

## BYU-Hawaii Campus Joseph F. Smith Library Dedicatory Address and Prayer

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October 14, 1977

We have been very much blessed this morning. The spirit of the Lord has been with us. The expressions of Brother Andersen and Brother Thomas and my wife have been edifying and appropriate, guided I am sure by that great spirit which gives utterance and causes the mind and voice and thoughts of the Lord to be expressed in the congregations of the Saints. It is good for us to be here. It is a wholesome, uplifting occasion. We are engaged in a noble enterprise today and will dedicate to the Lord and to the use of his children here on earth the Joseph F. Smith Library and the other facilities that have been constructed by the tithing and the sacrifice and the labors of a great many people.

I think because this is a formal occasion, that I will take a title and a text. The title I take is the name of a course that is required or should be required in all Latter-day Saint schools. Let us call it "Eternal Education 101." We may not envision or know it but we are taking that course in the very nature of things because of the institution where we seek learning.

Now, for a text. I read these words by President Joseph F. Smith. President Smith said,

The purpose of our Church schools is the harmonious development of our young people in all that relates to their future well-being and progress; and eternal progress can be enjoyed only [now, I want you to follow this, particularly Brother Holland, who does not know what is going to happen but will soon find out] when the principles of eternal life are associated with their daily existence. Whatever hinders upward progression deadens the sensibilities and real enjoyments of this world's life. And education that has for its highest ideals the pursuits of worldly ambitions is wanting in that free and unrestrained flow of the spirit which makes for higher freedom and a more wholesome life. As we ripen in years and in experience, our spiritual lives have more and more to do with our real happiness. Our thoughts are more frequently turned inward as we contemplate the approaching end of this life and the unfolding of the greater life to come. (Gospel Doctrine, p. 353.)

Those words are from President Joseph F. Smith.

I will associate with them a text statement which is taken from The Inspired Writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, a statement in the Doctrine and Covenants. All of you, I assume, know this statement by heart.

Whatever principle of intelligence [and notice the terms that he uses; Brother Holland, you notice the terms] we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection.

And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come. (D&C 130:18-19.)

I think we should not have a library dedication without a test and an examination. I think it would be presumptuous if I should give a test to all of you and also a little awkward and inconvenient. But what an ideal opportunity to give the Commissioner of Education a test. And so if Brother Holland could be good enough to come up here, let us start out with an easy question.

McConkie: Who are you and what is your assignment in the Church?

Holland: I'm confused and inadequate.

McConkie: That's a perfect answer--so far we're doing very well. Now, you heard this expression--whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto, we'll have that in the realms ahead. Next question. Do you have any principles?

Holland: I did have them until five minutes ago. I'm a man of high principles, Elder McConkie.

McConkie: What are your principles?

Holland: I was afraid you would ask. I have principles of salvation that I would call my principles. At least I hope I understand principles of salvation.

McConkie: I think we need a definition of principles. I will take this from our friend Webster. "Principle—a general or fundamental truth; a comprehensive and "fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption on which others are based or from which others are derived: an elementary proposition as [this is the dictionary's illustration] the principle of physics: We read the definition of a principle. Here is an illustration of a principle. This deals with relativity. It comes from Einstein, which reminds me that Einstein was riding on a railroad and when the conductor came and asked for his ticket the great professor could not find it. He went through his pockets and his wallet and his portfolio and no ticket. The conductor said, "Well Dr. Einstein, don't worry. We won't do anything about it at this time." And Einstein's response was, "Well, if I can't find the ticket I won't know what station to get off." Brother Holland, you have heard the definition, the illustration comes from physics and here is the illustration. "Principle of equivalence--a principle in the general theory of relativity: the mass of a body is measured by its resistance to acceleration under the action of a force is equal to the mass as measured by the effect of a gravitational field on the body." You have that?

Holland: It sounds very temporal to me. I suppose someone of your mind and mastery could make a spiritual principle out of it but it seems temporal to me. I think it says that if you hit someone in the nose, it bleeds.

McConkie: I think maybe this sounds a little incomprehensible too, doesn't it?

