



ESPECIAL WITNESSES

The Seventy Newsletter

Mission Initiatives

The mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for the journey ahead.
—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9



Invite People to Christ
Christ's mission of evangelism



Develop Disciples to Serve
Equip individuals for Christ's mission



Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
Christ's mission of compassion



Experience Congregations in Mission
Equip congregations for Christ's mission



Pursue Peace on Earth
Christ's mission of justice and peace

On Sunday, April 6, 2011, President Steve Veazey challenged the church to embrace five mission initiatives. They appear above.

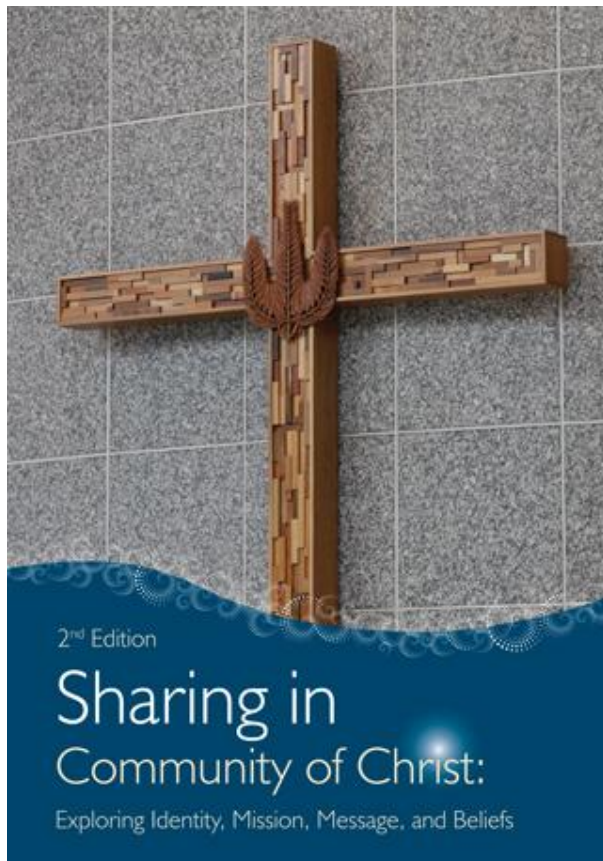
Each initiative is interrelated to the others. However, the one that has particular importance and meaning for Seventies is "Invite People to Christ". That initiative calls on the church to "baptize/confirm many new members, open new congregations, and launch the church in new nations." These goals certainly fit with the ministry to which Seventies are called.

It is important for us as Seventies to take the lead in this initiative by living out our call to be especial witnesses and forerunners of Christ's peace. But also by encouraging people to share their witness of the transforming goodness of Jesus Christ and invite new people to become a part of the body that we call Community of Christ.

A complete brochure about these Mission Initiatives with additional detail can be found at:

<http://www.cofchrist.org/mission/MissionInitiativeFlyer.pdf>

These initiatives coupled with the Enduring Principles provide a clear picture of what we are TO BE and TO DO as followers of Jesus Christ living out our discipleship within the Community of Christ. It will be especially important for the Seventy to be thoroughly familiar with the Mission Initiatives and Enduring Principles in the months and years ahead so that we can indeed be at the forefront of the efforts to "invite people to Christ."



A Great Tool for Missionary Outreach

Sharing in Community of Christ: Exploring Identity, Mission, Message and Beliefs is a wonderful tool for Seventies to use for missionary outreach. While it was designed to serve as the reunion text for 2010 and 2011, its concise and easy to read contents make it ideal for sharing with seekers as well as long time disciples.

If you do not have a copy of the second edition of this book (blue cover, at left), we strongly encourage you to obtain a copy and become intimately acquainted with it. It can be ordered online or by phone from Herald House.

Sunday Night Live Going Strong

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 over a dozen years. 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. Just this summer, members of a Canadian family were baptized into Community of Christ as a result of their conversations and connections on SNL. (More of their story will be shared in a future newsletter and an upcoming issue of the Herald.)

To be able to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through this medium is challenging, but also very exciting. ***We would like to again 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 to participate in SNL as often as their schedules and circumstances 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 moderators. If you are interested in learning more about the possibility of serving as a moderator, please contact John Wight at jwight@cofchrist.org.

Make Community Where You Are!

By Brenda Strickland

Bountiful USA Mission Center

**What is God up to
in your
community?**

*The mission of
Jesus Christ is what
matters most for
the journey ahead.*

Mission Made Real

\$433.10 (pennies)

Pennies 4 Children

The Play for Peace

Organization will help
build basketball courts
to help children play



Youth step out in faith to help children play for peace around the world. Youth who attended prior summer camps where they learned of how a penny can change the lives of children and those who traveled to the peace colloquy this past fall, challenged their classmates and student body at their elementary school to help make a difference in the world. Their efforts came with controversy, negativity from some of their teachers and a complete program change, but in the midst of all the uncertainty a community was forming among the Make A Difference group. Our group began as a small group of 7 and grew to over 30 in just a few short weeks.

