

An Open Letter from the Restoration Seventy

April 6, 2013

The Church of Jesus Christ was first organized in this dispensation on April 6, 1830. It was a small beginning for such a glorious restoration of truth and power. In the years since that day the restored gospel has enjoyed many blessings from the hand of the Lord. The men and women entrusted with this great treasure have often suffered at the hands of those who did not believe their testimony. The work of the restoration has continued since that early day.

Unfortunately, the stewards and evangelists of this marvelous work and a wonder have not always conducted themselves with wisdom and integrity. Strife within and defections have resulted in a failure of the church to rise to the glorious purity which the Lord intends. Divisions have often occurred as men chose to seek after personal goals and have abandoned the precious angel message.

Today, 183 years after the first gathering of the Saints of the latter days in Fayette, New York, the scattered remnants of the restoration message are found around the globe and in a multitude of organizations. Some of the remnant have remained true to the substance of the gospel message while others have perverted the gospel with doctrines of men and of devils.

On this day of April 6, 2013, we declare that the restored gospel, and the church designed to carry that message into the world, is not dead. Although scattered and weak, the restoration stands, we believe, on the brink of finally fulfilling its long awaited duty. For the restoration to do the work it must do, the various parts of the whole must be willing to examine themselves against the plain word of scripture and revelation. Each must discard the traditions of men and errors made in the past and allow the Spirit of Christ to lead us to union in the kingdom of Zion.

The Seventy of the First Quorum of Restoration Seventy are willing to prepare themselves and work together with the remnants of the Restoration to bring about this great work. The Quorum is indebted to the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches for its willingness to form a General Conference that allowed the Seventy to be organized into a legally functioning and empowered Quorum. The work of the Seventy is not limited to this one fragment of the Restoration, but we are a ministry of the Restoration and to the world. Our duty is to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring men and women to salvation by faith, repentance and obedience to the gospel as revealed in scripture.

Some have believed that the Restoration Seventy are only an extension of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches. These Restoration Seventy of the First Quorum and the Council of Presidents of Seventy are the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our allegiance is to Him and to the work that Jesus said was His own, to seek and to save those who are lost. The Seventy are called as a Quorum belonging to Christ's Church, not any single fragment of the church.

Our relationship to the General Conference is precious to the Seventy. We pray that it will continue and flourish, but if it does not, the Restoration Seventy will continue to travel, to witness of Jesus Christ and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray for the day when the

Saints of the Restoration will no longer be divided along lines of error, tradition, zeal or any other factor. This is not a day for jealousy, bitterness or vainglory. It is a day for repentance and obedience.

By any measure, the Restoration Movement has not yet become what the Lord intended. It is not a unified testimony of what God is doing in the last days. It is not a model of charity and service that is worthy of Zion. It is not consistently raising the warning voice and preparing the way of the Lord prior to His glorious Second Coming. It is not consistently and powerfully taking the message of Jesus Christ and the covenants of the Lord to the remnant of the house of Israel.

There is one thing, however, where our testimony is consistent and clear. It is that God moved in the latter days to call an obscure servant, Joseph Smith, Jr. to perform the work of setting in motion this great work. The testimony of the living Christ through the translation and publication of the Book of Mormon and the testimony of the founders of this work inspire us. In this we are a consistent voice and from this starting point, we can, by God's grace, become the army of the Lord to conquer in the name of Jesus Christ the camp of the enemy of all righteousness.

In the early days of the United States, when it was a loose confederation of colonies belonging to England, every state and village had a militia. When the day to fight for freedom came, the various men of arms came together to fight the common foe. At first they fought as separate bands, under separate leadership and with differing styles of combat. If they had remained this way, England would never have been defeated. The soldiers of the revolution learned to work together and began to work as one force against the enemy. God raised up George Washington to oversee the training and organizing of the soldiers into a solid fighting force.

Every piece of the Restoration has tried to fight this war against evil according to its own vision and style, but this war needs a common battle plan and a willingness to train and learn to labor side by side. We need not look to men for our leadership, we have One who is able, the Lord of Hosts, the Lord Sabaoth. He will raise up men to provide leadership as needed. Now we need soldiers who are willing to carry the testimony of Jesus forward.

The Seventy are engaged in this battle. It is a battle that is just. It is a battle of necessity. It is a battle for the souls of men and women and to honor the glory of God. God has called us to serve in the name of the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ and has promised to fill us with His Spirit. To God, most worthy, and to the Lamb be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Approved by the First Quorum of Restoration Seventy
April 22, 2013
Independence, Missouri