue and people who will reign with Him on earth for a thousand years as kings and priests. And what this means is that we are not only going to preach the Gospel in all nations before the Second Coming, but we are

going to have success in all nations, and people will come out of the darkness of the past into the light of revealed latter-day truth, they will join the Church, and they will become inheritors of the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel. So, just as rapidly as the strength and ability of the Church permits, just as rapidly as we are big enough and large enough and strong enough to go into an added part of the Lord's vineyard, this is what we do. This is what is transpiring here on this occasion. We are opening the door. We are going into a new part of the Lord's vineyard to take the most important message there is in the world. There is not anything in the world as important as the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Out of it comes peace for us here and eternal reward in the mansions, the realms that are to be. Now, Brother Benson referred to a passage of scripture in the fast section of the Doctrine and Covenants which is part of one of the decrees under which we work. The Lord has said that "the voice of warning should be unto all people by the mouths of my disciples whom I have chosen in these last days." And then He issued the promise and the assurance, "And they shall go forth, and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them." Well, we will have problems to solve and difficulties will arise, but through it all the work will advance and progress and grow and increase, here and elsewhere and everywhere, until finally the knowledge of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. It is the Lord's work, and there is an eternal, unvarying, absolute principle that truth will prevail. And since we have the truth, the ultimate need of this work is to prevail and to triumph and to grow over all things. Now, Brother Benson, after we hear expressions from Brother Hardy and Brother Smith, we will dedicate the land. And in the 112th section of the Doctrine and Covenants we have the instruction given to the Counsel of the Twelve to open the door to the preaching of the Gospel in all nations. And the instruction that where they cannot be personally, they are to call agents and representatives and send them by their united voice. And so what Brother Benson will do in this dedicatory prayer, is turn the key on behalf of the Indonesian people. He will open the door and the way will then be available for the expansion and the growth of the work here. And the operation of the work will be in the hands of President G. Carlos Smith who has been given the keys of the presidency of the Southeast Asia Mission. And as the representative of the Twelve, having been sent by their united voice, he will direct the affairs of the ministry and the laborers in the building up of the kingdom here. And without any question, the Lord will bless and prosper the cause that is involved. Souls will be brought to Christ. There will be people saved in great numbers in the Celestial Kingdom of Heaven, who otherwise would not have had that inheritance had it not been for the ministry which has somewhat begun, but is now to begin anew on an expanded and enlarged basis. It is a great privilege for all of us to be here on this occasion. Now, the work is true. It is God's work. His hand is in it. The Lord is directing the destiny and affairs of his kingdom. I have a testimony of the divinity of the work and know that Jesus is the Lord and Joseph Smith is his prophet, that Joseph Smith is the revelator of the knowledge of Christ and the knowledge of salvation for this day, and further that the Church as now constituted and operated, is going forward under the Lord's direction. And I pray, as was prayed in the opening prayer, that the work will grow and prosper here as the Lord's providences indicate, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Now, Brother Brent Hardy, the president of the Southern Far East Mission, and to be the president of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Mission, effective November 1 when the division

occurs, will speak to us and will give us his views and feelings relative to the glorious work we are undertaking now.

Remarks by President W. Brent Hardy

Remarks by President G. Carlos Smith

Musical number by Sister Hardy

Remarks & Dedication by- Elder Ezra Taft Benson