



Volume 11 Issue 1

ESPECIAL WITNESSES

The Seventy Newsletter



New Edition of Resource Released

A second edition of *Sharing in Community of Christ: Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs* has been published by Herald House. The first edition of this publication was used as the reunion text in 2009. The new edition includes an additional chapter titled “We Share a Disciple’s Generous Response” which explores the spiritual aspects of practicing generosity in all areas of life.

“God calls us as disciples of Jesus Christ to be generous in all relationships and commitments. Being generous disciples is about aligning our priorities with God’s priorities, aligning our hearts with God’s heart.” (excerpt from new chapter)

The new chapter is available on the church’s website to allow individuals to print it out to put with the first edition of the booklet.

Whether the first edition with the new chapter added or the second edition, this resource is an extremely valuable tool to add to your Missionary Tool Kit. It is a wonderful compliment to the existing tools. It is a very concise and easy-to-read collection of, as the title suggests, Community of Christ identity, mission, message and beliefs and, hence, is a great way to provide seekers with information about the church. The new edition is available from Herald House:

<http://www.heraldhouse.org/cart/edit.asp?p=134773>.

Share Your Story

DAILY BREAD 2012



How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation...
— Isaiah 52:7 NRSV

Do you have a testimony that you are longing to share? Do you have a story that you hope will make a difference in the lives of others? Then the Daily Bread **2012** is waiting for you. It is time to start writing and submitting material for the next volume.

The current *Daily Bread*, which includes daily spiritual practices, is a good place for the Seventy to reach out to the Community of Christ and beyond. Share stories of the peace of Jesus Christ, grace and generosity and other enduring principles. From the simple to the transformative, your story will speak to someone. I feel we really need to “get the word out” and would like to have the high priests represented in this church-wide publication.

The **2012** *Daily Bread* will follow the same format used in 2011. Each day of the year will have a theme or title, a scripture, your story, a short Daily Prayer for Peace, a suggested spiritual practice for disciple formation, and a peace covenant.

We can use stories that are 1400 characters or less, including spaces (about 250 words). The deadline is early Spring 2011, however sooner is appreciated. I'll be eagerly awaiting your stories! Shalom,

Email stories to lmountainay@CofChrist.org or mail to:

Daily Bread editor
Lu Mountainay
1001 W Walnut
Independence, Mo 64050



Yahoo Group—Another Tool

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 exciting 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.

Special Thanks!

The Council of Presidents of Seventy would like to express appreciation to Wayne Allen of West Portsmouth, OH, USA who has volunteered to assemble and edit the Seventy Newsletter.

Sunday Night Live Continues to Reach Out

Sunday Night Live (SNL), the weekly chat room sponsored by the Council of Presidents of Seventy, has been reaching out to people throughout the world for well over a decade. Each Sunday from 9 to 10 p.m. Central Time, an assigned moderator “chats” with participants and answers any questions they may have about Community of Christ.

Attendance ranges widely from as few as four or five to more than twenty on occasion. While most participants are from the United States, several from other countries have joined the chat room from time to time as well.

To be able to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through this medium is challenging, but also very exciting. Moderator Coordinator Steve Ferguson recently received an email from a regular participant in SNL that illustrates the value of the chat room:

“When I first found SNL I thought that it was an LDS chat. At first I thought....oh can this be real and are people just being off the wall to be a nuisance. However, I watched how (the moderators) treat even those who are sometimes out of line with respect. I watched how those with a different motive for coming to SNL have changed in their responses. Obviously something is happening on SNL that doesn't happen in other places. The format of SNL encourages discussion and debate which is so foreign with most "Sunday schools". I find myself counting the days to SNL. I have also been upset with myself for falling asleep during SNL and waking up a few hours later with a hot lap top on my legs and a kink in my neck! ha. I have learned a lot from SNL. The part that stands out the most is the love and acceptance of all who attend SNL. The devotion to Jesus from the leaders is not found anywhere else.”

We would like to thank the moderators—Steve Ferguson, Brad Bryant and Richard Hawks—for their tireless efforts on SNL. They do a remarkable job and have touched many lives through the years. We would also like to invite all Seventies who are able to participate in SNL as often as their schedules permit. It is always helpful to have another Seventy in attendance who can share with a seeker in a one-to-one whisper chat while the main chat continues. It would also be good to identify additional persons (especially females) who might be interested in being trained to serve as a moderator. If you are interested in learning more about the possibility of serving as a moderator, please contact John Wight at jwight@cofchrist.org.



