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of Latter Day Saints

The Saints Trumpet

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From the First Presidency

By Donald H. Porter,
Counselor

In our history, we adhere to the basic principles of the Gospel. Further, we adhere to the authority given to the Priesthood. Thus, we adhere to all those things which are in harmony with the Gospel.

"It is the duty of the Twelve to preach the gospel, and administer in the ordinances thereof, as is directed in the Scriptures which ye have received."—D and C 122:3a

In keeping in harmony with this, the Restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints continues the mission of sending forth the Twelve to preach the gospel. Although, today it is much more of sending them forth to the various branches and the various stakes of the Church. Also we

send them forth to the regional conferences of the Church from time to time.

We still continue, however, to send forth people to serve as "missionaries" or "ministers" to the general public. We feel that it is in harmony with the Lord that we proclaim this gospel message to "all the world" and that we do so by sending forth those who are disciples (members) of the Church of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we therefore have sought every opportunity to create missions of the Church.

In visiting the nation of Japan recently, I visited with our first member family in Japan and instructed them that it is essential to continue to establish truth as is obtained from the scriptures of the

Church and that if we continue to keep in harmony with them, then we are kept on the safe track.

Our former organization had gotten off scripture and began ordaining women, they began to change the structure of stakes and eventually dropped stakes altogether and established instead, missions. They no longer have "bishops" which are the real financial stewards of the stake.

Rather, they have gone to great lengths to adopt things which are not in harmony with scripture.

Others have also done so in their "Latter Day Saint" groups with establishing in their histories polygamy.

If we are going to keep in harmony with the Lord, then we

are going to keep in harmony with scripture and to keep in harmony with scripture means that we are going to be on the right side of the issues.

Thus, this is the reason that President Michael W.

Stevenson has called for a day of prayer and fasting. In his statement on this issue, he has said: "Let us come as a Church in the attitude of prayer and of fasting so that we may become humble

as to the prompting of the Spirit in regards to the continuing direction of the Church as a whole." (Next page)

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Therefore, it is appropriate that we should continue to hearken to the counsels give us previously.

On April 7, 1947, President Israel A. Smith was led to write that "If those of the priesthood will perform their responsibilities in good fellowship, and sustain each other, they will be supported by the faith and prayers of the church and the work will go forward with increasing power."—D and C 140:1b

As the Church and the Priesthood come more into unison one with another, we are going to see some great things take place.

One of the reasons that President Stevenson has called for a day of prayer and fasting is this "for we need to have this day so that we can embrace the fullness of the gospel, embracing all the truth, embracing the Spirit which

leads and guides us in all manner of faithfulness."

Further, President Smith reminded us that "The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zionic conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies; but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure."—D and C 140:5c-d

Therefore, if we are to engage in the Zionic endeavors of the Church, then we need to make sure we are in harmony with all the scriptures and that we are conditioning ourselves in accord.

We still have yet need to further fulfill President Smith's words when he was led to write that "Each should strive prayerfully for sustained and greater devotion to the work whereunto he is

called."—D and C 141:7b

Going further, we need to consider that Jesus Christ will return again and he will set up on the earth the Kingdom of God. He is not going to fail, for he will do as he has promised.

It is my hope and prayer over the coming months as we prepare for July 10, 2009 when we have the Day of Prayer and Fasting in the Church, that we will be able to take our independence and to come to more fully understand the scriptures so that the Church is fully in harmony with the scriptures.

When we do this, we will be able to better be prepared to build up Zion as God wants.

Sincerely,
Donald H. Porter,
Counselor
First Presidency

Revelation for the consideration of the Church

Independence, MO—On May 12, 2009, President Michael W. Stevenson received the following and it is now being sent through all the quorums of the Church in harmony with prescribed revelation of the Church:

I was awakened in the middle of the night by the Spirit of the Lord who was urging me to sit up and study. In the study which I was led to do, I was given a knowledge that if the Church is going to overcome any financial burdens beyond which we

might have in the future as a result of the downturn in the economy, we need to become a more prayerful and fasting people.

In this, we need to therefore hold a day of prayer and fasting and that the Lord desires that we use this opportunity to fast also for healing of those who are sick, that we fast for the nation and ultimately for all nations, that we fast for the response of those who are being prepared to receive the gospel of the Restoration.

In our labors, the Lord therefore desires that we do all we can to make sure that we are furthering the work of the gospel through our own obedience to the gospel.

1a. My people, you have been obedient in times past and you have sometimes followed mine instructions, but then there are times that you have not been completely faithful to my voice.

b. The hopes of my people and the goals of my church, while not yet fully understood nor realized, and at

times and to many seemingly distant, are closer to realization than many now recognize.

c. It is my continued will, as expressed in times past, that we faithfully submit ourselves to the goals and endeavors of building Zion, that we look forward to the day when Zion is realized and Jesus Christ is among this people and among all the world and that peace is established upon the earth.

