

MY TESTIMONY

The following was written by me while I was laboring in the European Mission - probably in 1934.

I can't really remember that I doubted in my mind that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was not true, but I do realize that my testimony of it grows stronger from day to day.

The fact that I am here on a mission is one of the greatest testimonies that I have experienced. In October 1924, I received a Patriarchal Blessing from my father, Frank B. Woodbury, in which he stated "Your voice shall be heard in many lands declaring the message of truth for the uplift and blessing of mankind". As I reflected upon these words I wondered how that could be possible. At that time two of my brothers were on Missions and there was another one planning to go when he was old enough and we could raise the money to keep him. My mother had died just a few before and, being the only girls at home, I was keeping house for my father and brothers. My father said to me, "If you live the teachings of the Gospel that promise will be fulfilled; we don't have any idea how but the Lord does". My brothers returned from their missions. My brother Melvin was called to fulfill a mission to Argentina. He had been home just three months when my bishop, Richard F. Andrew, came to me and asked me if I would be willing to accept a call to go on a mission. I immediately answered that there was nothing I would rather do, but that I didn't see how I could leave home as father's health was not good and he was unable to work full time; also, my brother Melvin had not been able to secure employment. This took place right in the middle of the big depression and money and work were scarce. There was no one to take care of the house and I had been recording my father's Patriarchal Blessings; also, I couldn't see where the money was to come from for my support.

Father said, "I am willing to trust in the Lord, that these things will all be taken care of. If He wants you to go He will open the way". Bishop Andrew asked if I would be willing to go to Europe, that President Harold B. Lee, our Stake President had requested that he asked me. He did not know if that would be where it would be sent but he wanted to know if I would be willing to go there. A few days later I received my call from President Feber J. Grant calling me to the British Mission. When I was set apart for my mission by Elder Richard R. Lyman, it was for the European Mission instead of the British Mission. I left home still wondering just how my blessing was to be fulfilled, but never doubting; I was beginning to see that the way was at last opening.

Before I had been away from home one year, that particular part of my blessing had been fulfilled, as I had spoken in eight different countries on the European Continent, as well as in England. The money has been sent each month as I had needed it and my father's health is no worse - it is in fact a little better.

I know for a surety that our Father in Heaven hears and answers my prayers and will help me at all times if I live His Gospel the way He wants me to live it. I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true Church, and am thankful to be a member of it.

Nellie L. Woodbury (Miller)