

President Kimball announced plans for some area conferences and the reduction in stake conferences. As other changes have occurred, I have thought of President Lee and his prophetic utterances while on the road in Rhodesia.

I bear solemn witness that President Lee, who presided over the Church for only eighteen months, saw many of these changes in vision or revelation. As the Church moves forward with changes and new programs, I am not surprised, for I heard them foretold by a Prophet of God. It was a sacred and cherished experience to witness a Prophet and Seer foretell the future, and then to witness the fulfillment of the prophesy.

Oct. 22, 1958, Wednesday

Left by car for Victoria Falls. We arrived 7:30 p.m. The trip was agreeably pleasant. The weather was cool and the roads surprisingly good.

Oct. 23, 1958

Spent the morning at Victoria Falls. Elder and Sister Lee were very much impressed. A number of photos were taken. Left in the afternoon for Springs where an evening meeting was held. Good attendance (260) and a most inspirational meeting. Elder Lee gave an excellent talk and pronounced a blessing on the people and work of the Lord in South Africa.

Oct. 24, 1958

Elder Lee interviewed all of the missionaries in the East Rand, West Rand and Pretoria Districts. I also interviewed a number of them. Elder and Sister Lee left on the plane at 11:30 a.m. We took the evening flight for Cape Town.

Blacks and Priesthood Blessings: A Challenge

At my suggestion, Elder Lee talked to six Cape colored young ladies. They were attractive girls with olive skin, dark hair and dark brown eyes. These young ladies were members of the

Church, but because they were partly negro, they were denied the blessings of the priesthood. They expressed a desire to go on missions and marry in the temple, but they had been told that these blessings were not available to them. They were discouraged.

Elder Lee spent the better part of an afternoon with them, answering their questions and talking to them. I was present and witnessed a promise he made to them. He advised them to marry within their own race, and then he said, "If you will remain true and faithful to the Church, the time will come when the policy of the Church will change and every blessing of the gospel will be available to you."

This statement was so worded that I received the distinct impression that this promise was for this life and not only for the life beyond.

I was not surprised when in 1978, President Kimball announced the revelation that he had received, giving the priesthood blessings to all worthy members of the Church regardless of race.

Elder Lee's Observations

After Elder Lee returned home he wrote a two page letter, of which the following is an excerpt:

My dear wife and I have never been so graciously accepted or treated with such consideration as we were by you and your lovely wife. Your painstaking care and your constant solicitous concern about our welfare made our visit with you one of constant enjoyment. . .

I have spent some time the last few days going over my notes in preparation of a report for the brethren. I am trying to help them to understand the great problems that confront the Union of South Africa, that have a bearing upon the work of our mission. . . Now having visited several other missions in Europe, I think the South African Mission shows promise of some of the greatest missionary opportunities I have yet seen.

GLEN G. FISHER: A MAN TO MATCH THE MOUNTAINS

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