Community of Christ

Let the evangelistic ministries of the church accelerate.

--Doctrine and Covenants 164:8c

Iowa Seventies Reach into Community

Husband and wife seventy team Wanda and Cliff Hagman of Mason City, Iowa, have been reaching into their community in a variety of ways for many years. Wanda reported on some of those efforts recently.

“I am now working on a special meal for the teens to be a part of,” Wanda wrote. “I have been in touch with the director for all of the homeless shelters here in Mason City and we are going to make and serve a meal for those who are being housed in the shelters on Feb. 20th. Youth involved in our Knight for Teens group will serve the meal and eat with the folks. They will even do entertainment.

“Last January some of the teens helped fix and serve at the Community Kitchen and in February of last year others of our teens helped fix and serve at the Community Kitchen. In May the Teens went and worked at the Animal Shelter. Also, in May our teens took part in planting a garden for the Hawkeye Food Pantry. Our whole congregation ended up helping with the project. We gave away over 2000 lbs of food. One of the fellows that has been attending church the past few years, but who is not a member, came up with some ideas about the garden and I just asked him to be in charge. HE DID A FANTASTIC JOB! “When our youth turn 12, they are welcome to go through our Teen Helpers training program and help with the various youth events. We now have nine Teen Helpers. Our hope is to help train them to be Knights for Christ. Last year we set up the programs to have the Knights be out in the Kingdom serving. That is why we were involved in the Community Kitchen activities and The Animal Shelter activity. The kids came up with some of the Community project ideas.”



Seventy Wanda Hagman, left, is pictured with some of the participants in a project to help youth get involved in community programs. Here they help prepare a noon meal at the community kitchen in Mason City, Iowa. In addition to helping prepare the food, they served it to low income individuals and those who were staying in the five homeless shelters in that community.

Quorum Updates

New Seventies

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

Elean Nikolaevna Bezgina	-	Veronezh, Russia
Sharon Velaine Burnett	-	Iowa, USA
Charles Mark Conway	-	Connecticut, USA
Dennis Keith Herbert	-	Michigan, USA
Christie Kay Ostendorp	-	Oregon, USA
Manuel Ramos	-	Villa Tropicalia Zona, Dom. Rep.
Gregory Lee Varner	-	Michigan, USA
Deborah Pearl White	-	Alabama, USA
Landal Syamal Rao	-	Andhra Pradesh, India

New Ministry Opportunities

We would like to recognize with appreciation the years of ministry as seventy given by the following person whose office has changed:

Stephen Hatch, High Priest	-	Missouri, USA
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Honorable Release

Deep appreciation is expressed to Beckie Ballard of Oklahoma, USA who was granted honorable release after approximately six years of service in the office of seventy.

Seventy Education Certificate

Congratulations to JoAnn Fisher of Idaho, USA who completed all the requirements for the Seventy Education Certificate.

In Memoriam

We also want to recognize and honor the many years of ministry as a seventy given by Morley Sheperdson of Ontario, Canada. Morley pass away recently.



Excited for the Opportunity

I'm so excited to have this opportunity to share with you my experience of feeling called to be a missionary coordinator and what I am learning in these first few months of service. I must first say that I am thankful to God to have opportunities to be in the lives of people in a profound way. I love being in sacred relationship with others, discovering what matters most to them and being a servant for that happening in their lives. It is my life's calling to be in that sacred space with them so their hopes and dreams can be liberated into the greatest context known as God. We get to offer this context through the possibility known as Jesus Christ. He is the one that holds the keys to the liberation of our deepest desires and we find freedom in His midst.

I first heard of the missionary coordinator position a few years ago and I knew that I would love to do it. The timing wasn't right, however. Wally, my husband was the co-pastor of our local congregation, my daughter Erika was young and we had too much responsibility for me to be out visiting others.

Two years later, Wally was called to the office of Bishop and he began to visit other congregations in the Chesapeake Bay Mission Center on Sunday mornings. When the missionary coordinator position became available, I jumped at the chance thinking, "This is how I most want to serve. We can travel to other congregations together and as a family." I was excited to travel, to see where other mission center members worshipped and to meet new people. It also aligned with the call in my patriarchal blessing, "to live out on the frontiers of life, out on the edges of human experience."