Holland: It does that.

McConkie: Certainly it's a temporal principle. Can you figure out any use you might have in eternity for a temporal principle?

Holland: If I were worthy to arrive at the station of Godhood, which we believe, I suppose I would indeed need to know some of the laws of physics and those matters in orders of creation.

McConkie: Excellent. Can we expand that to say you'd have to know all of the laws of physics?

Holland: I think so.

McConkie: Well, he is doing real well. We have a lot better Commissioner than I thought we had. Let us try another one, and this definition also comes from Webster. "Principle--a governing law of conduct: an opinion, attitude or belief that exercises a direct influence on the life and behavior: a rule or code of usually good conduct by which one directs one's life or actions as [this is what he already said] the honorable principles by which my father reared me." Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto we are going to get back in the resurrection. What kind of principles are involved here in this kind of a statement?

Holland: That would be more the theological principles that we would generally think of--principles of chastity, principles of faith, principles of honor and integrity and honesty and service whereby you would live your life.

McConkie: Perfect! How about baptism--is that a principle of intelligence?

Holland: I think it is a principle which also has an ordinance attached to it.

McConkie: Now, this definition says "an opinion, attitude, or belief that exercises a directing influence on the life and behavior." What does celestial marriage do to your life and behavior?

Holland: It affects the choices I make, the attitudes I hold, the kind of girl I would date. I think that my belief of the principle of celestial marriage would have that affect on me.

McConkie: We had two expressions in President Joseph F. Smith's text—principles of eternal life and then another expression—daily existence. Somehow they are woven in to "an educational process. I would be happy to have you preach a sermon on that now.

Holland: Because I was touched with Sister McConkie's comment about cleanliness in that youthful vision of Joseph F. Smith and because you've raised it here let me just conclude on that and maybe you'll let me sit down.

McConkie: If the sermon is good enough we'll let him sit down.

Holland: I would say using President Joseph F. Smith's quote—there is a principle of eternal life which involves chastity, which involves cleanliness, which involves our worthiness to be in the presence of God and ultimately to be like him. If then you transfer that principle of eternal life to some principle or principles of daily existence, then that would determine the thoughts you think, the words you use, the books you read, the discussions you have or don't have in your apartment, the kind of date on which you would go, the kind of date you would choose to take to an activity that becomes a daily-this-afternoon-at-4:00 or 8:00-tonight application or step toward a principle of eternal life and that had celestial saving power and impact on us in the worlds hereafter.

McConkie: All who feel that Brother Holland has passed the examination and can sit down, signify it. [The vote was unanimous.] Thank you.

I hope that we get the message that is here involved. Let me just recite, so that it is again refreshed in your mind, the great eternal concept of education that is part and portion of the Gospel which has been restored to us in our day. We are the only people in the world who have this view, and who envision insofar as mortal men can, what is really involved in the eternal education of a human soul. This knowledge comes to us because we know that God is our father, that he is a glorified and exalted personage, having a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's. We know we are his spirit offspring; that we were born in his family; that we have seen his face; that we have enjoyed his presence; that we have been taught by him and taught by his representatives. We are aware that we lived for an infinitely long period of time in the pre-mortal life; that we were subject to laws which he ordained and that we had our agency; that the laws which he ordained were to enable us to advance and progress and become like him; that is to have glory and honor and dignity and dominion and live in the family unit as he lives in the family unit. We started out on a course of education before we were ever born. As his spirit children, we could tell the difference between our then primeval state and the state of glory, dignity, exaltation and honor which he possesses.

And so we have teachers. Schooling is nothing new to us here. We went to school in the pre-existence. There were occasions when Adam taught the classes, and when Abraham taught the classes, and when Joseph Smith did. And the classes were so numerous and extensive that the whole House of Israel—that group of spirits who were foreordained to become Israelites--were teachers; and they taught the classes. And the witness of truth was born and we were given opportunity to advance and progress. When the time came for us to come down to mortality, we ended a course of instruction that had been going on for an infinitely long period of time and commenced a new course of instruction--a mortal course. In effect this mortal course is the final examination for all of the life that we live through this infinite pre-mortal period.

