

The Lord appointed other Seventy  
also, and sent them two by two.



Neil Simmons  
Frank Frye  
Stephen DeVera  
Ronald K. Smith

# Presidents of Seventy

Church of Jesus Christ  
Restoration Branches

March 18, 2010

Dear Brethren of the Council of Presidents of Seventy and the Quorum of Seventy,

At the present time I have three functions that have been placed upon me by the calling of God through the laying on of hands. I serve as the Senior President of the Council of the Presidents of Seventy, as a member of that Council, and also as a Seventy in the First Restoration Quorum of Seventy.

The last twenty four months has seen an astonishing growth in the missionary arm of the church. The numbers of Seventy called and ordained, and the spiritual maturity of the brethren of the ministry has been marvelous to witness. I have been very much aware that God is blessing us abundantly. I count it a great experience in my life to have been a present during these events.

At the same time I am also aware that my time in the Seventy is ending. So that the work may go forward with the greater strength and vigor required by the tasks that are now being undertaken by the church, others must be called into service. Under the unction and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am satisfied that the time has come for me to step down from my current responsibilities in the Seventy.

Accordingly, I am asking the Council to accept my resignation as the Senior President of the Seventy and as a President of Seventy. I am also asking the Quorum to accept my request to be released so as to allow me to function in the fundamental office of Elder once again.

I make this request because the responsibility to care for my wife encroaches upon the duties I carry for the church, and because of my own health issues. The fact that my wife's needs are growing makes it abundantly clear that my obligation to her must increase, while obligations to others must decrease. Too, I recognize that at my age (70) these tasks should fall upon the shoulders of younger and more vigorous men. The Seventy must be able to travel, and I cannot do so any longer, furthermore, I cannot predict when, if ever, I shall be able to function in this basic responsibility of the Seventy.

Stepping down from this responsibility is not a right, but rather a privilege that I am asking the Council to grant as soon as the three men who have been called to the Council of the Presidents of Seventy have been ordained and can take their places. I am asking that the quorum release me as of April 25, 2010, when the General Conference closes. Perhaps my willingness to step down will also provide an impetus for greater unity in the Church I love.

I am also requesting that the rule governing the selection of the Senior President of Seventy by seniority be annulled. That rule was invoked simply because the number of Presidents at that time was too few to obtain a majority vote without requiring the elected member to vote for himself.

Again I wish to repeat to the Quorum and to the Council that I have been blessed beyond all expectation by the thoughtful dedication and spirit of sacrifice that characterizes the Seventy who have been called into the First Restoration Quorum. I have experienced great joy in the recent growth of the work. I shall continue to pray and uphold all of my brothers in the ministry. I shall use the remaining time God grants me, to the practice of personal repentance, the writing of Gospel insights, and to the teaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

In the love of Jesus Christ,  
I remain your servant,

Neil Simmons

*And he said unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest. [Luke 10:2]*