During the planning and practice of the Pennies 4 Children assembly, random youth asked to be a part of the Make A Difference group; our community grew week after week. They wanted to continue meeting after the assembly, so we did. Children participated in scripture lessons, character building lessons, made a weekly prayer list, where they prayed for their families and friends as well as one another. God's hand was in the midst of this new community. Many of the children who asked to join come from imprisoned families, divorced families, drug & alcohol addiction, poverty and lives filled with little to no hope.

The little boy in the center of the circle whose name is Payton, started coming to the group after he attended the young adult and family retreat for the first time at our camp. During the slide show of our weekend together he looked up at his mom and stated, "Mommy, my eyes started watering when I watched the pictures and I don't want to go home." His mom told me this because she wanted me to know the transformation that had taken place with her son. Payton did not want to go to the camp and after just a short weekend he did not want to leave. After camp Payton decided to join our group. During our weekly lesson on blessings the children were asked who they would like to bless. They all had someone they were excited to pray for, then they heard Payton's story. They all wanted to bless him! Payton will have heart surgery this summer as well as eye surgery. Deep concern and love for Payton shined in the eyes of each child. The precious hands that blessed Payton that day were kind, gentle, loving, caring and compassionate hands of Christ. God's spirit and healing was not in a church building, camp, prayer service or structured worship; it was in the cafeteria of an elementary school. Lives are being changed and transformed in places we least expect! Compassionate ministries for the brokenhearted, the suffering, and those who need hope of Christ's peace can be offered by children whose lives also need healing and hope of Christ's peace.

Claim your unique and sacred place within the circle of those who call upon the name of Jesus Christ. Do not neglect the smallest among you, for even the least of these are treasures in God's sight

. ~Doctrine and Covenants 161: 1b, 4a

(The following article was written for the Order of Evangelist blog at the invitation of Presiding Evangelist David Brock. It is being shared here so that all seventies might also be aware of the principles outlined in the article and then look for opportunities to partner with Evangelists in new and exciting ways.)

Forging a Partnership of Championship Proportion

Being an armchair sports fan, I appreciate the importance of having different players assigned to specific responsibilities and positions. When each player fulfills his or her responsibility on the playing field, offensive and defensive plays have the maximum possible effect. When even *one* player fails to appreciate the value and importance of their role to the overall success of each play, the team is not as effective as it otherwise could be.

In a similar way, I have long been impressed with the priesthood structure of Community of Christ. Rather than relying on a single priesthood office to fulfill all possible ministerial responsibilities, our structure provides for the same kind of focused execution as in a good sports event. Each priesthood office has a specialized role; each office plays its part in the overall ministerial “game plan”. In that spirit, I would like to focus here on two offices which I think have highly complementary roles in the life of the church. They are Evangelist and Seventy.

The first duty of the Evangelist mentioned in Section 125 of the Doctrine and Covenants is, “to be an **evangelical minister**; to preach, teach, expound, exhort, to be a **revivalist**, and to visit branches and districts as wisdom may direct, invitation, request, or the Spirit of God determine and require.” I don’t want to make too much of the physical placement of words and phrases in this particular section of the Doctrine and Covenants, but I do find it interesting that the role of being an “evangelical minister” and a “revivalist” are mentioned first. The role of comforting, being a parent to the church, giving counsel and advice, and providing evangelist blessings—the roles that now seem to be most commonly associated with this office—are listed secondly.

I mention this because it suggests to me a special connection between the Evangelist and the Seventy. The Seventies are called to be **forerunners** of Christ’s peace—to prepare the way so that the apostolic witness can be more readily received, to be **especial witnesses**, and to be one of the primary missionary quorums of the church. Another way to describe this role is that the Seventy are to be practitioners of wholistic **evangelistic** ministry (Doctrine and Covenants 163:5b).

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines evangelical as “of, relating to, or being in agreement with the Christian gospel especially as it is presented in the four Gospels”. It goes on to suggest that such ministry is marked by campaigning or passionate zeal. And therein is the special connection I see between the Evangelist and the Seventy—being evangelical ministers, those who share the gospel message with militant and crusading zeal in a world hungry for the message of love and peace as represented in and through Jesus Christ.