2a. Therefore, I have asked that a day of prayer and fasting be established on 10 July 2009 so that my people can become more in harmony with the guidance of the Spirit.

b. For we need to have this day so that we can embrace the fullness of the gospel, embracing all the truth, embracing the Spirit which leads and guides us in all manner of faithfulness.

c. For by so doing, we will come in more harmony with the Lord and we

will be able to better ourselves in the grand knowledge and wisdom which comes from the Lord.

d. For this is my work and my glory—that each one in my Church should engage themselves in this work and that they should hasten to do that which there is for them to do while it is still day.

3a. It is yet day when all can work. For the night is drawing upon us soon and many of the people of the Lord will have had the opportunity to assist in this work, yet, because they have slumbered, then when the night comes they will find that the opportunity has passed;

b. do not let the night come and find you not working as you ought to be; c. for the Spirit of the Lord is upon them that are working and who are seeking to establish Zion in this last day;

d. for Zion is not a promise, but a sure city which will come about by the faith, the prayers, the work, and the fasting of the people of the Lord

and they who do not faithfully attend to the work of Zion will find that they have not been given blessing;

e. therefore, sleep no longer and hasten to the great opportunities which are found within the opportunities of the Lord's work.

f. Therefore, to this end, it is expedient that Bishop Steven F. Margin and his counselors be appointed to organize the Zion's Endeavor Committee which will be composed of members who will assist them

g. Let this endeavor committee be set up so that the Church may have a clear direction established as to how to proceed further in accordance with scripture as to the establishment of Zion.

h. For this is the will and direction of the Lord. Amen.

Michael W. Stevenson,
President of the Church

Independence, Missouri
12 May 2009

We can learn from history

David L. Watson

IN my role as historian of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I have come to understand things which might shock many, but they are at the same time truth.

One of those issues is the organization of higher laws which at the present time are being observed by even our own Church.

But, as President Stevenson has always reminded us, we find that "We must await the Lord's revelations to again restore these things to the Church of Jesus Christ. I do not want to teach something and find out the Lord does not want us to teach it. Therefore, until he makes revelation to us on differing issues, then we

will not practice those things."

One such issue has been and always perhaps will be the law of plural marriage. This is something which was practiced by Joseph Smith, Jr. It was something that was taught by Joseph and was even given in a revelation.

The LDS Church continues to hold in its official version of the Doctrine and Covenants a section titled Section 132 which sets in order the "new and everlasting covenant, including the eternity of the marriage covenant" and it has been in their version all this time.

Yet, it has not been in the Doctrine and Covenants which we use. Yet, even as we speak, President Stevenson is considering

making it that this section could be approved for inclusion by us in our edition of the D and C.

This is just one of many issues which is actually in the history of the Church and which I am going to push for the Church to begin considering. At least as historical reference in any future historical publications of the Church.

When we look at all the various historical documents that we know are fact, we need to look at them because they offer to us glimpses of how the Church should be run.

Nonetheless, I further appreciate the resolve of the First Presidency to bring the Church into

full harmony once again to continue to reorganize the Church in its fullness and in its very form. We

need to make sure that we come into harmony with all that the Lord has given so that we may be able to

understand the fullness of the gospel. [ST]

Providing for our people Office of the Presiding Bishopric

Independence, MO—As we look at the consideration brought up in the second day's business meeting of the adult members of the Church at the April conference, we need to seek to understand that the Lord is desiring that we begin to provide for our own people.

Tough times are upon us and President Stevenson has asked that we begin the preparation to lay up "Bishop's Storehouses" in each of the stakes—laying up clothing, food, monetary accounts for the helping of the poor and afflicted among us. These are essential to the establishment of Zion because they will prove whether or not we are keeping in harmony with scripture.

Remember that in Zion all people are to be equal with no poor or rich among you, but that all people have the same among them

because we are all equal in Zion.

President Stevenson is not asking of us anything new. He is asking of us those things which the saints early in this dispensation where asked to do.

For we are told concerning God's word, that we need to pay attention and that we should pray and then shall things be revealed to us (D and C 31:1d).

Now as far as coming to Zion, we adhere to the principals to which God has given us and we are told that "And now concerning the gathering, let the bishop and the agent make preparations for these families which have been commanded to come to this land, as soon as possible, and plant them in their inheritance."—D and C 57:6a

Eventually, we will need to

begin living completely in accordance to the scriptures and President Stevenson is trying to get us to begin doing so—that includes "living in accordance with the scriptures now as if we are already in Zion, living according to all the laws and commandments so that we can be the people of Zion that God is revealing unto us to be."—President David Olsen, conference address, April 2007.

Therefore, I would admonish each one of us to begin to do what it takes now to make sure that are in harmony with God and what he has revealed. For so long we were accustomed to the changes which unfolded beginning in the 1970s within our former organization and now, we need to get back on the straight and narrow. [ST]

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