



# ESPECIAL WITNESSES

## The Seventy Newsletter

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### Changes in Council of Presidents of Seventy

It is with mixed emotion that we report that Robert Kyser, Sam Kumar, and Richard James will be leaving the Council of Presidents of Seventy effective at World Conference 2010. Bob has indicated that he feels it is time to step down and pursue another expression of ministry. Sam retired from full time church employment and, hence, resigned from the Council. Richard has been called into the Council of Twelve Apostles. We wish them all the best as they continue on their individual ministerial journeys.

Following are letters to the quorums of seventy from Bob and Richard. A letter from Sam was not available at the time of this writing.

#### **Robert R. Kyser II – Senior President, President of Quorum Three**

Dear Friends:

For some time I have been giving consideration to the future of my ministry. During this time of reflection and prayer I have had some insights which often lacked clarity but which were sufficient for me to continue the process. Without going into extensive detail at this point, I just wanted to communicate with you what I have experienced.

When I received the affirmation of the Holy Spirit regarding my serving as Senior President of Seventy, if asked to serve, I had a clear understanding that *it would be for a time*. While these words could be interpreted in various ways, my understanding was that I would not serve until my retirement or call to another priesthood office. During the almost eighteen years that have passed I have been so blessed to serve on the council and as a quorum president. In more recent times, I have been impressed with the desire to provide opportunity for others to serve in this leadership role. It is essential for accelerating the missionary work of the church. There are others now qualified to serve in the responsibilities I have carried and it is time for them to do so.

While considering the above, I wanted to continue to serve in support of the mission of the church if an opportunity to do so was present. During the past few weeks I developed an interest in the role of staff pastor, applied, was interviewed and selected. I will be continuing under church appointment until my retirement on or before December 31, 2012. Once again I have been blessed by the Holy Spirit in this

decision. I am at peace with the new assignment. I am very excited about the opportunity to continue with you on behalf of God's peaceable kingdom.

As I leave the seventy after thirty-four years, I thank God for the privilege of being associated with each of you and the church in this great and marvelous work. My friendship and support will continue on behalf of each of you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Bob Kyser

### **Richard C. N. James – President of Quorum Six**

I was called to be a Seventy when I was 25 years old. I love being a Seventy. I have a passion for people to know Jesus and the life that he gives. I enjoy being on the edge where people are coming to know Christ for the first time. It is exciting and fulfilling. I love being a part of the Community of Christ in which I can live out my discipleship. I will always be a Seventy at heart because this is who I am.

Being a Seventy is a wonderful ministry and I want each of you to realise how great you are. We share a passion for the lost and I have heard amazing testimonies of your devotion and ministry as it has touched the lives of people. Yet there is more. We need to be challenged in our discipleship and in our ministry to be accountable to each other and to the church; and we need to be like Christ in attitude, in his words, and his actions.

You may have heard that we are working on a new training resource for Seventy called *Forerunners of Christ's Peace*, which should be available by the fall of 2010. I commend this resource to you as I believe it will help us be faithful to God's call. As Seventy we need to be taking every opportunity to be the fully equipped and skilled in our areas of ministry. We need to be open to the Holy Spirit to lead and teach us.

I have been a President of Seventy and on the Council of Presidents of Seventy for just a short time. (If my call to new ministry is approved at World Conference it will be 3 years.) It has been a privilege to serve you and thank you for your support and prayers. It is wonderful to see the deep pastoral care that each President of Seventy has for you and for the ministry that you are bringing. It is exciting times in the church and particularly for us as Seventy. Things are changing as we respond to the Holy Spirit and as our mission shapes how we are organized. I know that God has been with us throughout our discernment and collaboration with the Council of Twelve Apostles and so I know that God waits for our faithful response to future ministry opportunities. As seventy we are being called to go. Let us be on the forefront leading the way.

Your brother in Christ

Richard James



## World Conference — April 10-17, 2010

**Theme: We Share!**

### ***Special Day of Prayer for Seventies***

The First Presidency has invited the whole church to participate in daily prayer in preparation for the upcoming World Conference. Sunday, February 21 was set as a special day of prayer and fasting.

The Council of Presidents of Seventy believes this World Conference is critically important to the future of the church and especially to the seventies' mission as forerunners of Christ's peace. Therefore, the Council would like to invite you to participate in an additional day of prayer with all seventies throughout the world **Wednesday, March 10**—one month prior to the opening day of Conference.