Being a missionary coordinator, I've learned that deep within our spirit we all want to share what we most value. Most people are yearning for sacred relationship, a specific experience or to make a difference. This is challenging to acknowledge for many people. How many of us sit around and discuss the deepest expression and yearning of our soul? These discussions are invaluable however. They lead us to the need for God and His promise for our future. I've learned that if I simply ask, "What matters most to you?" while being in touch with what matters most to me, I get to listen to an amazing story. This story can be used for healing, for witnessing and for sharing.

As I have traveled to other congregations, I've found the commitment of so many leaders to be extraordinary. I have been welcomed, served, loved and respected. Leaders are looking everywhere for resources to meet the needs of their congregants. They are concerned about community issues. They want to be reaching out in greater ways. They look to God as their source of spiritual power and inspiration and they have an abiding love for humanity. Many practice the spiritual disciplines regularly and keep the cares and concerns of others continually on their mind. They give completely. Some leaders feel they need a spiritual overhaul in their congregation while others want the how-to steps of how to "get out there" and witness. I have yet to meet leaders who are resigned and cynical which I have found surprising. I have met some who have collapsed that which is real and abiding (God's transformative power) with that which isn't (people's opinions and circumstances.) But that happens with all of us and it is usually temporary until it is called into the light and we remember to whom we belong. People are simply amazing, creative and inspirational in their desire to love and share and they are a source of great joy to me.

I know that the entire journey is not going to be this great. God has already said, "What you are now won't work, it time to change." Some changes hurt too, but it is for a great purpose so it will be done. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts and experiences with you. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds.

Love and blessings,
Laura Evers, mission center missionary coordinator
Chesapeake Bay Mission Center

News From Quorum Five:

Suzie Graham is a seventy living in Bowan SC. She and her husband Bruce live out in the country in a lovely setting that includes a pond stocked for fishing. Suzie's mother resides in an assisted living center in nearby Summerville and Suzie has developed relationships with many of the residents and staff at that facility. This year as Fall approached, Suzie and Bruce made arrangements to bring folks from the care facility out to their home. Their "senior" friends enjoyed the Grahams' hospitality as they participated in a beautiful day of fun, fishing, and fellowship. Below, Suzie shares her thoughts about this new experience.

If I were to describe these pictures, only one word comes to mind, "PRICELESS." Recently the door has opened for me to fellowship with the elderly residents of the assisted living home where my mother has lived for about a year and that opportunity has given me "unexplainable joy."

Twice a year these precious folks spend the day at our home in the country to play by enjoying nature, fresh air, fishing, food, and fellowship. A good catch is a guarantee! Living in the moment seems to erase aches and pains that are physical as well as emotional that aging brings. We all go to a new place together for the day, and a new memory for tomorrow.

The problem with unexplainable joy, is that words fall short of explaining the experience that brings it. What I can say is this, when I have spent my day with these folks, I feel as though I have been in the presence of Jesus.



Over 500 Attend Bullying Awareness Assembly



Children from Education Station, YPC from the Jackson (OH) Congregation and youth from the West Portsmouth (OH) Congregation sing “Don't Laugh At Me.”

By Seventy Brenda Strickland, Bountiful Mission Center

Over 500 people attended a bullying awareness assembly held in the fall of 2010 at the Northwest Elementary School, McDermott, OH. Also on hand were the school principal, cheerleaders, guidance counselor, school physiologist, bus drivers, and education station teachers. Community of Christ young adults Mindy Ferrar and Samantha Strickland helped make the night a huge success! A mini bully lesson, music and testimony were a part of the program. Over 100 children attended and performed the song, “Don't Laugh At Me”, as well as a lyrical dance taught by Samantha Strickland using the song, “My Own Two Hands.”

Stations were in place throughout the gymnasium for families and children to participate in after the assembly. These stations included pin-wheels for peace, sticks and stones, bully paper folding game, pledge wall mural for all to sign, information station, T-Shirt, and helium balloons for all! Each child received a bracelet with a positive word imprinted on the band to remind students how powerful words are and how they can also hurt people. Children and parents purchased shirts and placed their own two hands on the front with paint to complete the shirt's design, “With My Own Two Hands, My Voice, My Actions, I Can Make A Difference!”

Parents and children were given a night of information about bullying, interactive stations, refreshments and encouragement that people care and want to help make a change in our school, community and lives of their children. They walked away empowered to be the change and hope. Many parents and grandparents took the time to personally thank me for caring and holding the evening's event.



An estimated 16 from the Jackson YPC attend the assembly!