

knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ restored by his prophet, Joseph Smith, and follow-through by a living prophet, Spencer W. Kimball. Without this message I would not have a family like I have now. I would not have the love for my lovely wife that I have now, and I would not be able to be so proud of my children.

Our oldest son is now another young man serving as a missionary in Manchester, England, and we are so

proud of him. And a second boy is preparing to become a missionary next year.

And now this call. It is beyond understanding for a human being. I need all your prayers. I promised the Lord when I went into the baptismal font and later in the temple that he could count on me. And I want to tell President Kimball that he can count on me. I have no other desire than to be a servant of the Lord. In his name, amen.

Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi

I'm grateful to President Romney for trying to pronounce my name. When I go to the next world I will ask my father if I can change my name. Thank you, President Romney.

President Kimball, and all the Brethren of the General Authorities, and my beloved brothers and sisters in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, today I stand before you, humbly, to bear my testimony of the divinity of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. First of all, I express my deep, sincere appreciation to those who have helped me and have been so kind to me and motivated me, built me and taught me and guided me—wonderful help, wonderful influence in my life. I'm grateful for my wife, Toshiko, and for my children. President Kimball and all the brethren and sisters of the gospel, we need your prayers.

Willingness to serve

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley gave me a special blessing when I was a green, green bean of a missionary which has guided me in my life. My dear brothers and sisters, I never expected to be called

to such a heavy responsibility. I'm still asking myself and the Lord, "Why me, O Lord? Why me, O Lord?" Yet, my brothers and sisters, still within my soul I hear in the bosom of my heart, "I will go where you want me to go, dear Lord, over mountain, or plain, or sea." (See *Hymns*, no. 75.)

Yet another voice is saying, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded." (1 Ne. 3:7.) Another voice saying, "O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of my heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice that shakes the earth, and cry repentance unto every people of the nations." (See Al. 29:1.)

Testimony

My dear brothers and sisters, I love—I love our Heavenly Father. I know—I know within my whole heart that God lives. I know that there is a living prophet of God today, even Spencer W. Kimball. I love him. I will support him with all my heart. The Book of Mormon is true, the true word of God. Brothers and sisters, I leave you my

testimony. I humbly do this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Marion G. Romney

Elder Hugh W. Pinnock, F. Enzio

Elder Marvin J. Ashton

In moving toward this pulpit to assume this awesome responsibility, it is strengthening to feel a meaningful squeeze of the hand by a prophet of God: "Marvin, I love you. Marvin, I sustain you." How do I know President Kimball's feelings? Because he takes the time to tell me. When was the last time, you might ask? Only yesterday.

Rated "A"

One of life's more common experiences is to be rated or graded. Youngsters learn quickly whether or not their actions are acceptable to parents. Rewards or punishments can be quickly administered in the home, and such grading or rating by parents has a lot to do with the formation of ideals in living.

Those who enter school embark on a long struggle to achieve the kinds of grades that will make them acceptable to those among whom they must live and work. Those who become involved in military activities are soon caught up in a myriad of inspections and ratings.

When we accept employment we quickly realize that we are graded by the responsibilities given and the wages paid. Superior work is rewarded with higher pay and greater opportunities.

Those who manufacture goods or merchandise or produce food are rated by a variety of consumer organizations.

Busche, and Yoshihiko Kikuchi, new members of the First Quorum of the Seventy, have just spoken to us.

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

"Grade A" products bring higher prices.

As part of a free government, we see the grading of leaders at each election.

In the media, subscriptions to newspapers and magazines provide an immediate public rating of their effectiveness. Television is particularly vulnerable to the ratings and gradings of professional organizations. Programs with poor ratings are usually doomed.

And so it goes on and on in almost everything we do in life. We have a tendency to rate or grade others, and they do the same to us. If our perspective is proper, we use these ratings or gradings to motivate us to reach high levels of achievement and self-discipline. The whole concept of ratings enables us to set high goals and provides the challenge to us to achieve them.

In spite of this inborn desire to achieve, there remains an area where the attainment of high or good ratings seems to be ignored. I speak of the growing numbers of movies, books, magazines, theatrical productions, and television programs where efforts to glorify immorality or violence have become predominant. "Rated R" or "Rated X" has replaced the idealism of being "Rated A."

I know that free expression is a vital part of the eternal principle of free agency and must be preserved and