Now, we came down here to this life to take an examination and to go to school, to be tried and examined and tested, to gain experiences that cannot be gained in any other way. There was no possible way for us in our spirit state to gain the experiences and acquire the knowledge that comes with the type of life that we are now enjoying. And so we are here in school, we are being tested. We have forgotten the definitive laws and the items of knowledge and intelligence we acquired back there but we have come here with the capacity and the talent that was acquired there.

And when you get through with your education here at school you will forget in large measure the factual information that you have acquired, but there will remain with you the talent and capacity for research and learning that you disciplined yourself to acquire. And we disciplined ourselves in the pre-existence to the point that we received a certain state of intelligence with certain capacities and talents. And when we came here were born with those capacities and with those talents. It is going to be a little bit different when we pass into the realms ahead. The curtain will not be drawn anymore. The curtain has been drawn once. But when we pass out of this life, we will go with both the talents and the capacities that we have acquired and also with the items of knowledge, with the intelligence, with the information that has come to us, and in due course all this will rise with us in the resurrection.

We have very logically and properly divided education into two fields. We can talk about the intellectual or the temporal education that people in the colleges and universities of the world specialize in and we can talk about spiritual education. We can talk about training the body, educating the body if you will and we can talk about educating the spirit.

It is possible to get knowledge under circumstances where it is of no special value. You can get knowledge and be immoral and unclean and run counter to the principles of righteousness, and although it may bless you for a moment in acquiring a living or accumulating this world's goods, it will not have any eternal merit.

In the pre-existence we did not have appetites of the flesh. Down here we walk by faith and we have appetites of the flesh. It is a much more severe schooling arrangement than it was back there. If we can walk by faith and bridle our passions and overcome our appetites we will acquire principles of intelligence. Principles of integrity, of honesty, of charity, and uprightness will all be part of us everlastingly. We started out here where we left off in the realm that then was. We are going to go on in the kingdoms that are ahead when we depart this life. And we are going to continue to go to school and maybe some of the same teachers and instructors and professors that guide us here will guide us there. We are going to go on everlastingly in school in eternal progression until the day comes that we are like God our Heavenly Father, and have become possessors of all truth and all knowledge, and as a consequence have all power and all dominion--which state as you know is reserved for those who live in the family unit.

Well I make those few expressions with the kind and excellent help of Brother Holland so that we can, hopefully, crystalize before us what is involved in the eternal educational

process of a human soul. Now, it is my privilege, and I esteem it as a great and inestimable one, to dedicate the Library and the other facilities that are involved. And as you know our system and pattern is to dedicate things that are involved in and to be used for the furtherance of the Lord's work, to dedicate them in the name of Christ, and by the power and authority of the holy Priesthood, and to do it in a formal prayer. So what I now invite is to have all of you join with me in one of those seldom and occasional instances in the Church where we offer a formal and extensive prayer of gratitude and make many petitions for all the blessings that are germane to whatever is involved: in this instance, the indicated dedications. I hope you will shut out worldly thoughts now and join with me in this expression of gratitude and thanksgiving which, if led by the Spirit, I will make, and also in these petitions to the throne of grace. When I end if you say "amen" and mean it in your hearts then you will have made this dedicatory prayer a part of you and you will have participated in the dedication as fully almost as I have or the others who have here spoken. You are part of the dedication of this library. Now, let us join in the dedicatory prayer.

### **DEDICATORY PRAYER**

O God the Eternal Father, the Maker and Upholder and Preserver of all things; thou who rulest and reignest in eternity; thou who has begotten each of us as children in thy eternal family: We feel bold on this occasion to approach thee in the sacred and holy name of thy Beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We come before thy throne in faith, in love, in devotion, certifying our willingness and desire to keep the commandments and to serve thee ever, to the full, in the hope that having so done we may return to thy presence, and have glory and honor with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the saints and righteous people of all ages.

Now, Holy Father, on this sacred and sober and momentous occasion, we have in our hearts a great feeling of gratitude to thee the Lord, which we would express, if thou will give us utterance; and we desire to pray by the power of thy Holy Spirit so that what is said will accord with thy mind, and with thy purposes, and thy will and will be for the enlightenment and uplift and edification of all thy people here who participate in and are part of the prayer.

