

Monday, June 24, 1968

A blessing upon the head of Sister Wanda Parkinson Cannon by Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve, and Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve; Elder Monson being voice, setting her apart as a missionary and to labor with her husband in the presidency of the West German Mission.

Sister Wanda Parkinson Cannon, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in the authority of the Holy Priesthood which we bear, we place our hands upon your head and with the approval and the designation given by the Prophet of the Lord, we set you apart as a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to accompany your dear husband, President Cannon, in his call to preside over the West German Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By this same authority we set you apart as supervisor of the women's auxiliary organizations in the West German Mission of the Church.

This will encompass the responsibilities of the Relief Society Organization, the Primary Association, and the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association. We feel confident Sister Cannon that there may be some apprehension on your part with respect to the overwhelming responsibility which now evolves upon you and we say unto you to be at ease, know that our Heavenly Father is in his heavens, that you have not called yourself to this assignment that you have responded to a call from a Prophet of God and that you will be made equal to every task and to every responsibility which comes with this calling. We bless you that you may be a close companion to your sweet husband that you may be one who is a good listener for he will confide to you many of the things which will trouble him as a mission president and though you may not provide direct counsel, the fact that you will be a good listener, the fact that you will be in a position to encourage him to go forward with his assignment, and to meet the challenges which shall face him, will in the eyes of our Heavenly Father be perhaps the greatest responsibility which

you shall carry forward in this missionary assignment. Do not try to imitate exactly the wife of the mission president who has preceded you in office. She has performed her role and he has performed his role in a capable and efficient manner and their periods of service are soon to draw to a close. Our Heavenly Father has called President Cannon and has called you because he knows that you have the talents and the aptitudes and the testimonies which are needed in the West German Mission at this particular time, so be yourself for the Lord has blessed you abundantly with native endowments, with the ability to meet people, with a love of the gospel, with a desire to serve, and with a noble heritage, so you need not fear for you have been prepared from the foundations of the world for many of the assignments which you shall now perform in mortality. We bless you that you may have the particular ability to communicate with the dear sisters who will aid you with respect to the *needs* of these auxiliary organizations. We recognize that you have not had the privileges, as your husband, of preaching the gospel in the German tongue and therefore the language and the customs of the people will be more strange to you than to him. We bless you that this may be no barrier that the sisters may rally around you, and that the barriers of communications may melt before your love of the gospel and you may communicate heart to heart, and spirit to spirit, and the sisters will go forward and will accomplish their respective assignments and you will rejoice in the manner in which the Lord blesses the work. Give thanks unto him, honor his name and ascribe to him the honor and the glory of every accomplishment.

We bless you that you may have that feeling of assurance within your heart throughout your mission that all will be well with your family though many miles may separate you and them. We promise you that as you

serve the Lord in righteousness and in truth they will be in the kind care and keeping of a loving Heavenly Father who will know their needs, will anticipate those needs and will bless them according to his desire. We say unto you, Sister Cannon, that the Lord's promise given to the Prophet Joseph applies to you and your husband when he said, "I will go before your face, I will be on your right hand and on your left and my spirit shall be in your hearts and mine Holy Angels round about you to bear you up." This is the support and assurance our Father will provide as you respond to this call.

We bless you that you may have health and strength in abundance. That you may have physical health and strength as well as emotional and spiritual strength. We feel to bless you that you may travel in peace and in safety that our Heavenly Father will protect you and watch over you. When you call upon Him in your daily prayers, we bless you that you may know that your prayers have ascended to our Father and that he will reward them and will answer them with blessings upon your head according to your need. Now we devote you to your assignment, we say to you lift up your voice and bear testimony. Your life will indeed be a testimony and that testimony which shall be born of your very deeds and likewise your spoken word will bring knowledge to the heart of the honest seeker of truth. Testimony bearing will bring more conversion than scriptural proof for conversion to the gospel is more a matter of the feelings of the heart than the facts with which one may store up within his mind.

We bless you, Sister Cannon, that as you honestly seek a knowledge of the customs and the language of the German people that you will indeed find help from our Heavenly Father in giving to you an appreciation of their culture and an understanding of the German tongue. To this end we bless

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you as you go forward with your companion in this most glorious
experience of your lives. We now send you forth and set you apart,
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Thomas J. Houston