

MINUTES
AREA SEVENTY CORRELATION MEETING
UTNO/UTSLC/UTSO
FEBRUARY 13, 2015
7:30 AM
AMBASSADOR ROOM JSMB

Presiding: President L. Whitney Clayton
Conducting: President L. Whitney Clayton

Opening Hymn: #116, *Come, Follow Me*
Chorister: Elder Craig B. Terry
Pianist: Elder Ralph L. Dewsnup

Invocation: Elder Samuel W. Clark

Instruction: Elder Don R. Clarke

John Taylor: “What is priesthood? ... I shall briefly answer that it is the government of God, whether on the earth or in the heavens, for it is by that power, agency, or principle that all things are governed on the earth and in the heavens, and by that power that all things are upheld and sustained. It governs all things—it directs all things – it sustains all things—and has to do with all things that God and truth are associated with. It is the power of God delegated to intelligences in the heavens and to men on earth; and when we arrive in the celestial kingdom of God, we shall find the most perfect order and harmony existing, because there is the perfect pattern, the most perfect order of government carried out, and when or wherever those principles have been developed in the earth, in proportion as they have spread and been acted upon, just in that proportion have they produced blessings and salvation to the human family. And when the government of God shall be more extensively adopted, and when Jesus’ prayer, that he taught his disciples is answered, and God’s kingdom comes on the earth, and his will is done here as in heaven, then, and not till then, will universal love, peace, harmony, and union prevail. [“On Priesthood.” *Millennial Star*, Nov. 1847. p. 321]

Joseph F. Smith: “One of the highest qualities of all true leadership is a high standard of courage.”

“When we speak of courage and leadership we are using terms that stand for quality of life by which men determine consciously the proper course to pursue and stand with fidelity to their convictions. There has never been a time in the Church when its leaders were not required to be courageous men; not alone courageous in the sense that they were able to meet physical dangers, but also in the sense that they were steadfast and true to a clear and upright conviction.”

“Leaders of the Church, then, should be men not easily discouraged, not without hope, and not given to forebodings of all sorts of evils to come. Above all things the leaders of the people should never disseminate a spirit of gloom in the hearts of the people. If men standing in high places sometimes feel the weight and anxiety of momentous times, they should be all the firmer and all the more resolute in those convictions which come from a God-fearing conscience and pure lives. Men in their private lives should feel the necessity of extending encouragement to the people by their own hopeful and cheerful intercourse with them, as they do by their utterances in public places. It is a matter of the greatest importance that the people be educated to appreciate and cultivate the bright side of life rather than to permit its darkness and shadows to hover over them.”

Priesthood Principles: “The priesthood is the power and authority of God. It has always existed and will continue to exist without end (see Alma 13:7-8; D&C 84:17-18). Through the priesthood, God created and governs the heavens and the earth. Through this power, He exalts His obedient children, bringing to pass “the immortality and eternal life of man.” (Moses 1:39; see also D&C 84:35-38).”

“In mortality, the priesthood is the power and authority that God gives to man to act in all things necessary for the salvation of God’s children.” (Handbook 2, Section 2)

See also: Alma 13:5, 10-11

Area Seventy Presiding at Meetings: If you are visiting a Church meeting in one of the Utah Areas (North, Salt Lake or South), you sit on the stand and preside.

Approval Process for Mission Presidency Counselors: Calls or releases are approved through Elder L. Whitney Clayton. Mission presidents should use the form when submitting a name for a new mission president’s counselor.

Proposed Area Seventy Coordinating Councils and Assignments: Please review and communicate any comments to Elder Don R. Clarke. Brother Scott T. Seamons will forward the names of stakes in coordinating councils to the Area Seventy.

New Mission President of Utah Salt Lake City Mission: President G. Scott Spendlove

Instruction:

Church Discipline topic was discussed.

President L. Whitney Clayton

Issue Discussion:

How Do We Increase the Number of Full-time Missionaries (Young Men and Senior Couples) Serving Missions from Utah in a Manner that is Consistent with our Responsibility to Achieve Real Growth?

Elder Mervyn B. Arnold

Utah is the heart of the Church. Some stakes have over 60% of young men serving missions while some are as low as 18%. Keeping young men worthy and interested is challenging.