Please join your fellow seventies throughout the day, praying as often as the Conference, the delegates and the issues being considered enter your thoughts. You may wish to focus your prayers on discernment regarding the Words of Counsel presented January 17 by Prophet-President Steve Veazey, especially the portion regarding the quorums of seventy and presidents of seventy. (The text of the Counsel is available at <http://www.cofchrist.org/wc2010/counsel/default.asp>.)

### **World Conference Plans for Quorums of Seventy**

World Conference 2010 is rapidly approaching. This Conference promises to be a historic event for a variety of reasons. The Council of Presidents of Seventy believes it is important for as many seventies as possible to be in attendance. We recognize that there are extenuating circumstances (work schedules, visa restrictions, financial considerations, etc.) that prevent many individuals from attending. However, it is important for the voice of the seventy to be heard both at World Conference and at the individual quorum and joint quorum sessions preceding and during Conference. Therefore, the Council wants to encourage you to be there.

Below is the **tentative** schedule for seventy activities during World Conference. Please note that spouses are invited to attend the Joint Assemblies on Saturday, April 10.

**Saturday, April 10, 2010 – Ridgewood Congregation**

4341 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City MO 64133

Phone: 816/356-1013

- 9:00 a.m. - Joint Assembly  
New Seventy Course, and Spiritual Companions
- 11:30 - Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. - Joint Assembly
- 2:30 – 4:30 - Individual Quorum meetings

**Individual Quorum Sessions in Partridge Hall of the Stone Church**

- Sunday, April 11 – 3:30 – 5:00 Individual quorum sessions
- Monday, April 12 -- 8:00 – 9:30 Individual quorum sessions
- Tuesday, April 13 – 8:00 – 10:00 Individual quorum sessions
- Wednesday, April 14 – 8:00 – 10:00 Individual quorum sessions
- Thursday, April 15 – 8:30 – 10:00 Joint assembly of quorums
- Saturday, April 17 -- 7:00 – 8:00 Individual quorum sessions

***IMPORTANT: If you plan to attend the Saturday, April 10 sessions, it is very important that you register so sufficient food and other preparations can be arranged. Please RSVP to Lloyd Slaght at [lslaght@cofchrist.org](mailto:lslaght@cofchrist.org) or 816-833-1000 ext. 2244 no later than Monday April 5.***

***We hope to see you there!***

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## **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:

- Brenda Jeane Cummins - Florida (USA)
- Leonard Dantzler - Florida (USA)
- Deverine Kay Fletcher - California (USA)

### **New Ministry Opportunities**

We would like to recognize with appreciation the years of ministry as seventy given by the following persons whose offices have changed:

- Kerstin Kristiansen, High Priest - Oslo, Norway

### **Honorable Release**

Deep appreciation is expressed to Tony Nunn of Missouri, USA who was granted honorable release after nearly 10 years of service in the office of seventy.

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# Tell Your Story

*DAILY BREAD 2011*

*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? The Daily Bread 2011 is waiting for you. It is time to start writing and submitting material for the next volume.

The expanded Daily Bread, which now includes daily spiritual formation practices, is a good place for the Quorums of Seventy to reach out to the Community of Christ and share their stories of blessing and being blessed. From the simple to the transformative, your story will speak to someone. It would be great have the Seventy represented in this church-wide publication.

The 2011 Daily Bread will follow the same format used in 2010. Each day of the year will have a theme or title, a lectionary scripture, your story, a portion of the Daily Prayer for Peace, a suggested spiritual practice for disciple formation, and closing thoughts on peace.

We can use stories that are 1200 characters or less, including spaces (about 200 words). The deadline for the 2011 issue is May 31, 2010. I'll be eagerly awaiting your stories!

— Lu Mountenay

Email stories to [lmountenay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmountenay@CofChrist.org) or mail to:

*Daily Bread*

Lu Mountenay

1001 W Walnut

Independence MO 64050

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## *Save the Date!!*

The Missionary Team and Central Mission Center will co-host a training event by the Percept organization May 5-6, 2010 at the Temple. Percept provides demographic studies for areas within the United States to assist congregations and mission centers in their discernment of mission. The reports are available through Field Missionary Coordinators at no cost.

There will be no charge for the training. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals, however.

Persons interested in attending may register by contacting their Field Missionary Coordinator. Please watch for more details!

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## *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](mailto: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.

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

--Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b