



Fall 2008

ESPECIAL WITNESSES

The Seventy Newsletter

Where We Came From!

by **Bob Kyser, Senior President of Seventy**

In April, 2008 the Council of Presidents of Seventy met together at the Kirtland Visitor and Spiritual Formation Center. For me this was a profound experience, one of the highlights of my life and ministry. Even though I was aware of the historical roots of the calling of the first seventy in Kirtland, Ohio (USA) in 1835, this visit to Kirtland seemed like “coming back home,” in a very special way. There seemed to be a connection with events in the life of the church over one hundred and seventy years ago. It was an experience with the past.

It was also an experience with the present. We engaged in a time of personal spiritual reflection and development under the guidance of Evangelist Bruce Crockett, director of the Spiritual Formation Center. He led us in study, contemplation, prayer and other forms of worship. We experienced the rich cultural diversity of our council as one evening prayers were offered in Welsh, Tamil, Spanish and English as we worshipped in the upper rooms of the Kirtland Temple.

We bridged from the present to the future as we shared with President Steve Veazey, exploring the call of the seventy in the context of Doctrine and Covenants 163:5, including what it might mean for the seventy to be “forerunners of Christ’s peace” and “preparing the way for apostolic witness to be more readily received.”

I offer my testimony of the presence of the Holy Spirit in many ways as we shared that week together. During our final worship experience, we sat in the center’s auditorium facing the beautifully lighted Temple and received words of counsel and encouragement which I felt at the time had relevance beyond that moment not only for those serving as quorum presidents but for each seventy:

“You are very gifted ministers, unique ministers. You do not have to be anyone else except yourself because it is you that God has called. Do not be caught up in the illusions of finding validation from others, or comparing yourself to others. The only validation you need has already been given by the One who called you. God invites you to pay attention to the movement of His Spirit in your own life as well as the lives of those you serve. As you extend the invitation to others, know that God extends the invitation to you to continually explore the work on the interior of your being, your soul. And as you explore you will continue to experience uninvited moments of grace that will surprise you, uplift you, assure you, and strengthen you.”

As you contemplate on these words and your call as especial witnesses may you too recall where you came from, who you are, and what God is calling you to become.



The Council of Presidents of Seventy held their regular session in Kirtland, Ohio earlier this year. Their time together included a tour of the Kirtland Temple (above) and time devoted to spiritual formation under the direction of Bruce Crockett, Spiritual Formation Minister for the Community of Christ. Pictured are (left to right, front to back) Richard James (Q6), Rueben Landeros (Q4), Sam Kumar (Q7), Gina Norton (Q5), John Wight (Q1), Bob Kyser (Q3), and Kris Judd (Q2).

New Recommendation Form Issued

The Council of Presidents of Seventy released a revised *Recommendation for Consideration to the Office of Seventy* form. The new form reflects the new organization which includes Field Missionary Coordinators in the calling process.

A copy of the new form is attached. Any old forms should be disposed of and only the new form should be used.

As indicated on the form, Recommendations for Consideration should be forwarded to the Mission Center President, the Field Missionary Coordinator and the Field Apostle for them to add supporting statements. The completed form should then be forwarded to the Council of Presidents of Seventy office.

Anyone who has questions about the form or the process should feel free to contact their respective President of Seventy.

News from the Fields

Pacific Mission Field



Sunday, June 22nd, Seventy Henry Fultz competed in the AAU Raw Nationals and North American Powerlifting Championships. He received a trophy for the North American Powerlifting Championships in the Masters 45-49 198 pound division and a gold medal in the

same division in the AAU Raw Nationals. He was entered in the AAU Raw Nationals bench where he beat all lifters in the 198 pound weight division and received a World Record. Henry received a silver medal for the AAU Raw Nationals Powerlifting Open Division. (Photo by Jon Fultz)

Pathfinder Web Site

As part of its ongoing effort to promote missionary outreach, the Council of Presidents of Seventy sponsor the Pathfinder portion of the church's web site. This includes the Sunday Night Live Chat Room and a page with testimonies. We need the help of the seventy for both of these features.

