

NEWSLETTER

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THE VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS: Elders Quorum Presidency Message

Brother Robert Spendlove

My daughter recently told me that she was ready to live inprecedented times for a change. Now, I in no way want to minimize the difficulties young people face trying to build a righteous life and family in the trying times of these latter days. But they are all precedented times.

“It is perhaps the first time in the history of the Church when it has become necessary to postpone the opening of one of the general conferences, on account of an epidemic of disease. It was hoped that the prevailing malady had been brought under control, and upon the recent resumption of meetings in Salt Lake City that no further restrictions should be necessary. But this insidious, frightful contagion is difficult to root out and continues in various places to reap its dreadful toll of human life.”

This quote could have been written in 2020, but it was written a hundred years earlier in 1919. April Conference Postponed, *The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*, Vol. 81, No. 17 (1919).

Cicero complained about corrupt politicians, and Plato bemoaned that young people “think they know everything, and are always quite sure about it.” As the Preacher lamented, “there is no new thing under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9.

Some might take this as an excuse for nihilism, but those of us who have heard the Good News know better. The problems of men remain the problems of men throughout history, but Christ has given us the solution to make things better. As President Benson so eloquently taught:

“The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature Yes, Christ changes men, and changed men change the world.” (Ezra Taft Benson, General Conference 1985.)

Brethren, in the face of adversity, large and small, I hope that you will keep the faith, watch over your families, and care for those around you. And I pray that we may, each of us, make the changes in ourselves that will change the world.

CATHARSIS CORNER:

ICE IN THE DESERT

Back in the days of the pioneers, ice was a luxury, especially in a hot desert climate like Santa Clara, Utah. Ice was harvested from frozen ponds or lakes of fresh water. Men used large saws to cut blocks of ice from the water and loaded these blocks on wagons to deliver them to their customers. Large metal hooks were used to pick up the blocks and move them about. Each customer would have a special box that was insulated to keep the ice. Chips of ice would be used in special drinks and treats. Even ice cream was made by hand as a very special treat.

Today we live in a time of miracles. It can be over 100 degrees outside, and I can roll up to my refrigerator in my electric wheelchair and press a lever and cold clear filtered water is dispensed. I press another lever and ice cubes drop into my cup. We also use distilled water in our home for medical reasons and I can wheel myself

up to our dispenser and press a button and get cold distilled water. I press another button with a red safety button and out comes boiling water for hot drinks like herb tea or instant chocolate milk.

The history of inventions that bless our lives is also very interesting. There came the wonderful discovery of electricity. Then electric lights, and soon electric motors and generators were invented. After that a compressor was created that converted a special gas into liquid form and the age of refrigeration was born. Now ice boxes no longer need ice from frozen ponds or lakes. These white “refrigerators” freeze water into ice and are divided into two compartments. One freezes and the other maintains a temperature of just above 32 degrees. It was no wonder that prophets back in time saw visions of the latter-days and marveled at what they saw. Automobiles, airplanes, rockets, and wonderful devices of all kinds. Consider the smart phone on which you are reading this article. Pioneers could not have imagined small handheld devices used to talk to or text anyone on the planet, that could also create and send color images to anyone having a similar device. Truly we live in an age of miracles. Ice in the desert is produced by a touch of a finger.

Larry James Hansen/3