

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The Seventy

47 East South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

17 July 1993

Dear Varsity Scout:

You are involved in "Operation On-Target" enjoying hiking, camping, and climbing in the mountains. We have all climbed mountains of various heights. The climbs all have some similar characteristics--they start low and easy. As you get up higher the slopes get steeper and the climbing gets harder. Then there is that glorious moment when you reach the top. You survey the view. You see things differently from that view--not only is it a view from the top but it is a view after having accomplished what you set out to do.

So it is with life. You will set goals or tasks to achieve--mountains to climb. You will achieve your goals one step at a time as you did in climbing your mountains. You will get tired, you may slow down and get discouraged with little or no progress. You will learn that you must keep working, keep trying, overcome discouragement, keep your eye on your goal and its achievement.

Some of your goals will have to do with school, with choice of profession, with how to make and utilize money and other resources. An important goal will be the choice of a wife--an eternal companion--the one who will be the mother of your children. A goal which will make all the others more meaningful will be to serve God always--to keep His commandments always--to serve a mission--to marry in the temple--to rear a righteous posterity--to always be the kind of servant of God that a son of God should be.

To do all of these things right is a challenge now and always will be. As climbing your mountain today was a challenge you will solve all the coming challenges the same way--by determination and perseverance and by not letting anything dissuade you. We urge you to always do so.

President Spencer W. Kimball in a conference address in October 1979 referred to Caleb in the Old Testament who at one time said, "Give me this mountain." (Joshua 14:12) Then President Kimball said:

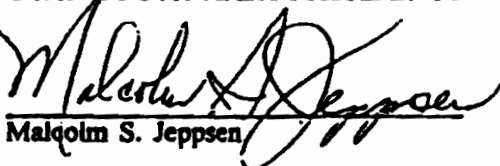
This is my feeling for the work at this moment. There are great challenges ahead of us, giant opportunities to be met. I welcome that exciting prospect and feel to say to the Lord, humbly, "Give me this mountain," give me these challenges.

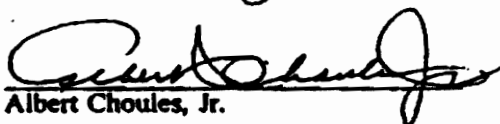
Humbly, I give this pledge to the Lord and to you, my beloved brothers and sisters, fellow workers in this sacred cause of Christ: I will go forward, with faith in the God of Israel knowing that he will guide and direct us, and lead us, finally, to the accomplishment of his purposes and to our promised land and our promised blessings.

We hope you will say all your lives as President Kimball said, "Give me this mountain." Then climb it--climb it to the top. Gaze at the view of success--righteous success. Then we can ultimately climb to where God and Christ are. Then the mountains--the challenges--become our friends and helpers, not obstacles--May your lives ever be full of "mountains to climb."

Sincerely yours,

UTAH SOUTH AREA PRESIDENCY


Malcolm S. Jeppsen


Albert Choules, Jr.


David E. Sorensen