

NEWSLETTER

Of The

SANTA CLARA 2ND WARD

ELDERS QUORUM

Volume 12 Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2024

ELDERS QUORUM PRESIDENCY:

President- Ron Caplin 435-632-8040
1st Counselor- Jerry Amundsen 435-313-0136
2nd Counselor- Robert Spendlove 703-332-8888
Secretary- Pete Ferdig 435-313-0842
Ass't Secretary Bill Bodily 801-376-9684

Editor's Note: *I began publishing this newsletter January 1, 2013, with Volume 1, Number 1 LJH*

THE VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS:

Elders Quorum Presidency Message

Presidency Message September 2024

A comment in our recent elder's quorum lesson caused me to ponder the effect that wholesome music plays in our lives. The comment was that a particular Christ-centered song provided peace and calm for the individual who made the comment. I recalled an experience many years ago that still resonates with me. I was driving alone to a city that was hours away and there were no radio stations coming through clearly at the location in which I was driving. To pass the time, I began singing Come, Come Ye Saints, which I had memorized as a youth a few years before. A few lines in, I had a very profound and powerful feeling come over me. I assumed it was the Spirit even though music had never caused such an effect in the past. I wished the feeling would have lasted longer than it actually did.

Years later, I was reading the biography of the, then, new President of the Church, Gordon B. Hinckley.

It gave the account of a young Gordon attending his first stake priesthood meeting as a new deacon.

He had found a seat on the back row of the chapel since his father had taken his place on the stand as a member of the stake presidency. To open the meeting, the three or four hundred men present stood

and sang “Praise to the Man.” Gordon was unprepared for what he experienced: “Something happened

within me as I heard those men of faith sing. It touched my heart. It gave me a feeling that was difficult

to describe. I felt a great moving power, both emotional and spiritual. I had never had it previously in

terms of any Church experience. There came into my heart a conviction that the man of whom they

sang was really a prophet of God. I knew then, by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Joseph Smith was

indeed, a prophet of God.” I had had the same experience a future prophet did! I also learned that other

acquaintances of mine shared that same experiences with church hymns in their earlier years—the first inklings of testimony.

Church leaders have often expressed their feelings about music and singing and the importance it plays in inviting the spirit into our lives and reverence into our meetings.

“Music is given of God to further his purposes. Sweet melodies mellow the souls of men and help prepare them for the gospel. After men receive the truth, songs of praise to Deity help to sanctify and cleanse their souls.”

-- Elder Bruce R. McConkie

“Music can set an atmosphere of worship which invites [the] spirit of revelation, of testimony.”

-- President Boyd K. Packer

“My soul is always lifted up, and my spirit cheered and comforted, when I hear good music. I rejoice in it very much indeed.”

--President Joseph Fielding Smith

“If thou art merry, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.”

-- Doctrine and Covenants 136:28

I encourage you to make good music a part of your everyday lives and a part of your personal worship.

With much love, brethren!

Jerry Amundsen

CATHARSIS CORNER:

LOOSE CANNONS

Back in the days of iron men and wooden ships the cannons required loading from the front. These cannons were mounted on small wheels and tethered with strong ropes to pull them in and out of position when the wooden gun doors were opened. During the heat of battle often referred to as the “fog of war” with the ocean waves tossing and the sailing ships trying to move into a position so they could fire a broadside against the enemy vessel, things got pretty confused. One of the worst things that could happen here was for the cannon to get loose and began careening across the deck out of control. Sometimes these cannons would even be loaded and have a slow fuse burning that could discharge the cannon at any time against friend or foe. The weight of the cannon alone could crush men and if the cannon broke loose after firing, the recoil could send the whole unit careening across the ship endangering everyone aboard.

The contemporary meaning of a loose cannon means a person who is out of control and whose actions could harm others or

themselves. These are the situations we must guard against since sometimes the actions of well-meaning individuals could be dangerous. Some phrases come to mind such as “zeal without knowledge,” and “a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.” During war time the phrase “loose lips sink ships” was popular. In my own study of LDS church history, I have heard it said “rumor and her thousand tongues” was responsible for the death of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum. Such things as gossip, passing along stories criticizing others for their actions or inactions can destroy or permanently stain a person’s reputation. Hence it behooves all of us to take care in our communication to be sure we do no harm to others. The ancient dictum of “If you can’t say something positive about a person, say nothing” would seem appropriate. Otherwise, our communication may become like “loose cannons” and be a danger to everyone. Cannons need to be strongly tethered down and made secure so that they are always under complete control. The same applies to our conversation. We must take special care to be kind to everyone and make sure that we say what we mean and mean what we say.

Larry James Hansen/2