Sister and brothers, as the Senior President of Seventy, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Evangelists and Seventies to look for ways that they can create new partnerships of evangelistic ministry much like a pitcher and catcher work together in baseball or a quarterback and a receiver complement each other in football (the United States version, that is). The Council of Presidents of Seventy encourages each Seventy to identify an Evangelist with whom to partner for support and guidance. I would invite all Evangelists to actively seek out Seventies with whom to partner as well; with whom to discuss how their specialized ministries can support and complement one another.

With the Seventy being the forerunners of Christ’s peace and moving into new areas to plant the church and then the Evangelists expanding and shoring up those efforts as ministers of evangelistic revival, how can we fail?

May God bless each of us, Evangelist and Seventy alike, in our efforts to share the glorious gospel with “campaigning and passionate zeal”!

John S. Wight, senior president of seventy

Finding Your Way Home

Our journey began a year ago at the San Francisco Pride celebration. The Sierra Pacific Mission Center, partnering with GALA (Gay and Lesbian Acceptance), sponsored a booth at the festival to provide outreach and ministry to this community. During the weekend, many quality conversations which included listening as well as sharing occurred and out of this experience, 21 individuals expressed an interest in attending the San Francisco congregation! We were also visited by a couple of inactive church members, one a gay man who, when hearing testimony from members of the Walnut Creek congregation, asked if it would be safe for him to come “home” again. You see, even though it had been 20 years ago that he felt he could no longer attend his congregation he still longed for a spiritual home. A lady from the San Francisco congregation shared that she had stopped attending because of her pain from the congregational internal strife.

As we joyously returned home from the festival, we realized that we had invited seeking individuals to a place that was not viable. This began a year long journey of faith to create a safe place where seeking individuals could find solace and support in their faith journey. The mission center and GALA returned to the festival again this year. Again we shared with individuals seeking a walk with Jesus. This time we had a place to invite them to with the partnership of the San Francisco pastor, Jamie Curry. The next step was to clean, clean, clean – paint, pull weeds, make a cup of tea and share in prayer and song.

And indeed the first service was held at the church on Taraval St. at 7:30 Sunday evening, June 26th. Ten people were in attendance including two non-members and a couple who lives in the city but attends in Sacramento. The Spirit in attendance that evening was transformational, prayers of praise and songs of joy filled the air!

Where do we go from here? The Spirit is guiding us. In fact, one attendee asked if we could begin pre-baptismal classes for her entire family and so we had our first class tonight in their home. And the church facility is located in a very diverse neighborhood of Thai, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russians, Eastern Europeans, gay and lesbian, and Irish. We want to create a safe place for all to feel welcome. Services will be held in addition to Sunday morning, at 7 pm on the first and third Sunday of each month beginning July 3rd. We look forward as we partner with the Spirit on the journey of developing disciples for His work in this time and place. Truly the message from Doctrine and Covenants 162:3b could not be truer – “That Spirit is even now touching alive the souls of those who feel the passion of discipleship burning deeply within. Many others will respond if you are persistent in your witness and diligent in your mission to the world.”

Kay Fletcher, Seventy

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SPMC Mission Coordinator

New Pre-ordination Course Being Tested

Forerunners of Christ's Peace, a new orientation course for seventy ordinands and others interested in learning about the ministry of the seventy, is being piloted with newly called seventies. Members of the Presidents of Seventy, Quorum Education Officers, and a number of writers have worked on this resource for over two years. It will replace PA202: The Seventy: Empowered for Mission and Ministry and Temple School Course SL 170: Survey of Missionary Opportunities. Once the initial pilot test has been completed, the new course will undergo final editing and will then be available in English, French and Spanish for all future pre-ordination orientation.

The Council of Presidents of Seventy want to thank all those who contributed articles as well as a number of Individuals at International Headquarters who have been a part of this process. We look forward to the completion of this important resource for the Seventy.

In addition to this new course, new ordinands are being asked to study *Sharing in Community of Christ: Exploring Identity, Mission, Message and Beliefs* as part of their preparation. The Council of Presidents of Seventy encourages **all** Seventy to become intimately acquainted with this book as well as the Mission Initiatives presented by President Steve Veazey in April, 2011. It is believed that it is important for all Seventy to remain current in their understanding of the church's mission and their responsibilities as forerunners of Christ's peace.

Permanent Baptism Policy Effective September 1

The church has been operating under an interim policy on baptism since January 1, 2011. A permanent version will become effective on September 1 of this year. While they are similar, there are some subtle, but very important differences.

All Seventy are encouraged to become acquainted with this new policy as it relates to a very important part of their ministry. The full policy can be found at:

<http://www.cofchrist.org/policy/10-01OfficialPolicy.pdf>

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the office of the Council of Presidents of Seventy by phoning Becky Reiss at 800/825-2806 ext. 2240 and we will arrange for you to receive a hard copy.

