

Saturday Evening Adult Session
Stake Conference - October 10, 2015

Opening Prayer - Phyllis Sperry

President Brent Ringwood

President Ringwood used Mormon's marvelous sermons found in Moroni 7 & 8 as the basis for his talk. Three thoughts from Chapter 7 to members whom he called "peaceable followers of Christ." By their works ye shall know them. We judge these things of you. God's peaceable children can be found here in the Willow Creek Stake.

Mormon saw our day. He saw our problems and understood that there would be confusion all about us. We must take action and not allow ourselves to be acted upon. Let the light of Christ be our guide. By the spirit of Christ we can know good from evil.

Faith, hope and charity -- Moroni vs. 32 and 39. I judge you have faith in Christ because of your righteousnesses. Be meek and lowly of heart. Those that have hope will be raised up unto life eternal. Charity is the pure love of Christ. I am grateful for a loving Heavenly Father that helps us through life.

S.L. Area Mission President, Robert E. Chambers

A special Thanks to the Stake presidency, and to general authorities Elder Grow and to Elder McKay. Ward councils are being asked to hasten the work of salvation by visiting families. In Luke Chapter 7 we read, "the lambs were sent among wolves." Two, working together, are stronger than Satan's wolves when doing God's work. Feeder councils can contribute to ward councils in helping people progress. Let us take people from where they are and help them to do better. Extend invitations. Never give up. President Chambers was asked to visit the daughter of a friend who wanted her name be taken off church records. He did not know what to do but visited and listened to her laundry list of offences. Finally he asked if she believed that God loved her? She answered, "yes." "Then don't give up on him," he replied.

Consequently the sister agreed to receive the missionaries and eventually returned to full activity. Her family is preparing to be sealed in the temple.

Sister Chambers,

There is so much work to do here in Willow Creek. Miracles happen here every day. Do not try to judge who is prepared to hear the gospel and who is not. One woman asked that she not be contacted by the missionaries. Two sister missionaries felt impressed to visit her home. While praying for guidance in front of her house the women came right out and invited them to come

in. They taught her two daughters the gospel. Both now who preparing to be baptised. Even people tells our missionaries “no” we count their labors as a successful. Often several “no’s” lead to a “yes.”

Elder McKay felt welcome by our Stake leaders. He was surprised to greet Elder Van Dam again as he was his daughter’s mission president. The McKays have nine children including seven sons and two daughters. Six of his children have served missions even though growing up they had challenges. One son said to him when he was in 8th grade: “I don’t try to be smarter than you. I just am.” While correcting his teen-age son during a family dinner, his five year old looked to his mother and said, “Why did you marry him?” She did not have an answer.

When Elder McKay was a Stake President he took his two oldest children camping and horse-back riding in the high Uintas. During the night a moose wandered into the camp which spooked the horses. Even though the horses were hobbled they all fled into the wilderness. They searched for several hours but the four horses could not be found. He knelt on a knol near the camp and prayed that they horses would return to this very spot. They did not show up. He then called two people to explain the problem. As he needed to get back for a stake meeting the next morning, they drove off with an empty horse trailer. When he got home he was surprised to discover that many others know of the problem. Many of extended family and members of the stake prayed for him. Others offered their assistance. The very next day his brother who had joined the search for the lost horses, found them grazing peaceably on that very knol where he had prayed. He loaded them into a trailer and brought them home.

His analogy is that there are many lost and wondering souls that need assistance. When an entire community join together to love and support them, miracles happen.

In 1856 a group of handcart pioneers were lost in the snows of Wyoming. Brigham Young said: “My mind is yonder in the snow were the saints are stranded. Go and bring them in.” He assured us, President Monsons’ mind is continually focused on those who have wandered and need to be rescued. It is a matter of great concern to him.

In President Hinkley’s October, 1996 Conference address, he admonished us to be more neighborly, more friendly and helpful to those about us. We should live by the golden rule. Be a patient, kind and loving friend. The Great Redeemer paid the ultimate price to rescue us.

Elder Grow has served as a general authority for twenty years. He engaged the audience by asking several people direct questions. He asked Dave Sperry how many patriarchal blessings he has given in the nine years he has served as stake patriarch. His answered was 378. Elder Grow called several leaders to the stand and demonstrated how by working together they can resque those who have become inactive.

We must work on baptism, retention, family history and temple work to hasten the work of salvation. Ward council may assist to help retain those who have strayed or have wandered. The general authorities have asked that wards and stakes follow the program outlined in Church Handbook 2 – 3.4 which is entitled “Leadership Purposes.”

Closing prayer - Alan Mathson