

Prayer at Groundbreaking for the Addition to the Capital Hill and Capital Hill Second Ward Building

Elder Bruce R. McConkie August 15, 1967

August 15, 1967.

Our Father who art in heaven:

We have assembled here this day as Thou seest and art aware—a representative group of thy sons and daughters from the Capitol Hill Ward and the Capitol Hill Second Ward of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion—to commence a great construction enterprise: to break ground for an addition to this, one of Thy holy houses that has been built and constructed by the tithing and sacrifice of Thy people in days past.

It is our purpose and our hope, our plan and our desire, as Thou knowest Father, to add to this facility, to make it more commodious, to enlarge it, and so to arrange all things in connection with it that the programs of Thy church and kingdom, as they apply to that portion of Thy people in this part of Thy vineyard, may be more effective and may roll forth and increase; and we pray that these enlarged facilities may be used for the edification and betterment of Thy saints, and for the general rolling forth of Thy work.

And now, Holy Father, in accord with Thy plans and designs and purposes and intents, in accord with the united desire of the people of these two wards, we ask for an especial outpouring of Thy spirit. We ask that the spirit of unity and of peace, the spirit of love and devotion and sacrifice, the spirit of service, of determination to endure to the end, the spirit that will unite thy people with one heart and one mind and one voice, may be poured out upon all of us here in these two ward areas.

We are grateful Holy Father, that Thou hast given us in this day, the gospel of Thy Son, that we are members of Thy church and Thy kingdom in this glorious final dispensation, the dispensation of the fulness of time.

We thank Thee that the light and truth of heaven has been restored, that Thou hast sent angels from thy presence in great numbers to appear to Thy servants, the prophets, and to others to give keys and powers, authorities and rights and prerogatives.

We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed the plan of salvation, that Thou hast given the gifts and graces and all good things that are needed for us to qualify to return to Thy presence and have everlasting glory and reward with Thee in Thy celestial home.

We acknowledge Thy hand in all things• We pour out our souls unto Thee in gratitude for the gospel, for the spiritual blessings that we receive incident thereto, and for the

privilege and opportunity that we have to cleanse and perfect our own lives and qualify as saints in very deed.

We are grateful, also Father, for the temporal blessings that Thou hast given—for lands and homes and gardens, for food to eat, for a proper and good climate to live in, for all of the things that enable us to carry forward temporally in the affairs of life which are normal and right for thy people to engage in.

We pray that we may have a proper spirit and attitude with reference to Thee, that we may be willing to contribute of our time and means and substance, of our talents and energies for the building up of Thy kingdom both spiritually and temporally• And as we speak of temporal things we speak particularly now of the addition to this building, to this facility which has been erected hitherto, but which is now to be enlarged and modified so as to greatly enhance and improve the operation of the programs of Thy Church here in these wards.

Father we pray that generosity and liberality may prevail. We know that Thy mind and will is that Thou forest a cheerful giver, and that Thy Son hast said, and Thy Spirit confirms the truth of His statement to us, that it is better and more blessed to give than to receive.

We ask that Thou wilt pour out Thy grace and goodness and beneficent Spirit upon those who are engaged in and who contribute toward the construction of this facility; that they may not want for the necessities of life; that they may lose nothing temporally because of the contributions of money or time or otherwise that are here involved; but that all such may continue to be blessed with the bounties of the earth and the good things of this world; and we pray that they may be blessed particularly with an outpouring of Thy Spirit and an increase in the attributes of Godliness, of the characteristics that will enable them to sanctify their souls.

Our Father, Thou hast chosen, by the power of Thy Spirit, two of Thy servants to preside in these wards, Bishop Hoganson and Bishop Paul. They have planned and labored, along with their associates, with their counselors and committees and other individuals, for the construction that is here to take place. And so with a united voice, the voice of all of the members of these two wards, we ask that Thou will pour out blessings and bounties upon these two good men and their associates, upon their counselors and all others who aid and assist them; that Thou wilt bless them for what has hitherto been done to prepare for the great program ahead; that Thou wilt magnify and bless them hereafter in the eyes of the people; and that thou wilt prosper the causes which they direct as they labor on Thy errand and rely on Thy arm.

We thank thee for their predecessors, for the Presidency of the Stake, for those who labor in priesthood and auxiliary capacities in both wards and in this stake of Zion; and ask that there may be unity and peace, and an increase in devotion in the hearts of all of these, and that the organizations over which each presides may be prospered and bettered.

Our Father, as we go forward on this enterprise, on this great construction project, we ask above all things for Thy Holy Spirit. We know that there is no gift greater in this life than the gift of the Holy Ghost, than the actual enjoyment of the companionship of that member of the Godhead. We desire the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of inspiration, the spirit of revelation, and know that out of the receipt of these things will come peace and joy and spiritual satisfaction in the hearts of all of us.

We pray that there maybe but one cause and purpose here. We know that Thy standard is: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one Church, with perfect unity among all the Saints. We know that Thou hast said, "Be one, and if you are not one, you are not mine." We know that by unity, by being one, we become Thy disciples, the sons and daughters of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son; and we desire to be His sons, to be spiritually born of Thee, to be begotten by the Holy Spirit and thus be new creatures of the Holy Ghost. We desire to be united, to use our talents, strengths and energies and capacities, with all that we have and are, in Thy work and on Thy errand ; and we ask this particularly now, for the time and season during which we are engaged in building this addition structure.

We are well aware that with these added facilities, we will be able to conduct more fully and completely and adequately the programs of Thy Church, with the result that more people will serve Thee in righteousness and in truth "according to Thy plan, and will do the things that will qualify them for eternal reward in Thy kingdom.

We desire above all things, Father, to gain peace in this life and eternal life in the world to come. We seek to put first in our hearts, as best we can, the things of the Kingdom of God, knowing that this life is the testing period in which we are given the specific opportunity to sift out of our souls all that is evil, carnal, and unclean and to replace these with spiritual things.

We know that Thou hast said that unto Thee all things are spiritual, and now as we undertake this enterprise, which we call temporal, we know that we are doing it for a spiritual purpose, and that such is in accordance with Thy will for the building up of Thy kingdom. We know that through this building program the number of souls eventually saved in Thy kingdom will be increased and that joy and satisfaction and personal edification will increase, here and now, in the hearts of those who are involved in the project. Hitherto there has been planning and preparation, hitherto things have been done that will cause this work to roll forth, for Thy hand has been over this work; and we now ask that Thou will continue to guide and direct and enlighten; and that Thou will give direction to the contractors and the builders and to those who put their physical skill and their temporal means into the project, to the end that all may be well with them and theirs, with their families, connections, and enterprises of every sort and kind.

We now place this project in Thy hands, Father, with a spirit of thanksgiving and of gratitude; and we pledge before Thee our united dedication and support; and covenant that we will labor and struggle and stick with this work, as time and circumstances and means permit, until it is completed. We covenant to labor for the rolling forth of Thy work in all its phases and aspects, and we plead with Thee that Thou wilt continue to give

us Thy Spirit, and that Thou wilt make us welcome eventually in Thy eternal presence, in that home and kingdom and mansion which Thou hast prepared for those who serve Thee here, who make right choices now, and who serve Thee with full purpose of heart. And the honor and glory be Thine in this and in all things everlastingly. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.