

Testimony

Elder L. Tom Perry

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

I have had the opportunity of standing in front of new mission presidents in seminars for 40 years. As I have watched the progress that has happened during that period of time, two seminars stick out in my mind more than any other.

The first was one that I attended as a brand new member of the Twelve. Two very powerful leaders were leading the Missionary Department at that time—Elder Boyd K. Packer and Elder Bruce R. McConkie. I have had the privilege of being close to these two men. I sat next to Bruce for 11 years, and I have had the great privilege now of sitting next to President Packer for the last 20 years.

They pulled something off in that seminar that I will never forget. They arranged to have all of the mission presidents from all over the world come home to enliven and instill in the missionary work a special desire to serve. So the new and the old were there assembled. President Packer went home before the final session. He was troubled. “How will I bring a climax to the Spirit that we felt?” His dear wife suggested, “Maybe a Primary hymn would work.” As President Packer thought about it, he thought that would be just the answer. As we concluded the service in the Assembly Hall, down both isles came

missionaries from the MTC singing “Called to Serve.” Since then, that has become the anthem of missionaries throughout the world. That touched the congregation that day so much that not a member there had a dry eye.

Now the second is the one that has occurred here today. I don’t know why it is, but this has a special feeling. A feeling of being called to serve with power, and I think that power comes from the way the Lord has set up His kingdom here on earth in a most remarkable way.

As I have traveled around to see the various leaders of Christian faiths in the last couple of years, the one thing that has impressed me more than anything else is that they talk about the organization of our Church. And why is that? Because the keys have been bestowed on us, the keys to preside over our Father in Heaven’s kingdom. Hands have been laid on your head and keys have been given to you to preside over a mission of the Church. No one else has those keys delegated to you at this time to preside over that part of our Father in Heaven’s kingdom. It is the power to bind on earth what will be bound in the heavens. You go forth armed with that priesthood, with that power, with the keys to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

The world is ready for this message as never before. We are recognized by peoples all over the world to be a powerful organization centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With that power, remember your responsibility to exercise those keys, to bring that light and life of the gospel under your direction, to bind on earth testimonies in others that they have never had before, that will endure and last through generations to come. The Lord gave the keys to Peter and

gave that power to bind on earth that which will be bound in heaven. That power was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith by those same three Apostles that came to restore the Melchizedek Priesthood. I know of its power. I know what it can do in the hearts and souls of individuals. I send you forth armed with that power to declare the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, and I do this in His holy name, the name of Jesus Christ, amen.