Community of Christ

The Other Side

by Linda Read

One of the wonderful blessings of being involved in outreach ministry is the amazing collaboration that can happen between God and us. At Welcome Home, we feel that God is leading people to us. One of these travelers is Ricky. Ricky, a mostly out of work plumber and Bible student, has experienced difficult times in his life, some because of hard luck, some because of his choices.

One Sunday before Christmas Ricky had a great day and so did all of us. Our “All for Free/Free for All (yard sale where everything is free!)” moved inside due to the pouring rain. We had three new people attend our worship service which featured the question: “What is our Christmas gift to the community?” Our answer: partway through the service we all got up, got in cars and vans in the pouring rain and went to our neighborhood Assisted Living Community to sing Christmas carols during their dinner. It was great!

Now Ricky doesn't sing but he took part by holding the music for guitarists Douglas and Paul. He said it was the first time he'd ever been caroling. It was the first time for others as well! We got back to the church soaking wet, but smiling from ear to ear to a shared meal of a traditional turkey dinner. Ricky asked to help serve. We were happy to have him help and assigned him the stuffing and gravy detail.

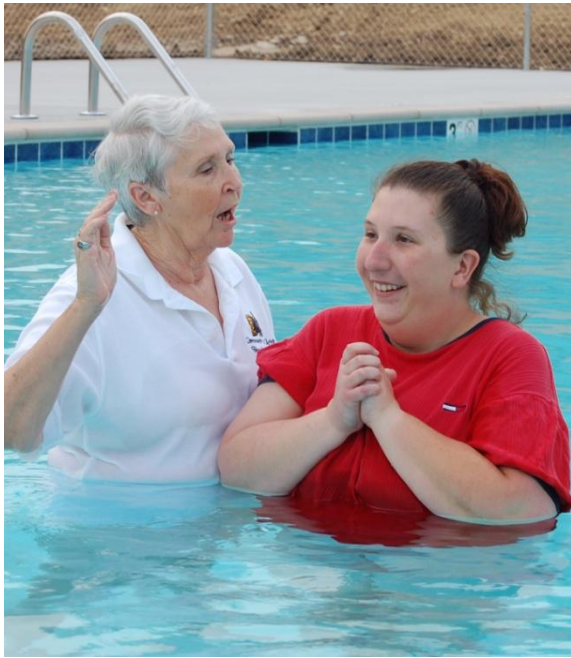
After the meal was over and we were all cleaning up, Ricky came to me with tears in his eyes. “I love being a part of this church,” he said. “The people here really love other people, no matter what.” Then he said, “Thank you for letting me be on this side.” At first I didn't understand – “this side”? Then he explained. “When you're in prison you are always the one being 'served', when you're homeless, you are always the one being 'served'. Tonight, you gave me the chance to be on the other side – the side that serves.”

Ricky provided great ministry on Sunday. We are all blessed that our new brother, beloved child of God, friend, plumber, dish doer, and now 'stuffing and gravy server' chooses to be a part of our community. Because of Ricky, or rather because Ricky has responded to God's continuing invitation, Welcome Home is richer and more able to be a blessing of love to our community, where others are ready to be invited into a new “home” of God's love and welcome.

Baptism and Confirmation: Oh, the Joy!



Presidents of Seventy John Wight (Q10), left, and Larry McGuire (Q4), center, shared together in the confirmation of a young girl at the Michigan Mission Center Blue Water Reunion #1 in June. Such opportunities to serve together in this way are rare for Presidents of Seventy.



The joy of making commitment to Jesus Christ in the waters of baptisms is evident in these photos taken at a baptismal service in June which included six persons from the Hawthorne Place church plant and one from the New Walnut Park Congregation (both in Independence, Missouri), held at nearby Camp Doniphan. Seventy Carole Price (Q10, left photo) and Seventy ordinand Tom Cochran (Q10, right photo) had the pleasure of sharing the ordinance of baptism with Sarah Wahl and Tyazia Goston.

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:

Jammie Apodaca	-	Washington, USA
Tim Beavers	-	Michigan, USA
Tom Cochran	-	Missouri, USA
Rick MacGregor	-	Michigan, USA

New Ministry Opportunities

We would like to recognize with appreciation the years of ministry as seventy given by Thonta Daniel Raj "T.D." Alfred of Narasapur, India who was ordained to the office of Evangelist.

In Memoriam

We also want to recognize and honor the years of ministry as a seventy given by the following persons who have passed away recently:

Bonita "Bonnie" Scarberry	-	Oklahoma, USA
Antonio "Tony" Tristani	-	Gerogia, USA
Earl G. Veer	-	Colorado, USA

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.