If you have a personal testimony or know of someone who does, please send them to John Wight at jwight@cofchrist.org. We need these on an ongoing basis, so any time you experience one or hear one, please send it.

The SNL Chat Room, which is intended to address questions from seekers and engage them in "conversation", is always in need of guest ministers. There are four moderators who guide the discussion and keep things on track. But having guest ministers to share their testimonies, help answer questions, and offer prayers during the chat is always a great help. If you are interested in serving as a guest minister or have questions about this ministry, please contact John Wight at jwight@cofchrist.org.

The seventy are to be the forerunners of Christ's peace, preparing the way for apostolic witness to be more readily received.

Quorum Changes

In Memoriam

We also want to recognize and honor the years of ministry as a seventy given by Peter Joe of Lautoka, Fiji who passed away in April, 2008.

New Ministry Opportunities

We would like to recognize with sincere appreciation the years of ministry as seventy given by the following individuals who have moved on to other ministerial opportunities since our last newsletter:

Ron Wood, ordained to the office of Evangelist, Florida, USA
Earl Jamison, ordained to the office of Evangelist, Maryland, USA

Newly Ordained Seventy

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following individuals who have been ordained since our last newsletter:

Essang Ankoh, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
Elisha Basse, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
Becky Carlile, Missouri, USA
Chate Chiluba, Luapula Province, Zambia
Tavae Clark-Tefau, Tahiti, French Polynesia
Jill Grammer, New Mexico, USA
Rand Hodgson, Missouri, USA
Alane King, Oklahoma, USA
Lorrie Long, Iowa, USA
Gnahore Ludovic, Province Soubre, Ivory Coast
Stephen Mdhuli, Mzimba, Malawi
Geri Nelson, Iowa, USA
Jacques fils Parker, French Polynesia
John Ruehler, Nebraska, USA
Paula Slasor-Watson, Iowa, USA
Brenda Strickland, Ohio, USA
Janie Summers, Iowa, USA
Tuarai Pikoui Tuteina, French Polynesia

Seventy Certificate Completed

The following recently completed all of the requirements for the Seventy Certificate:

Brad Bryant, Illinois, USA
Ray Valley, Michigan, USA

Yahoo Group—Another Tool

by John S. Wight, President 1st Quorum of Seventy

The Yahoo Group Cofc70s was created and is maintained to give seventies and missionary coordinators a tool to help them in their ministries. We want to encourage its use, but would ask that you carefully consider what you put on the site. It was designed to provide a forum to share testimonies, ideas, ask questions, share prayer concerns, etc. Please use discretion in what you post to the web site. It is probably best not to forward items to the site such as virus warnings, unbelievable deals, and other similar items which usually turn out to be bogus.

As we continue down this new road of missionary emphasis begun at the last World Conference, this tool can be a major asset for seeking advice and sharing successful ideas. In addition to the “conversations” which can occur, the site also has stored files including the most up-to-date Seventy Roster.

If you are not currently registered as a user, please follow the following instructions:

1. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cofc70s/>
2. Click on the “Join This Group!” button.
3. If you already have a Yahoo User ID, type it and your password in. If you don’t have a Yahoo User ID, go to the Sign Up link and it will walk you through the process to set up a Yahoo ID. (If you already have an email address at which you would prefer receiving notices from the Yahoo Group, you can enter that in the alternate email box during the sign up process.)
4. Once you establish your Yahoo ID, you will be sent to a page with three steps which are self explanatory. Under Step 1 there is a box that says tell the group owner about yourself. . . **It is very important that you specifically identify yourself by name indicating that you are a seventy.** (Sometimes it is impossible to tell by the Yahoo ID who you are.)
5. Once you have completed these steps, an email will be sent to us so that we can approve your request to join the group.
6. If you have any problems or questions, please contact John Wight at wightj@swbell.net or 816-224-4921.

We look forward to the participation of those who have not yet been involved. You may have just the idea or testimony that someone needs to hear to launch a new ministry or get an existing ministry moving at an accelerated pace.

Community of Christ