The following ideas were presented:

Young Men:

1. Priesthood leaders should be evaluated where they are and consider what they should do to encourage more young men to go on mission.
2. Start early with eleven or twelve year olds. Parents start even younger.
3. Priesthood leaders should directly invite twelve-year-old youth to qualify for, always be worthy of, and hold a temple recommend.
4. Ordinations to offices in the priesthood must mean more than a young man has turned a certain age. They need to meet the worthiness criteria before being ordained.
5. Help young men focus on preparation for the Melchizedek Priesthood and the temple and the mission will take care of itself.
6. Focus on the holy temple along with preparing for and serving their mission.
7. The biggest factor is the home.
8. Pay closer attention to the youth who are at risk (less active families, not attending, not doing well in school, wrong friends or no friends, etc.).
9. Parents and youth could go as a family to their temple recommend interviews together.
10. Young men should find their family names and take them to the temple. An effective way to keep them worthy.
11. Help them set their course through scouting, priesthood seminary, Duty to God, mission and the temple.
12. Identify and call really good youth leaders and keep them as long as possible.
13. Youth activities should be planned to foster spiritual experiences.
14. Have a file on each young man and help them to be accountable to progress and prepare.
15. Involve recently returned missionaries to show the example of what missions will do for young men.
16. Use return mission presidents to teach mission preparation classes.
17. Missionary preparation class to be structured like a zone conference with practice of principles taught during the week. Participants can be organized into companionships and districts with leaders.
18. Fill out their mission application with parents' involvement and have the young man sign it. Help them fill out additional parts with each interview.
19. We can do a better job helping parents prepare their young men to serve. Teach the specifics on how to do this to parents.
20. Place their pictures on the wall in the stake offices as future missionaries.
21. Plan trek and Aaronic Priesthood camp (Helaman's Camp) rotations over Aaronic Priesthood years.
22. Pay attention to and know each young man.
23. Bishops are not involved with youth enough because they are involved with adult challenges. Decrease your work load with sensitive delegation of as many of the challenges involving adults to quorum and Relief Society leaders as possible, and focus on preparing young men.

Senior Couples:

1. Identify potential senior missionary couples (retired or about to retire, reasonable health, will not need to return to work, faithful and active, etc.).
2. Senior couples may not volunteer to serve so they need to be invited.
3. Bishops and stake presidents should fast and pray earnestly as to which couples would be most likely to respond to a call.
4. Stake presidents or bishops call potential couples in and invite them to serve a mission, not just asked them to consider or think about it.
5. Show stake presidents and bishops on how to invite people to serve.
6. Visit homes of potential senior couples with stake presidents and invite them.
7. Invite potential couples to a fireside and explain all the options available to serve.
8. Keep track of discussions with potential couples and follow-up as it may take up to three years before they are ready to enter the mission field.
9. The Lord needs senior couples as soon as they can get there.
10. Invite potential senior couples to mission preparation classes.
11. Be bold and brave when calling couples to serve.
12. Help them make a mission an early part of their retirement plan.
13. Couples ages 65 to 70 are ideal candidates for mission service.
14. Identify all eligible couples in each ward/stake and proactively encourage them to plan ahead for mission service.
15. The Lord needs healthy couples to serve!

Don't drop everything else you are doing to pursue increasing the number of missionaries.

Benediction:

Elder Dale H. Munk

Attendance: Elders L. Whitney Clayton, Mervyn B. Arnold, and Don R. Clarke

Ambassador Room: Elders Jorge T. Becerra, Gene R. Chidester, Samuel W. Clarke Jr., Ralph L. Dewsnap, Gary B. Doxey, Peter Evans, Craig G. Fisher, Gary B. Porter, R. Scott Runia, Lynn L. Summerhays, and Craig B. Terry

Via Conference Call: Elders Stephen B. Allen, Michael H. Bourne, Michael R. Jensen, Steve O. Laing, Bryan R. Larsen, Dane O. Leavitt, Dale H. Munk, Steven K. Randall, Terry L. Wade, and Kevin J. Worthen

Excused: Elders John K. Ence, Von G. Keetch

DTA: Brother M. Scott Newbold

Executive Secretaries: Brothers F. Wayne Elggren and Scott T. Seamons