Holy Father, we are grateful that we are thy children. We thank thee that thou didst create us. If it had not been for this, we would not exist. We thank thee that thou didst establish and ordain for us, in the eternities that went before a system and a plan whereby we might be schooled and taught, and whereby we might advance and progress and become like thee in the eternities that are ahead. We thank thee for the Gospel of God which is the name of the plan of salvation that thou hast ordained. We thank thee that thou didst choose thine Only Begotten son, the Lord Jesus, thy beloved and chosen from the beginning; that thou didst choose him and foreordained him to be the Redeemer; that thou didst send him to earth in due course, in times meridian, as Mary's son to work out the infinite and eternal atoning sacrifice which puts into operation all of the terms and conditions of thy everlasting system of education.

We thank thee for the words and the counsels and the instructions and the prophecies of all thy holy prophets as they pertain to Christ and the salvation that is in him. We thank thee particularly and especially that thou has restored in this our day the fullness of the everlasting gospel; that thou hast called prophets and apostles, once again, endowed them with power from high, and hast given them the spirit of inspiration; that thou hast called the Elders of Israel and done to them likewise; and that thou hast sent all thy servants out to bear record of thy truth, to learn thy ways, to live thy gospel, to qualify themselves for eternal life and to guide others in a similar path.

We thank thee for the light and truth and revelation that has been poured out in such manifold abundance upon thy people in this day. Holy Father, we know as thou art aware, that the great schooling system of the Church is part of thy program; that thou hast ordained it and established it and placed over it wise and inspired leadership, so that thy sons and thy daughters here might be schooled in what must be done to care for their needs, here and now temporally; and that they also will here be schooled, under such circumstances, that they will acquire in their souls those attributes of Godliness, which will enable them to return to thy presence and have joy and rest and peace with thee everlastingly.

We thank thee for the Church School System. We thank thee for those who officer and direct its affairs and for the teachers, all of them who teach in the various classes and places of instruction.

Father, we are grateful for the privilege of being members of thy Church, of having thy gospel, of learning of thee and thy ways, and of gaining an education under wholesome and edifying and proper circumstances. We are grateful that thou hast caused thy work to roll forth in the marvelous and wondrous way that has attended it. We have no manner of expression, no words that extol thee as fully as the feelings in our heart would indicate.

Father, in this spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, with thou knowing that we are abundantly pleased with all that has been showered upon us, we bring to thy attention certain petitions, certain desires and hopes that are in our hearts. We pray Father for the success and progress of thy work. We desire to see thy kingdom grow, to see it expand and roll forth as promised by the holy prophets of old. We desire to see the Church triumph, to be a beacon to the world, to in truth and in fact be the latter-day Zion that it is destined to be. We desire to see every part and portion of the programs of the Church flourish and be guided by the power of thy Holy Spirit, and more particularly and especially on this occasion, we desire to see the Church School System and this Brigham Young University portion that is established in these beautiful islands, we desire to see it built up in the eyes of men and accomplish the mission that thou hast given it and do all that it should in perfecting and teaching and cleansing the lives of those who learn here, and who serve here, and who worship here.

We ask thee that thou wilt pour out thy blessings upon Commissioner Holland, that he may have the spirit of inspiration and revelation to guide and direct as seemeth good unto thee, the Lord.

We ask thee that thou wilt bless President Oaks, who presides so gloriously and effectively over the Brigham Young University and all its parts, that thou wilt continue as thou hast heretofore done to give him the spirit of wisdom and inspiration and guidance, in solving the problems and charting the direction and course for so many of thy children here in this day and dispensation. We ask thee that thou wilt continue to bless thy servant, Brother Andersen, as he presides here at this institution. That he will be quickened in mind, preserved in body, and enlightened in spirit, and have the confidence and respect and allegiance of the students over whom he presides and to whom he gives direction. And as we pray for these noble men in positions of presidency and administration, so we pray for all of the faculty, for all of those who teach, so we pray for the students who assemble here to learn principles of eternal truth, and we are mindful that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which thou hast given us, embraces all truth. We pray for the students and we pray for the teachers. We pray that learning may be accelerated, that the library which we dedicate in this service, may be used to the full, that the knowledge contained in the many volumes there placed, may become available and be lodged in the minds of people, and be used by them to better themselves and to further the interests of mankind generally.

We seek light, we seek wisdom, we seek knowledge, we know that thou hast said that, ~'he glory of God is intelligence," and that the revelation adds "or in other words light and :truth." We know that thou hast said that light and truth forsake the evil one. We seek to grow and increase in truth and in light by study and by faith. We know that thou requirest of us that we use our intellects and our capacities to study and to struggle and labor and learn; and we know that if we do this to the best of our ability, and that if we keep thy commandments and are in harmony with thy Holy Spirit, that thou will pour out upon us all also knowledge by revelation from the Holy Ghost, until in the eternities ahead we will be able to receive and inherit and possess all things, because we have gained all knowledge and all wisdom and there is nothing hid from us, as Father there is nothing hid from thee, the Lord.

We are grateful for mortality. We are grateful for the Educational System that we have. We desire to utilize it to the full. We desire to study in the library of the world which thou has ordained and placed at our disposal. We seek light. We seek truth. We seek knowledge. We will strive to do everything in our capacity to acquire these godly and good attributes. And we desire to be guided by the power of thy Holy Spirit as we so do.

Now Father, it is not our purpose to multiply words or to speak more than we ought, but we unite our hearts in thanksgiving for all that thou hast given us, and we unite our hearts and plead with thee in faith knowing that the powers of heaven will be exercised in our behalf if we have sufficient faith. We plead with thee that thou will open the way before, that we may acquire all the knowledge and light and truth that seemeth good to thee the Lord, and that we may use these things for the benefit and blessing and uplift of thy children.

In this spirit of petition and in this spirit of thanksgiving and rejoicing and gratitude to thee for all that thou has done for us, and all that is available ahead for us, and in the

power and authority of the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood, the same having been restored in our day through the ministry of thy servants, Peter, James, and John, in the power and authority of this holy order, we dedicate unto thee, the Lord, the Joseph F. Smith Library, the Parent-Child Center, and the Physical Plant with all of the facilities that appertains to all of these. We give them to thee. Father they have been erected and made, they have come into being by the wise guidance and direction of many people. They have come into being through the sacrifice and toil of a host of individuals. There has been much done on this campus through the great labor missionary program. There are those who have made their means and their wealth available to further thy interest here. These things that have been brought into existence through their means and their talents, we now dedicate to thee, the Lord, give them to thee as part of thy great earthly university system, and as we do so we thank thee for all of those who made possible the things that we now have. We thank thee for the labors and the sacrifices and the *struggles* and the monies and the involvement of a host of people whom thou knowest Father, and ask that thou will bless them according to their situations and their needs, that they may feel in their hearts that the sacrifices they have made and the services they have rendered are all to thy name's honor and glory.

Father, we acknowledge thy hand in all things. We thank thee for all that we have and are and we end our petitions of thanksgiving and praise to thee by making a covenant--and this be our covenant that we will utilize the facilities that have been made available to the full; that we will utilize them in righteousness; that we will utilize them to acquire truth and knowledge ourselves and that the knowledge and truth we acquire will be put into active operation for the benefit and blessing of mankind; and this also be our covenant, Father, that we will serve thee in righteousness and in truth all our days. That we will struggle and strive to acquire principles of eternal import, principles of light and knowledge and intelligence, which will rise with us in the resurrection so that eventually we may be inheritors, receivers, and possessors of all things.

And now Holy Father, having been so authorized to act by thy Prophet, who is on earth, President Kimball, and feeling also that we should incorporate by reference into this prayer all the words spoken by President Kimball at the groundbreaking service for this library, in this spirit we place ourselves in thy hands with thanksgiving in our souls, with desires for righteousness, with a covenant to serve thee and keep thy commandments, and we do it in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, thine only Son, amen.